

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 98**

**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

**RAV TZVI YEHUDA KOOK ZTK'L TAUGHT US TO SEE THE CONCRETE
EXPRESSION OF THE WORDS OF OUR PROPHETS AND SAGES IN THE
EVENTS WE WERE EXPERIENCING IN ERETZ ISRAEL TODAY**

Even to his regular students, the majority of whom had grown up in Israel, he would explain with endless patience, until he was sure we understood, that Eretz Yisrael is not like every other land; just another geographic area with mountains and rivers, valleys, and lakes. Eretz Yisrael is something else entirely. Yes, it has mountains and rivers, but these mountains and rivers are a part of us, inseparable from our being and from our national task of uplifting mankind to a knowledge of Hashem. Eretz Yisrael is Kadosh. It is the Land chosen by Hashem for His nation, and created with unique holy properties. Our connection to Eretz Yisrael is not based solely on the fact that it is our homeland. There is a reason it is our homeland. The Almighty created it especially suited to us. (We could only be a nation here. Only here, in Eretz Yisrael, could we genuinely fulfill our Torah; not just in the sense of observing all of the mitzvot applicable only in Israel (over one third of the 613 commandments,) but in the deeper, more fundamental sense of being an Am Kadosh...

This concept was so new, and abstract, it was difficult to comprehend. Two-thousand years of exile, without our Land, without a sovereign Jewish nation, had dimmed our perceptions of Am Yisrael. Entire sections of the Torah dealing with the nation living in the Land were not studied, including the agricultural laws unique to the Land of Israel, the laws of the Temple, Sacrifices, and Ritual Purity, which comprise literally half of the Mishna. The wide body of laws applying to Monarchy, the Sanhedrin, and War, also weren't learned. These foundations of Israeli nationhood were not relevant to our life in foreign countries. In the exile, our identity shifted away from our national character, forming a Judaism which focused on the individual, and not on the Clal. To Jews in Galut, the Land of Israel was close to their hearts, yet a faraway dream. Our homeland, yes. Kadosh, yes. A place to perform extra mitzvot, yes. But a land vital to Torah? A thinking evolved that we could be G-d-fearing Jews just as well in Berlin - a tragedy whose outcome is familiar to all.... (From Sefer Torat Eretz Yisrael)

**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**