

Background Information on Moses Maimonides:

Rabbi **Moses ben Maimon** (בן־מימון מלשׁה *Mōšeh bēn-Maymōn*; Arabic: *Mūsā bin Maymūn* بن موسى), commonly known as **Maimonide** and also referred to by the acronym **Rambam** /*ra:m'ba:m*/ (רמב"ם), for *Rabbeinu Mōšeh bēn Maimon*, "Our Rabbi Moses son of Maimon"), was a medieval Sephardic Jewish philosopher who became one of the most prolific and influential Torah scholars of the Middle Ages. In his time, he was also a preeminent astronomer and physician. Born in Cordova, Almoravid Empire (present-day Spain) on Passover Eve, 1135 or 1138, he worked as a rabbi, physician, and philosopher in Morocco and Egypt. He died in Egypt on December 12, 1204, whence his body was taken to the lower Galilee and buried in Tiberias.^{[19][20]}



During his lifetime, most Jews greeted Maimonides' writings on Jewish law and ethics with acclaim and gratitude, even as far away as Iraq and Yemen, and although Maimonides rose to become the revered head of the Jewish community in Egypt, there were also vociferous critics of some of his writings. Nonetheless, he was posthumously acknowledged as among the foremost rabbinical arbiters and philosophers in Jewish history, and his copious work comprises a cornerstone of Jewish scholarship. His fourteen-volume *Mishneh Torah* still carries significant canonical authority as a codification of Talmudic law.



Depiction of Maimonides teaching students about the 'measure of man' in an illuminated manuscript

Aside from being revered by Jewish historians, Maimonides also figures very prominently in the history of Islamic and Arab sciences and is mentioned extensively in studies. Influenced by Al-Farabi (ca. 872–950/951), Avicenna (c. 980 – 1037), and his contemporary Averroes (1126–1198), he in his turn influenced other prominent Arab and Muslim philosophers and scientists. He became a prominent philosopher and polymath in both the Jewish and Islamic worlds.



8

Giving in a way that helps someone to be self-supporting
(such as a gift, loan, business partnership, education, or a job)

7

Giving so that neither the giver nor the recipient
knows who the other is

6

Giving so that the giver doesn't know who receives the money,
but the recipient knows who gave the money

5

Giving so that the recipient doesn't know who gave the money,
but the giver knows who got it

4

Giving before being asked to do so

3

Giving when asked to do so

2

Giving less than one should, but being nice about it

1

Giving less than one should and not being nice about it