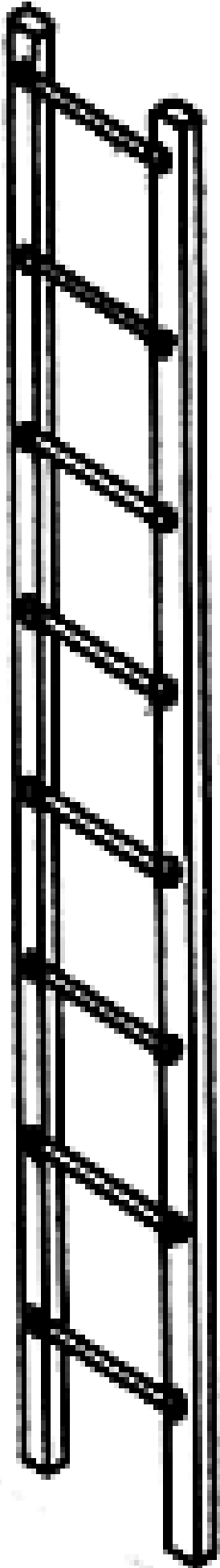


Maimonides' Ladder of Charity

There are 8 levels of tzedakah; Each is higher than the other one.



The Highest rung of *tzedakah* is to help a person so that they are able to support and look after themselves.

The second rung: The person giving doesn't know the person receiving, and when the person receiving doesn't know the giver.

The third rung: The giver knows the receiver, but the person receiving doesn't know the giver.

The fourth rung: The giver doesn't know the receiver, but the person receiving knows the giver.

The fifth rung: A direct donation to the hand of the needy (given without being asked).

The sixth rung: A direct donation of a large amount (given after being asked).

The seventh rung: A direct donation of small size, given cheerfully (after being asked).

The eighth rung: A direct, small donation given grudgingly (after being asked).