

The Thirteen Principles of Faith (Seder Mesirat Moda'a)

Which was ordained by the great rabbis, may their memory be for blessing

The **Baal Yoreh Hata'im** wrote, in the name of the **Ba'al Sheneh Lukhot Aberit**: The great **Rav**, the **Mekubbal**, **Ribbi Eliezer de Garmiza**, who received from his **Ribbi**, and from his **Ribbi's Ribbi**, until **Moshe Rabbenu**, **Alav Ashalom**, **Alaha leMoshe miSinai**, (taught) that the Holy One, blessed is He, spoke to Moshe saying, "It is well known before Me that, at the time of a person's death, the Satan comes to the person, full of eyes, from head to toe and with an unsheathed sword in his hand to slaughter the '**simanim**' of the person, and, if permission were granted, he would certainly slaughter the person. The Satan says to the person, "now that you see the great pain you are experiencing, would you like to be relieved of it?" If one relents, **Has veShalom**, and says "yes", the Satan replies, "deny God in the heavens!" **Has veShalom**, "and believe in **Avoda Zarah**" **Has veShalom**, "and say that it (**Avodah Zarah**) made the miracles in Egypt, and say that it sustained you from your being until this day; then I will relieve you from this pain.

Because the person sees (feels) this pain, he agrees. Now, even though the **Hahamim**, **zikhronam livraha**, say that a person is not responsible for oaths made while in pain, in spite of this, the person goes to **Ge'inam** for having denied God.

Because of this, a person is obligated to learn the Moda'a with the thirteen principles once a week, and, if that is not possible, he should read it once a month, and at least twice a year. And one who does not know how to learn, should be seated by one who does know how to learn and say it with him word for word, and it will count as if he had learned it with **Kavanah** and with a full heart. It should be learned in the presence of a minyan of ten men.

These are the Thirteen Principles:

1. We believe, with a complete belief, that the Creator, Blessed be His Name, alone made, makes and will make all creatures.
2. We believe, with a complete belief, that the Creator, Blessed be His Name, is one and there is no other and He alone is our God; He was, is and will be.
3. We believe, with a complete belief, that the Creator, Blessed be His Name, is not corporeal, nor similar to a body and there is no comparison to Him at all, in any way.