

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 341**

**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"?

Again and again, Rabbi Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld exhorted the Jews of chutz la'Aretz to come to Eretz Israel. "Whoever has the means to come live in Eretz Israel and does not, will have to answer for it in Heaven," he would say. (Halsh Al HaChoma, II, 149) When a committee of Jews from Klausenberg came to see him before their departure and asked him what message they should bring their fellow Jews, he answered with great emotion: "Tell all the Jews of Klausenberg and its environs, and in particular the Uhlmans (a prominent family of means) that now is the time to liquidate their affairs and come to Eretz Israel immediately. Do not wait any longer" (Ibid. p. 155).

Another incident involves Rav Sonnenfeld's grandson who was in difficult financial straits and received an appointment as rabbi of a well-known Czechoslovakian community. Armed with the letter of appointment, the young man found the strength to approach his grandfather. He described his financial distress and his strong desire to continue his learning. Both problems would be solved if he accepted this position in chutz la'Aretz. Rabbi Sonnenfeld eyed his grandson lovingly and said: "Son, I maintain that being a laborer in Eretz Israel is greater than being a rav in chutz la' Aretz." Thus, the offer was rejected. (Ibid. p. 158)

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