



B"H

Globally promoting and teaching the 7 Laws of Noah - the Moral Code to unite all Mankind

Open Letter to the 3rd Kenya Noahide Community National Convention,
taking place on 14 January, 20'23, Nakuru, Kenya.

13 January, 20'23 / 20 Tevet, 5783

Yahrzeit of Rabbi Moshe Maimonides

To the members of the Noahide community in Kenya,
May G-d bless you, and may He bless your Noahide National Convention!

By Divine Providence, the final preparations for your convention are taking place today on the yahrzeit (the anniversary of passing) of the great Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, whom you know as "Rambam". The most influential years of his life were spent in northern Africa, especially in Egypt. People may wonder why Jews put greater emphasis on marking the yahrzeits of our great spiritual leaders, in comparison to the dates of their birth. The answer is cited by Rabbi Shneur Zalman in *Igeret HaKodesh*, ch. 28: "All the effort of a person, which his soul toiled during his lifetime, is above in a hidden and concealed state. It becomes revealed and radiates in a manifest way from above downwards at the time of his passing." This is recalled especially on the anniversary of that date, when we contemplate the visible effects in the world of the great person's efforts during his life.

Among the great *Rishonim* Rabbis, Rambam is recognized as the main *posek* (authority in Torah law) for the precepts of the Seven Noahide Commandments. (See *The Divine Code*, Editor's Preface, part 3.) Therefore, as we think of Rambam, what could be a more obvious reminder of that accomplishment, than your exemplary Noahide community that has formed in Africa and has achieved the milestone of annual national conventions!

Other *Rishon* Rabbis wrote their opinions on matters of the Noahide Code. Yet we look to Rambam as the main authority. More than any others, he showed self-sacrifice for the practical needs of all people – *all* of the descendants of Noah. The Lubavitcher Rebbe explained (*Sichos in English*, Sicha of 11 Nissan 5745):

"in Rambam's daily life, we find his regular custom was to assist all people, Jews and Gentiles alike ... he describes his difficult daily schedule, and he writes that after returning home from his daily visit to the Sultan's palace, '...I find all the foyers and waiting rooms filled with people, Gentiles and Jews are there ... I then go out to treat them, to write prescriptions and medical advice to heal their sickness ... till late at night ... and I reach a state of utter weakness and exhaustion...' In the Rambam's daily lifestyle, which serves as a living example for us, how we are to help those who need our help, he shows us that it must be done without consideration for the difficulty of the service, to the point of self-sacrifice. For the Rambam set aside many hours every day for helping others, without being concerned for his own well-being. Therefore, in addition to learning in the Code of Maimonides how one must act to improve the world and civilization, we also learn a lesson from the Rambam's personal daily activity, that he toiled and dedicated his life to helping everyone, Jews and Gentiles, dealing with the most basic of all assistance, their health."

By following this true concern for the physical and spiritual betterment of humanity, we will sooner reach the era when all illness will be removed, there will be no hatred, envy or competition, and "nation shall not lift the sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4). May G-d bless you and your families with much good health, happiness and prosperity.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Schulman".

Dr. Michael Schulman
Exec. Dir., Ask Noah International