

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 344**

**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).**

**Peleh Yoetz writes: "He who lives in Eretz Israel should be perpetually happy with his mitzva, and all the suffering he experiences should be insignificant to him in light of his love for this mitzva" (Erech 11).**

**Rabbi Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld was seventy-five when he went to the cornerstone laying of Nave Shaanan in Jerusalem. He reached Shaarei Chesed by chariot and walked up the hill to the building site. He asked where the road to the new neighborhood would be, and immediately announced that everyone present should clear away fifty three stones. Fifty-three is the numerical equivalent of 'even', (stone) - thus they would fulfill the verse, 'Build up the highway, clear the stones.' (Yeshaya 62). Rabbi Sonnenfeld began work at once. Enthusiasm spread, and in a short time, the road was clear. (Halsh Al HaChoma, 11, 142)**

**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**