

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 340**

**WORLD ALLIANCE FOR THE CORRECTION  
OF THE SIN OF THE SPIES  
“LIVING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ALL THE  
MITZVOT OF THE TORAH” (SIFRE, PARASHAT REE)**

**LEARN THE LESSON AND DO NOT FOLLOW ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SPIES  
FROM THE BOOK ZION TODAY**

**SINCE THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ORTHODOXY AND SECULAR ZIONISM, VOICES PRAISING THE GREATNESS AND SANCTITY OF THE HOLY LAND HAVE BECOME STILL. BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN. HOW MUCH DOES EVEN A BEN-TORAH TODAY KNOW ABOUT THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF ERETZ ISRAEL, OF THE MITZVOS OF THE LAND? EVEN THE MOST OBSERVANT TAKE TRIPS TO CHUTZ LA'ARETZ, SOMETHING THE HALACHA FORBIDS. COULD THERE BE GREATER IRONY THAN THIS: THE TORAH COMMUNITY, WHICH CHERISHED THE MEMORY OF ERETZ ISRAEL SO THROUGHOUT THE AGES, NOW LEAVES LOVE OF ZION TO THE "SECULAR"?**

The following passage from Pe'er Hador describes the voyage of the Chazon Ish to Eretz Israel. It illustrates the halachic imperative felt by the Chazon Ish in his aliya: "He spent most of the day on the deck, wrapped in his simple threadbare coat. After long years of use, it was old, but spotless. From under it, protruded the fringes of his tallis-katan, which was nearly as long as the tallis-gadol most men would wear. His face glowed with an inner serenity. In his hand was an open book, his 'personal adviser'; the Shulchan Aruch. He never made a move without first consulting this mentor. Before this trip as well he had inquired of the Shulchan Aruch, and had received the unequivocal reply that he must go. The mitzva of living in Eretz Israel was determined in force by the Rambam, the Ramban and other poskim. This was sufficient reason to go. But there was another: He knew how fervently the Chafetz Chaim - another of his advisers - had yearned to move to Eretz Israel.

"The Chazon Ish looked over the boat rail to the east, as he traveled through the very waters traveled by the Vilna Gaon, his spiritual guide par excellence. Heaven had not allowed the Vilna Gaon to reach his goal, and he had been forced to turn back. But the Gaon had not let mere hardship stop him, and the Chazon Ish was determined to be strong. If only he were allowed to travel on, he would be deterred by nothing. The pains through which Eretz Israel is acquired were precious to him" (Pe'er Hador, p. 344).

**PLEASE HASHEM SAVE US FROM THE SIN OF THE SPIES WHO SPOKE LASHON HARA AGAINST ERETZ ISRAEL. LET US CORRECT THE SIN OF “THEY DESPISED THE DESIRABLE LAND” (TEHILLIM 106) FOR IN THIS WAY WE BRING CLOSER THE COMPLETE GEULA WHEN YOUR NAME WILL BE SANCTIFIED IN THE WORLD AND YOUR NATION ISRAEL SHALL BE EXALTED AND YOUR BEIT HA MIKDASH REBUILT MAY THIS BE SOON IN OUR DAYS, AMEN YEHI RATZON**