

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 342**

**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 hardships endured, throughout the centuries, by those tzaddikim determined to make their way to Eretz Israel are well-known. A poignant summary of the sacrifice of these olim who came a century or two ago is found in Sefer Eretz Israel (chap. 27).

"The first settlers, headed for Tsefas, Teveria, Chevron or Yerushalayim, came at immense personal sacrifice. The trip, by sailboat, generally took close to a year. At every port along the way, the potential oleh had to disembark and seek out yet another vessel to take him one stop further towards the Holy Land. Once there, he had to endure a lengthy ordeal traveling - by donkey, camel or horse - to the city of his destination, in constant fear of roving bandits.

"Consider the bravery of the seven bnei yeshiva who founded Nachlat Shiva in the western part of Yerushalayim. They were surrounded by wild animals and thieves. What of Meah Shearim, in the city's north and Beis Israel, Mishkenos, Even Israel to the east? And the tremendous courage to found the first colony, Petach Tikva, out in the barren wilderness, until then home only to wild beasts and bandits.

"Paved roads were unknown in those days. Instead, there were gulches and valleys, full of boulders and rocks. The barest essentials, even water and fuel, were in short supply. On top of it all, the settlers were under constant attack and persecution by the "masters" of the Land. Despite all of this, the privilege of inhabiting Eretz Israel brought them happiness."

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