

book ; literary work ; (in the past) scroll, tablet ; torah scroll ;

ספרים - books, account books

סֵפֶר

<http://www.morfix.co.il/%D7%A1%D7%A4%D7%A8>

commandment

מִצְוָה

<http://www.morfix.co.il/commandment>

big, large, great ; older ; significant, important, serious ; strong,  
powerful ; famous, influential, successful

גָּדוֹל

<http://www.morfix.co.il/%D7%92%D7%93%D7%95%D7%9C>

**Semakiel, Semaqiel** Along with Sagdalon, governs the sign of Capricorn.

<http://www.angelfire.com/journal/cathbodua/Angels/Sangels.html>

# Moses ben Jacob of Coucy

**Moses ben Jacob of Coucy**, also known as **Moses Mikkotsi** (Hebrew: משה בן יעקב מקוצי; Latin: *Moses Kotsensis*), was a French Tosafist and authority on Halakha (Jewish law). He is best known as author of one of the earliest codifications of Halakha, the *Sefer Mitzvot Gadol*.

## 1 Biography

Moses of Coucy lived in the first half of the thirteenth century. His name suggests he was born or raised in Coucy in Northern France. He was a descendant of a family of distinguished scholars. He studied under Judah of Paris.

In 1240 he was one of the four rabbis who were required to defend the Talmud, in a public disputation in Paris, and it is likely that the need for a work like the *Sefer Mitzvot Gadol* was driven by the decrees against the Talmud which had been promulgated in France, and had led to the confiscation and burning of all Talmud manuscripts in 1242.

## 2 Works

The "*Sefer Mitzvot Gadol*" (ספר מצוות גדול; Hebrew: *Large Book of the Commandments*; abbreviated סמ"ג "SeMaG") deals with the 365 negative commandments and the 248 positive commandments, separately discussing each of them according to the Talmud and the decisions of the Rabbis. "SeMaG" also contains much non-legal, moralistic teaching. References to the "SeMaG" are by section (positive or negative commandments) and a number for each commandment within its section.

Rabbi Moses' arrangement and presentation are heavily influenced by Maimonides' discussion of the commandments in the *Sefer Hamitzvot* and by his codification of the Halakha in the *Mishneh Torah*. However, unlike Maimonides, Rabbi Moses presents lengthy discussions of the different interpretations and legal opinions. He also makes extensive use of other codes, and particularly of the commentaries of Rashi and the Tosafot, usually favouring these Ashkenazi traditions over Maimonides.

Traditional commentaries on *SeMaG* include *Tosefe SeMaG* by Elijah Mizrahi (Re'em) and *Ammude Shlomo* by Solomon Luria (Maharshal). *Mitzvot Gadol* is a recent commentary by the 20th century rabbi Avraham Aharon

Price.

*Sefer Mitzvot Katan* ("SeMaK") by Isaac ben Joseph of Corbeil is an abridgment of the *SeMaG*, including additional agaddic and ethical material.

## 3 References

- Moses Ben Jacob of Coucy (SeMaG), jewishencyclopedia.com
- Sefer Mitzvot Gadol, Prof. Eliezer Segal
- Semag, bnainoachnews.com
- faqs.org

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