

MAIMONIDES' LEVELS OF GIVING

Who is this man—Maimonides?

His writings are as current and relevant today as they were 900 years ago when they were first written.

Maimonides was the foremost intellectual figure of medieval Judaism. His contributions made an impact everlasting as a jurist, philosopher, and scientist. His epic-making influence extended far beyond Judaism, to every corner of the world. His writings affected all of the great medieval scholastic writers and thinkers.

It has been said that no one, no one before or since, has provided as great an impact and as innovative an approach to the world's knowledge. Even to this day, his writings constitute a significant chapter in the history of all medical science.

He would be considered far more than just the greatest person of his century. If anyone is deserving of the title, his would be Man of the Millennium.

Nine centuries ago, he provided us with an extraordinary lesson in philanthropy. The Maimonides Law of Giving rings as true today as a clarion bell.

Maimonides. He was a moral giant of his century. But more than that, it is well to remember that 900 years ago there was a man whose life and work lit the lives of generations for the thousand years that followed. A beacon light of enduring brilliance, this man.

- ① The lowest level is the person who does not give. This is unacceptable.
- ② The person who gives grudgingly, reluctantly, or with regret.
- ③ The person who gives cheerfully, but gives less than he or she should.
- ④ One who provides an appropriate gift, but only after being asked.
- ⑤ The person who gives significantly before being asked.
- ⑥ One who gives without knowing to whom he or she gives, although the recipient knows the identity of the donor.
- ⑦ One who gives without his or her identity known.
- ⑧ The person who gives without knowing to whom the gift is made, and the recipient does not know from whom he receives. This is the highest and greatest level of giving.

*We have altered and reordered slightly to provide for language ease.

The Idea
People



Jerold Panas, Linzy & Partners
Consultants to the Philanthropy

500 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611 (800) 234-7777 • (312) 222-1212
Offices in Boston, Sydney, and Melbourne

Email: ideas@panaslinzy.com
Website: www.panaslinzy.com