

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 36**

**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)**

**WHEN JEWS ARE CONTENT IN EXILE, THEY REFUSE TO  
RETURN TO ERETZ ISRAEL AND THEY EVEN CREATE VAIN  
RATIONALIZATIONS FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO RETURN TO  
THE LAND HASHEM DESIRES**

Rashi on Kiddushin (69b) states that the Jews who dwelt comfortably in exile did not go up with Ezra to Eretz Yisrael. Only the poor and dejected souls ascended with him. Furthermore, Seder HaDorot cites our mentor, the S'ma, who saw the following in Ma'aseh Nissim (by R. Eliezer of Worms, author of the Rokeach): Ezra sent letters to all of the Diaspora communities urging them to ascend with him to Eretz Yisrael. One such letter arrived in the city of Worms, in Germany. The Jews residing there answered, "You may dwell in the great Jerusalem, we will dwell here in the small Jerusalem." They said this because they were very important in the eyes of the ministers and the Gentiles. They were extremely wealthy, and they lived peacefully in exile. Seder Ha Dorot further quotes the S'ma as saying that this is why such terrible decrees have befallen the Jews of Germany - Worms in particular - more than any other community. They settled there at the time of the destruction of the First Temple, but when Ezra asked them to return at the end of the seventy years, they refused. Indeed, we see from the history of our people that all of the troubles and evil decrees have emanated from Germany, just like today. It all stems from the sin of refusing to ascend with Ezra, which happened because they lived peacefully in exile. This has always been the case; when Jews live comfortably in exile, they do not want to hear about aliyah to Eretz Yisrael...

...The essential point is that HaShem is waiting for us to take the initiative, to desire and long for the return to Eretz Yisrael. He does not want us to wait for Him to bring us there. He, therefore, told us, And I will truly implant them in this Land. That is to say, when we, of our own volition, truly and with all our strength, desire and strive [to return to the Land], then God will bring our work to a successful end.

(FROM EM HA BANIM SEMECHA, RABBI YSACHAR SHLOMO TEICHTAL, ZTK'L)

**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**