

14 FACTS

ABOUT THE RAMBAM'S
LIFE AND LEGACY!



1

The Rambam was born on the fourteenth day of Nissan – the day before Pessach – in the year 4895, in Córdoba, Spain. His Father Maimon was the Av Beis Din of Córdoba. He was a descendent of Rabbi Yehudah HaNassi and of Malchus Beis Dovid!



2

When the Rambam was a young boy his father took him to Rabbi Yosef ibn Migash who was about to pass away, he kissed the Rambam on his forehead (or hand). The Rambam said “from that moment my mind opened up to be able to learn Hashem’s torah without any difficulty”.

3

When the Almohades (Muslim Crusaders) conquered Córdoba in 4908, the young Rambam (13 years old) and his family fled Spain, wandering around for 10 years through southern Spain and North Africa before settling in Fez, Morocco. After further persecution, they journeyed to Eretz Yisroel via Acco, Yerusholaim and Chevron to Fustat, Egypt, where the Rambam finally found peace and went on to write the Mishneh Torah.





4

The Rambam made a deal with his younger brother Dovid, similar to Yissachar and Ze-vulun — Dovid supported the family through his successful jewelry trade so the Rambam could devote himself fully to Limud HaTorah. When David tragically drowned in a shipwreck on his way to India, the Rambam was so heartbroken that he became physically ill and took a long time to recover.

5

The Rambam refused to accept payment for teaching Torah, believing it should be done only L'shem Shomaim. Instead, he became a physician, eventually serving as the personal doctor to Egypt's Grand Vizier, Al-Fadhil, and the famous Sultan Saladin, the Muslim ruler who defeated the Crusaders and governed much of the Middle East.



6

When the Rambam arrived in Fustat, he was met with a major challenge — the powerful Karaite community, who accepted only Torah Sh'Bichsav, rejecting Torah ShBal Peh entirely. When he became the Nagid (leader) of the Yiddin in Egypt, they opposed him fiercely, even spreading false accusations about him to the Muslim authorities.



7

The Rambam did not fight back! Instead he sought to be mekarev the Karaites and draw them closer to true Yiddishkeit. Of the roughly 10,000 Yiddin living in Egypt at the time, about 3,000 of them were Karaites, in some cities they were the majority. By the time of the Rambam's passing, around 2,000 of them did Teshuva, thanks to the Rambam's efforts!

8

It took the Rambam ten years to write the entire Mishneh Torah, his monumental 14-volume work. He began writing it at age 37 and completed it at age 47.

9

The Rambam wrote a letter to the Yidden in Yemen, encouraging them to remain strong in Torah and mitzvos despite great difficulties. In Iggeres Teiman, he revealed when Nevuah would return to the Yidden before Moshiach comes—in the year 4976, just 11 years after his passing—during this time, Reb Elazar Baal HaRokeach, the Ramban, the Raved, and others, were performing great miracles and displaying Ruach Hakodesh in plain view!

10

The Rambam Passed away on 20 Teves 4965. The story is well known that the Aron of the Rambam traveled on a camel from Fustad to Teveria without being led, and stopped on its own at the spot of the Rambam's Kever. The distance from Fustat to Tveria is approx 500 miles - it would have taken 3 to 4 weeks by camel!



11

While an exact number is not available, sources indicate that the Kever of the Rambam in Teveria, receives hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, with one source citing around 400,000! On the day of his Yortzeit, thousands of people from around the world gather there to Daven.



12

On Acharon shel Pesach 5744 the Rebbe made the Takana of learning and completing the Rambam, three different tracks: 1. Three Prokim per day, in this track one completes the Rambam every eleven months. 2. One Perek per day, in this track one completes the Rambam every two years and ten months, 3. The Sefer HaMitzvos track, intended primarily for women and children, where the Halachos learned correspond to the topic discussed in the three Prokim track. The Rebbe explained that the Rambam is the only sefer where every single topic in torah is covered, this way we can learn the entire torah every year!

13

There are 211 Sichos in Lekutei Sichos that the Rebbe discusses or explains the Rambam's Torah! (excludes; footnotes, Hosafos and Sefer HaSichos)

14

This year 5786 we will celebrate the 45th International Siyum Horambam. Celebrated by hundreds of thousands of Yiddin around the world! The Rebbe said that joining the learning of Rambam brings more Achdus of Yiddin and that will ultimately bring Moshiach!

