

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 41**

**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)**

**OUR REFUSAL TO RETURN TO ERETZ ISRAEL IS THE CAUSE
OF OUR MANY SUFERINGS IN THE EXILE**

In his youth, R. Yusfa Shamash studied in the yeshiva of our brilliant master, R. Pinchas Segal, who served as av beit din of Fulda. In the year 5380 [1620], he quoted his mentor, the brilliant R. Falk, author of the S'ma, explaining the reason why evil decrees are more prevalent in Worms than any other community or state. Jews settled in Worms at the time of the destruction of the First Temple. Mter the seventy years of Babylonian exile were completed, the exiles returned to Jerusalem and Eretz Yisrael. Those who settled in Worms, however, did not return. The people of Jerusalem wrote them, urging them to come and settle in Eretz Yisrael, so that they could ascend to Jerusalem on the three pilgrimage festivals. They paid no attention to this, replying, "Y ou may dwell in the great Jerusalem; we will dwell here in the small Jerusalem." This occurred because they were extremely wealthy and very distinguished in the eyes of the ruler and the Gentiles. This is why evil decrees have been renewed upon them more than any other community or country
Seder HaDorot, 5380, in an addendum, citing Ma'aseh Nissim 9

In any event, we see that they were afflicted with misfortune, evil decrees, and exile because they regarded themselves secure in their land. The same is true throughout the Diaspora. Since the Jews do not consider returning to and dwelling in Eretz Yisrael, the Great Advisor,t8 through His profound counsel, constantly afflicts them with exile and harsh bondage so that they will want to return to Eretz Yisrael. The Ya'avetz also agrees with this. He writes that harsh decrees swiftly come upon Israel when they disregard Eretz Yisrael. This is true and clear, and it is the secret of the exile, as our Kabbalistic master explained

(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