

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 156**

**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**

**THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE BIOGRAPHY OF THE  
CHOFETZ CHAIM WAS WRITTEN BY HIS SON, REB  
ARYEH LEB HACOHN, WHO WAS THE HEAD OF THE  
BEIT DIN IN RADIN, AND THE RADIN ROSH YESHIVA  
AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH. THE BIOGRAPHY  
STRESSES HIS FATHER'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE  
TOWARDS ERETZ YISRAEL AND ALIYAH:**

"I remember that in the years 5650-5651, when our Jewish brothers were expelled from Moscow, a great movement to make Aliyah to our Holy Land arose. The hundreds and thousands of refugees sought shelter in the land of our fathers. There they bought land, planted trees, and established settlements...At this time I received a letter from my father of blessed memory in which he pointed out to me the great surge amongst all facets of our nation to make Aliyah to Israel. He assumes that these are now the days of 'the footsteps of the Mashiach', that Hashem has redeemed His nation, and that it is very probably the beginning of the ingathering of the exiles which precedes the coming of the Mashiach. If we had the capability, it would be proper to buy land and to make Aliyah to Israel (Letters of the Chofetz Chaim to his son, Reb Aryeh Leb HaCohen, Pgs.43-44)

(From Sefer Torat Eretz Yisrael)

**THE CHOFETZ CHAIM ZTK'L WISHED TO  
ASCEND TO ERETZ ISRAEL BUT FROM THE  
HEAVENS HE WAS PREVENTED**

And I must let you know, the great yearning in my soul to come for the Holy days (Yamim Keddoshim) to the gates of Yerushalaim, but what can I do, that this was not possible and I have to wait until after Succot Im Irtze Hashem The Chafetz Chaim, Michtavim u Maamarim, Letter to Rav David Potosh 24 Elul 5685 (1925)

I will hereby recount to my brothers what has happened to me in the last few years at my old age, and I am forced to let the public know about my distress that I have been through up until today. Because for the last few years I have had the thought of traveling to the Holy Land (Eretz ha Kodesh) and to settle there before

Hashem during my final days in Torah and Divine service during all the days of my life which Hashem will merit me to live there. And I made great preparations towards this end, and I have almost spent a whole year making all the arrangements necessary for this, like documents and tickets, and when the time finally came in which to travel, one or two days before my departure, suddenly my wife fell ill with a dangerous disease and I was forced to travel to Vilna for great Doctors were there...

The Chafetz Chaim, Michtavim u Maamarim, Letter to Rav Shmuel Ytzchak Hillman, Av Bet Din London, 3 Tevet 5686 (1926)

It has been already three years since I was ready to travel to the Holy Land (Eretz ha Koddesh) but I was prevented from heaven, because suddenly my wife fell ill, and Boruch Hashem through the prayers of many, she has become healthy again. Meantime I have become older, and it is still my desire to travel to the Eretz ha Koddesh...

The Chafetz Chaim, Michtavim u Maamarim, Letter to Rav Shmuel Ytzchak Hillman, Av Bet Din London, 24 Cheshvan 5689 (1928)

## **IF THE OBLIGATION TO LIVE IN ERETZ YISRAEL IS SO CLEAR, HOW CAN ONE EXPLAIN THE PHENOMENON THAT THE MODERN PIONEERS OF ALIYAH AND SETTLEMENT WERE NOT RELIGIOUS JEWS?**

RAV TZVI YEHUDA SAID THAT THIS ASSUMPTION SIMPLY WAS NOT TRUE "First of all, in the name of historical accuracy, the movement of Geula in our time did not begin with Herzl, but with (the religious group) Chibat Zion, the Lovers of Zion. At the head of this movement were Talmidei Chachamim of immense, holy stature, HaRav Tzvi Hirsh Kalisher, and HaRav Eliahu Guttmacher. Both of these men were graced with Divine spirit, and all of their words and deeds were directed toward Israel's Geula. Afterwards, when the movement spread, new spokesmen arose, and new directions developed, with a multiplicity of organizers and supporters. The Almighty brought these events about from many directions and sources. From four directions the Spirit comes.( Ezekiel, 37:9) The spirit of Hashem comes from every direction; through the physical world; through the phenomenon of anti-Semitism; through the national awakenings of foreign nations (and their wars;) and also through the secular side of Am Yisrael. "

A general lack of awareness concerning the religious beginnings of the Zionist movement has led to a distorted understanding of Zionism, and to many mistaken beliefs. Perhaps the most damaging is the belief that the leading Torah scholars of the generation opposed the return of the Jewish people to Zion. A proper investigation of this subject deserves a chapter of its own.

(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**