



BEHAALOSCHA

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RAMBAM, Laws of Foundations of Torah:

Prophecy is bestowed only upon an exceptionally wise person of strong character whose natural inclinations never overcome him. Instead, with his mind, he constantly overcomes his natural inclinations. He possesses very broad mental acuity. If he has all these qualities, and is physically sound, can achieve prophecy.

Talmud Nedarim:

“The Holy One imbues His Shechinah only on someone strong, wealthy, wise, and humble.”

Talmud Shabbos:

“The Shechinah only imbued a person who is wise, strong, wealthy, and tall.”

Question:

Why doesn't Rambam include other conditions for prophecy included in the Talmud?

- 1** ANSWER 1: Rambam deals with sporadic, non-regular prophecy (BUT why should we assume this?)
- 2** ANSWER 2: Rambam doesn't accept these Talmudic statements as final ruling. Proof from Hillel who was poor. (BUT why not mention "humble" as per Hillel, and Moses?!)
- 3** ANSWER 3: Rambam's words include these qualities. (BUT why didn't he delineate them?)

Conditions vs. Definitions:

Example from Laws of Prayer:

Definition:	Condition:
Each day	Standing
In the morning	Calm & focused
Praise, request, thank	Clean place
	Clean body & clothing

RAMBAM, Law of Foundations of Torah, Chapter 7,1:

It is one of the **foundations of our faith** that God conveys prophecy to man. Prophecy is bestowed only upon a very **wise sage** of a strong character, who **with his mind** overcomes his natural inclinations at all times. He must possess a very **broad and accurate mental capacity**.

A person who is full of all these qualities and physically sound can achieve prophecy... if he **possesses an accurate mental capacity to comprehend and grasp**, he will become holy....

His mind must constantly be directed upward, bound beneath God's throne, striving to **comprehend** the holy and pure forms and gazing at **the wisdom** of the Holy One, blessed be He...

When the spirit rests upon him... he will be transformed into a different person and will **understand with a knowledge** different from what it was previously. He will rise above the level of other **wise men**...

13 Principles of Faith:

“I Believe with perfect faith in...

1. Existence of G-d.
2. God's absolute and unparalleled unity.
3. God's non-corporeality.
4. God's eternity.
5. The imperative to worship G d exclusively.
6. **That G d communicates with man through prophecy.**
7. The primacy of the prophecy of Moses our teacher.
8. **The divine origin of the Torah.**
9. The immutability of the Torah.
10. G d's omniscience and providence.
11. Divine reward and retribution.
12. The arrival of the Messiah and the messianic era.
13. The resurrection of the dead.

TEXTUAL COMPARISONS

RAMBAM	TALMUD SHABBOS	TALMUD NEDARIM
“Prophecy is bestowed only upon an exceptionally wise person...”	“The Shechinah only rests on one who is wise, strong, healthy, wealthy and tall”	“Hashem only imbues His Shechinah on one strong, wealthy, wise and humble.”
DEFINITION of PROPHECY	DEFINITIONS & CONDITIONS for PROPHECY	CONDITIONS for GENERAL DIVINE RELATIONSHIP