

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 190**

**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

**"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET THAT DAY, " (THE 28TH
DAY OF IYYAR 5727) HE RECALLED.**

"Already, for several days, the situation in the city was tense. Many of the Yeshiva's students had enlisted in the war. On the second day of the week, the twenty-sixth of Iyar, a student approached me as I was walking to the morning prayer at the Yeshiva. He told me that the war had begun, and that the Arab Legion was boasting that it would conquer all of Jerusalem. Rumors reached me about battles on the outskirts of the city. A friend phoned me and related in the name of HaRav Shlomo Goren, the Israel Defense Force's Chief Rabbi, that Tzahal units were advancing and getting closer to the Old City of Jerusalem. This was nerve-trembling news. Each hour, expectation quickened. One of the students who had enlisted, raced back to the Yeshiva during an hour break and announced that tomorrow, with the Almighty's help, our paratroopers would reach the Kotel! All of us were filled with hope and trembling. On the fourth day of the week, an officer knocked on the door of my house. He had come with a message from HaRav Goren. 'The Rav is invited by the Chief Rabbi of the army to come to the Kotel,' he announced. 'An armored car is waiting downstairs. ,,,

"HaRav David Cohen, the Nazir, , joined us on the way. He too had been invited by his son-in-Law, HaRav Goren. The army car progressed slowly amidst the joyous crowds who were thronging the streets of the city - thousands of singing and dancing people. Many of them had tears of joy in their eyes over the liberation of Jerusalem. "

..."On the way, the officer told me that the moment the paratroopers had reached the perimeter of the Kotel, a soldier, who was a student at our Yeshiva, climbed to the top row of stones on the Wall and unfurled the Israeli flag over the heights of the Kotel. His commander promised him a reward for his deed, and asked him to state his request. 'The greatest honor for me,' he answered, 'is that you send an army rabbi to bring our teacher here, HaRav Tzvi Yehuda HaCohen Kook, the Rosh Yeshiva of Mercaz HaRav.'"

..."The officer also told us that HaRav Goren had been among the first to reach the Kotel, in the face of fire from Arab snipers, who had continued to shoot from their places of hiding. He clutched a Torah scroll in one hand, and a shofar in the other. Fighters, who had survived furious battles, cried like children when they heard the shofar blast of the Chief Rabbi. They admired his courage of heart, and his self-sacrifice, to remain all of the time at the head of the battle with the paratroopers who had burst through from the Mount of Olives to the Kotel."

"Many of our boys were wounded in the charge. To my question, through which gate of the Old City had they reached the Kotel, the familiar voice of a soldier from

our Yeshiva said, 'Baruch Hashem, all of the gates are open.' Another student, a rabbi in the army, rushed up to me at the Kotel and told me that he had received permission from army command to hold Mincha prayer at the Wall. It was the first national prayer at the Kotel after a nineteen-hundred-year separation! A prayer which was utter cleavage to Hashem. Every eye was filled with tears. Soldiers prostrated themselves on the ground in front of the Kotel. Others wedged their fingers between the stones of the Wall. Everyone chanted the Tehillim, A Song of Ascent: When the Lord brought back the exiles of Zion, we were like those who dream." Tehillim, 126: 1

"Before we left the liberated city, I was interviewed by radio and television reporters from Israel and from outside the Land. They wanted to know my opinion on what had transpired."

"Behold, I said. We announce to all of Israel, and to all of the world, that by a Divine command, we have returned to our home, to our holy city. From this day forth, we shall never budge from here! We have come home!"

..."In the Galut, we are in a graveyard," Rav Tzvi Yehuda said. "Our Kedusha is in the impurity of gentile lands. Worms and maggots devour us. For two thousand years, we have been in a place of maggots and worms. They surround and encompass us there. The persecutions and pogroms of the gentiles, the gentile cultures, and their spiritual worlds, are the maggots and worms which feast on our flesh and gnaw away at our spirit and Kedusha. This is the reality of Galut. There is absolutely no compatibility between impurity and Kedusha. There is no point of contact between them. Only an incisive opposition, a drastic opposition, the one separated from the other by a cosmological order. Thus, over thousands of years, the maggots and worms ate away at us. According to the holy, sensitive, living words of the Gaon of Vilna, the flesh is easiest to consume. But when the worms reach the bones, the Talmidei Chachamim, our source of spiritual power, the staunchest and most solid block which connects us to the eternity of Israel when the gnawing continues, and the absurdity (of Galut) and its evil reaches, G-d Forbid, our bones - then there is an extreme threat to our survival - an awful and horrifying situation."

...The Rabbi of Ostrovtza 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