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**Pseudo-Laws, Noble Lies and Public Trust:
A Chapter in the Philosophy of Halakhah**

The halakhah is a normative system. The primary goal of halakhic laws, precepts, and court rulings is to direct and regulate the conduct of their addressees. The paper investigates the possible existence of special types of halakhic laws and rulings that, while being formulated as regular rules, are not really concerned with regulating and guiding behavior but rather creating narratives and transmitting messages to the addressees in order to strengthen public trust in divine law and halakhah. Such laws are a sort of “noble lie”: they do not really intend to impose an obligation to behave in a certain way, as they seem to be, but only to constitute the misrepresentation that they do so. The paper suggests an explanation of how such pseudo-laws and rulings contribute to strengthen public trust and demonstrates its argument through the reasoning offered by Maimonides in the *Guide for the Perplexed* to the laws of sacrifices. The paper also addresses the question of whether there is a duty to obey these rulings, particularly in the private sphere.