

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 43**

**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)**

**THE MERIT OF THOSE JEWS WHO SACRIFICED SO MUCH  
IN ORDER TO SETTLE AND CONQUER ERETZ ISRAEL**

R. Chayim Vital writes in Sefer HaChezyonot that he once asked his mentor, the Ari z"l, how he professed to have such a lofty soul when [in reality] even the most insignificant person of the earlier generations was incomparably more righteous and pious! The Ari z"l replied:

Realize that greatness of the soul does not depend on man's perceivable deeds. Rather, HaShem probes the hearts and minds of men according to each time period and generation. A very small deed in this generation is equal to many mitzvot in the earlier generations. This is so because the kelipah and the evil forces have so vastly intensified in our generation that they are infinite and immeasurable. This was not the case in the earlier generations. Therefore, had I lived in those generations, my deeds and wisdom would have been wondrous, and they would have surpassed those of many of the earlier tzaddikim Tana'im and Amora'im

In his work, Netiv Mitzvotcha (Netiv Emunah 6:10), the holy Kabbalist, R. Isaac'l of Komarno, comments on this: And now, my brother, take heed! If in the days of our master, the Ari, there was such an enormous intensification of the kelipot, what are we to say during these bitter times? Surely, we should embrace anyone who bears the name of Israel and invoke merit and love upon him. All of his sinful deeds are a result of the strengthening of the evil forces and are due to the hardships and suffering which have caused him to lose his understanding. I swear by the Eternal G-d that all of the wicked Jews in this country, particularly those in Germany, are like infants who were kidnapped by Gentiles. They act under duress and speak out of ignorance. In an instant, they would all be willing to spill their blood like water - with love, happiness, and joyful dancing - for the sanctification of G-d's great name.

This is true, for they are willing to sacrifice themselves for what they perceive as Judaism; and if they had a greater understanding, they would do more. In any event, observe, my brother, that this holy man of G-d states explicitly that we should embrace all those who bear the name of Israel. They suffer with the entire Jewish people, because they, too, are called Israel. He further states that it is a mitzvah to invoke merit upon them and accept them with abounding affection. He even swore by the Eternal G-d that all of today's sinners are like infants who were kidnapped by Gentiles, and that they act under duress. Pay close attention to and delve into his words, for he was renowned as a man who possessed Ruach Ha Kodesh

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