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The world has undergone a fascinating revolution. For approximately three decades there has been an ever-growing interest in the "*sheva mitzvot bnei Noach*" (the 'Noachide Code') revealed in the Torah. Gentiles throughout the world have set up "Noachide groups" and, in some cases, congregations, committed to observe that universal code. Most of them are in touch with various rabbis or rabbinic bodies to learn about their religious obligations as "righteous gentiles."

Unfortunately, there is very little authoritative material to guide even these rabbis. Rambam's ruling in *Hilchot Melachim* 8:10 could not be followed for the obvious reasons of the restraints of galut, especially under the duress of the threats from non-Jewish religions who dominated the governments throughout the diaspora. These circumstances precluded even the suggestion of *Tossafot Yom Tov, Avot* 3:14. With few exceptions this has led to a "neglect" of this important field of Torah.

Clearly these restraints no longer apply, and this has been conducive to the development of the so-called Noachide movement. The search for clear information and guidance, however, is hampered by the lack of precise summaries of a code for the Noachides. Thus it is a tremendous *zechut* for the organization *Ask Noah International*, inspired and led by truly pious and responsible Jews, to be inspired to fill this vacuum.

Ask Noah International has brought together a team of Torah-scholars, with the lead taken by Rabbi Moshe Weiner of Yerushalayim, to devote time to a thorough study of the "*sheva mitzvot bnei Noach*," to record their findings and compose an authoritative "*Shulchan Aruch*" for the practical application and observance of their detailed laws by Noachide individuals, families and communities. The importance of this project cannot be over-emphasized, as ever more gentiles seek to follow a lifestyle conforming to the Divine commands incumbent upon them.

Needless to say, this is an extremely sensitive undertaking charged with great responsibilities. With all due respect for the individual scholars who have undertaken to devote their precious time and talents to this project, its results must be reviewed and verified by other, recognized Halachic authorities to grant their approbations to the intended code.

Immeasurably great is the *zechut* of all those who support this extra-ordinary endeavour, which no doubt will hasten the fulfillment of the prophetic vision of "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of G-d even as the waters cover the sea."



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