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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 164**

**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

CERTAINLY, THE REDEMPTION HASN'T YET REACHED COMPLETION. MANY TORAH PERSONALITIES WITHDREW FROM THE ZIONIST CAUSE, AND EVEN FOUGHT AGAINST IT, BECAUSE THEY WANTED THE REDEMPTION TO BE INSTANTLY COMPLETE. They attached themselves to the idea that the redemption had to be complete from its inception, as opposed to its being a gradual process which had to be brought to its final fulfillment. Thus, they couldn't accept a redemption which spread out in many directions, including secular paths replete with Apikorsim and free thinkers who had thrown off the yoke of the Torah. Nor could they come to terms with the redemption's natural unfolding, in down-to-earth events.

"When the Rebbe of Belz came on Aliyah to Israel, he met with Rabbi Natan and said to him, 'We realize now that we erred in our estrangement from Eretz Yisrael'. Other Gedolim also repented over this. If this repentance had occurred thirty years before (in the years preceding the Holocaust), the situation in Israel would have been very different.

Rav Tzvi Yehuda told us one other story. "Rabbi Yerocham Varhaftig, the father of Rabbi Zerach Varhaftig, came to visit Israel as a tourist. A few times, Abba, (Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook) asked to see his passport and asked him a few questions. One day, Abba, said to him, 'there aren't any policemen here who will demand your passport from you; you don't have to personally watch over it; I can keep it for you'. Rabbi Yerocham, who was very gentle and noble, agreed, even though this was all a puzzle to him. After a few days, Abba, gave him back the passport with an amendment of the Aliyah Department. He had been registered as a permanent resident. Rabbi Yerocham accepted his new status and remained in Israel, and thus he was saved from the Holocaust in Warsaw.

...The Rabbi of Ostrovtsa exclaimed, 'What is going on here?! Hashem sent His holy children to build the Holy Land, and here people condemn them!' (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