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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 80**

**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

**WHEN WE GO TO ERETZ YISRAEL OUT OF LOVE FOR THE
LAND, AND NOT BECAUSE THE GOYIM KICK US OUT OF
THEIR LANDS, THIS ACT OF MAKING ALIYAH OUT OF OUR
OWN CHOICE CONSTITUTES A GREAT MITZVAH**

The Chatam Sofer writes (Derashot Chatam Sofer, Sermon given on the 7th of Av, a eulogy for R. Yeshayah Berlin z"l), vol. 2, p. 306a.):

It is well known that (we fulfil) the entire Torah by choice and not by force... The Ramban explains that the verse, You shall dispossess [the inhabitants of] the Land and dwell in it (BeMidbar 33:53), implies an explicit positive commandment to dwell in the Holy Land. Now, when we are rejected from the entire face of the earth, we fulfil this positive commandment only under duress, and it is not clear that we choose it wilfully, for HaShem's sake. However, when we could live in the choicest lands of the nations, but we choose to dwell only in Eretz Yisrael, then we fulfil this positive commandment by our own free will.

**...This is a proof for what we said above. Therefore, my
brothers and friends, now that HaShem has saved Israel, and
the nations of the world allow us to dwell wherever we please,
we have an even greater obligation to choose our
inheritance...**

I already explained above that when our condition in exile deteriorates and HaShem removes the "promise of exile" from us, it is a sign that He wants us to leave the Diaspora and strive to return to our Land. We must start the process and HaShem will bring our work to a successful end. Now, just as a distressed man cannot attain spiritual perfection, so too, the nation as a whole cannot perfect its soul when it has nowhere to dwell peacefully. Chazal state this explicitly, "There is no greater abrogation of the Torah than when the Jews were exiled from their place" (Chagigah 5b).

(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**