

WOW! We are starting to learn the Rambam again, from the beginning!

Today in *Sefer Hamitzvos*, we don't learn about any *mitzvah* yet! First we learn about WHY the Rambam wrote the *Sefer Hamitzvos*. The Rambam explains that this *sefer* shows us what the 613 *mitzvos* are.

Did you know that there are other *Chachomim* who count the 613 *mitzvos* in a different way than the Rambam?

In *Sefer Hamitzvos*, the Rambam first teaches us how the 613 *mitzvos* should be counted, so that later on in the *sefer Mishnah Torah*, where he explains all of the *mitzvos*, it will be clear what the *mitzvos* are.

The Rambam will show us 14 rules to figure out why something is counted as a *mitzvah* from the Torah. We will be learning them over the next few days!

Rambam: Hakdama

HAKDAMA

In today's Rambam, the Rambam explains why he made the *sefer* called *Mishnah Torah*.

The Rambam reviews the whole history of Torah — how it came from Moshe Rabbeinu on *Har Sinai*, and how it was taught and learned and passed down *Baal Peh* for 40 generations, until the time of the *Mishnah* (when R' Yehudah Hakadosh saw it needed to be written down) and the time of the *Gemara* (when Ravina and R' Ashi saw it would be forgotten if it wasn't written down, because of the *tzaros* of *Golus*).

The Rambam saw that the *Golus* was so strong, there was another problem: The reason for the *Mishnah* and *Gemara* is so we know the

halachos, how Yidden need to live. And even though it's all written down, the *Gemara* has all of the discussion about these *halachos*, and they aren't in order. So unless someone knows the whole *Shas*, they might not be able to find the *halachos* they will need!

So the Rambam says that he took the courage to do something. He put together all of the *halachos* in order, written clearly, in an organized way without any questions and answers — so that EVERYONE (big *Talmidei Chachomim* and simple people too) can see and understand exactly what Hashem wants us to know and to do!