

May 18, 1970

Dr. Meyer Simcha Feldblum
515 West 183rd Street
New York, New York

Dear Meyer Simcha:

I am sorry that I had to leave early this past Sunday, in the midst of the remarks of the third speaker. But I am very pleased, indeed, that I had the opportunity to hear all your remarks in your lecture.

I was fascinated by your theory of the Halakhah according to Maimonides, especially the concept that a conscious decision was made at the time of the destruction of the Temple to opt for the unity of the people at the expense of greater flexibility and fluidity in halakhic decision-making.

If this theory can be substantiated, I think it will be a most important contribution to the philosophy of Halakhah. As you so rightly implied, the whole discussion is "dangerous," but that is no excuse for failing to confront it squarely even while being circumspect.

I strongly urge you to write up your ideas, including both segments, the scholarly-historical, and the contemporary, and publish it. Until you do, I would very much appreciate receiving from you basic references, especially to Maimonides and any modern historians, to allow me my own satisfaction as to the basic validity of the idea.

Once again, it was a genuine pleasure hearing you, and I do hope we shall have many opportunities to meet personally.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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