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The Thirteen Principles of Faith שלשה עשר עקרים

of Maimonides

"The outstanding medieval Jewish philosopher Maimonides (Moses ben Maimon; or Rambam, from the initials of Rabbi Moses ben Maimon), 1135-1204, was physician to the Sultan Saladin and communal leader of Egyptian Jewry, as well as an important figure in the codification of Jewish law. His formulation of the basic principles of Judaism in a series of 13 creedal affirmations, in the hope of clarifying the differences between Judaism and both Islam and Christianity, occasioned great controversy when it was first composed; it has since been accepted widely and incorporated into most Jewish prayer books."

Maimonides first set down the Thirteen Principles in his commentary on the Mishnah, Sanhedrin 10. There he called them "roots" or "fundamentals" of Jewish beliefs and of the Torah. [Note 1]

The Sabbath morning (Shacharit) hymn "Yigdal" ["May he be magnified"], found in Ashkenazi prayer books, is based on the Thirteen.

The following Hebrew text and English translation of the Thirteen Principles were rekeyed from: Joseph H. Hertz, <u>The Authorized Daily Prayer Book</u> (rev. ed.) (New York: Bloch Pub. Co., 1948), pages 248-255. [Each Hebrew & English principle pair is a separate JPG that may be downloaded.]

א אָנִי מַאֲמִין בֶּאֶמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ הוּא בּוֹרֵא וּמַנְהִיג לְכָל־הַבְּרוּאִים וִהוּא לִבָדוֹ עָשָׂה וְעוֹשֶׂה וְיַעֲשֶׂה לְכָל־הַמַּעֲשִׂים:

I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is the Author and Guide of everything that has been created, and that he alone has made, does make, and will make all things.

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אָנִי מַאָמִין בָּאָמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ הוּא יָחִיד וְאֵין יְחִידוּת כָּמוֹהוּ בְּשׁוּם פָּנִים וְהוּא לְבַדּוֹ אֵלֹהֵינוּ הַיָּה הוֹה וְיִהְיֵה:

2

I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is a Unity [one], and that there is no unity in any way manner like unto his, and that he alone is our God, who was, is, and will be.

2

אָנִי מַאֲמִין בֶּאֱמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ אֵינוֹ גוּף וְלֹא יַשִּׁיגוּהוּ מַשִּׁינֵי הַנּוּף וְאֵין לוֹ שׁוּם דְּמְיוֹן כְּלָל:

3

I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is not a body, and that he is free from all the properties of matter, and that he has not any form whatsoever.

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אָנִי מַאָמִין בֶּאָמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ הוּא רִאשׁוֹן וְהוּא אַחֲרוֹן:

4

I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is the first and the last.

П

אָנִי מַאֲמִין בֶּאֱמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ לוֹ לְבַדּוֹ רָאוּי לְהִתְפַּלֵל וָאֵין רָאוּי לְהָתִפָּלֵל לְזוּלַתוֹ:

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I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, and to him alone, it is right to pray and that we must not pray to anyone else.

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אָנִי מאָמִין בָּאֶמוּנָה שְׁלַמָה שֶׁכָּל־דִּבְרֵי הַנָּבִיאִים אֱמֵת:

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I believe with perfect faith that all the words of the prophets are true.

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אָנִי מַאֲמִין בֶּאֱמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁנְבוּאַת משֶׁה רַבִּינוּ עָלָיו הַשָּׁלוֹם הָיְתָה אֲמִתִּית וְשֶׁהוּא הָיָה אָב לַנְּבִיאִים לַקּוֹרְמִם לְפָנָיו וְלַבָּאִים אַחֲרָיו:

7

I believe with perfect faith that the prophecy of Moses our teacher, peace be unto him, was true, and that he was the chief of the prophets, both of those that preceded and of those that followed.

П

אָנִי מַאֲמִין בָּאֱמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁכָּל־הַתּוֹרָה הַמְּצוּיָה עַתָּה בְיָדֵינוּ הִיא הַנְּתוּנָה לְמשֵׁה רַבִּינוּ עָלָיו הַשָּׁלוֹם:

8

I believe with perfect faith that the whole Torah, now in our possession, is the same that was given to Moses our teacher, peace be unto him.

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אָנִי מַאָמִין בֶּאֶמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁזֹאֹת הַתּוֹרָה לֹא תְהִי מֶחֲלֶפֶת וְלֹא תְהִי תּוֹרָה אַחֲרֵת מֵאֵת הַבּוֹרֵא יִתִבָּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ:

9

I believe with perfect faith that this Torah will not be changed, and that there will never be any other Law from the Creator, blessed be his Name.

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אָנִי מַאָמִין בֶּאֶמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבְּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ יוֹדֵע כָּל־מַעֲשֵׂה כְנֵי אָדָם וְכָל־מַחְשְׁבֹתָם שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר הַיֹּצֵר יַחַד לִבָּם הַמֵּבִין אֵל־כַּל-מַעֲשִׂיהַם:

10

I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, knows every deed of the children of men, and all their thoughts, as it is said, It is he that fashioneth the hearts of them all, that giveth heed to all their works.

87

אָנִי מַאָמִין בֶּאֶמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ גּוֹמֶל מוֹב לְשׁוֹמְרֵי מִצְוֹתְיוּ וּמַעֵנִישׁ לִעוֹבְרֵי מִצְוֹתִיוּ:

11

I believe with perfect faith that the Creator,

blessed be his name, rewards those that keep his commandments, and punishes those that trangress them.

יב

אָנִי מַאָמִין בֶּאֶמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה בְּבִיאַת הַמְּשִׁיח וְאַף עַל פִּי שֶׁיִּתְמַהְמֵהַ עִם כְּל־זֶה אַחַבָּה־לּוֹ בִּכָל־יוֹם שֵׁיָבֹא:

12

I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah; and though he tarry, I will wait daily for his coming.

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אָנִי מַאֲמִין בָּאֱמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה שֶׁתִּהְיֶה תְּחָיַּת הַמֵּתִים בְּעֵת שֶׁתַּעֲלֶה רָצוֹן מֵאֵת הַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמוֹ וְיִתְעַלֶּה זִכְרוֹ לַעַר וּלִנָצח נִצַחִים:

13

I believe with perfect faith that there will be a revival of the dead at the time when it shall please the Creator, blessed be his Name, and exalted be his fame for ever and ever.

> לישוּעְתְּדְּ קְנִיתִי יהוה קוִיתִי יהוה לִישׁוּעְתְּדְּ יהוה לִישׁוּעָתְדְּ קוִיתִי:

For your salvation I hope O LORD. I hope O LORD for your salvation. O LORD for your salvation I hope.

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Note

"Articles of Faith," *Encyclopædia Judaica*, vol. 3, columns 655-56. [Return to text]

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