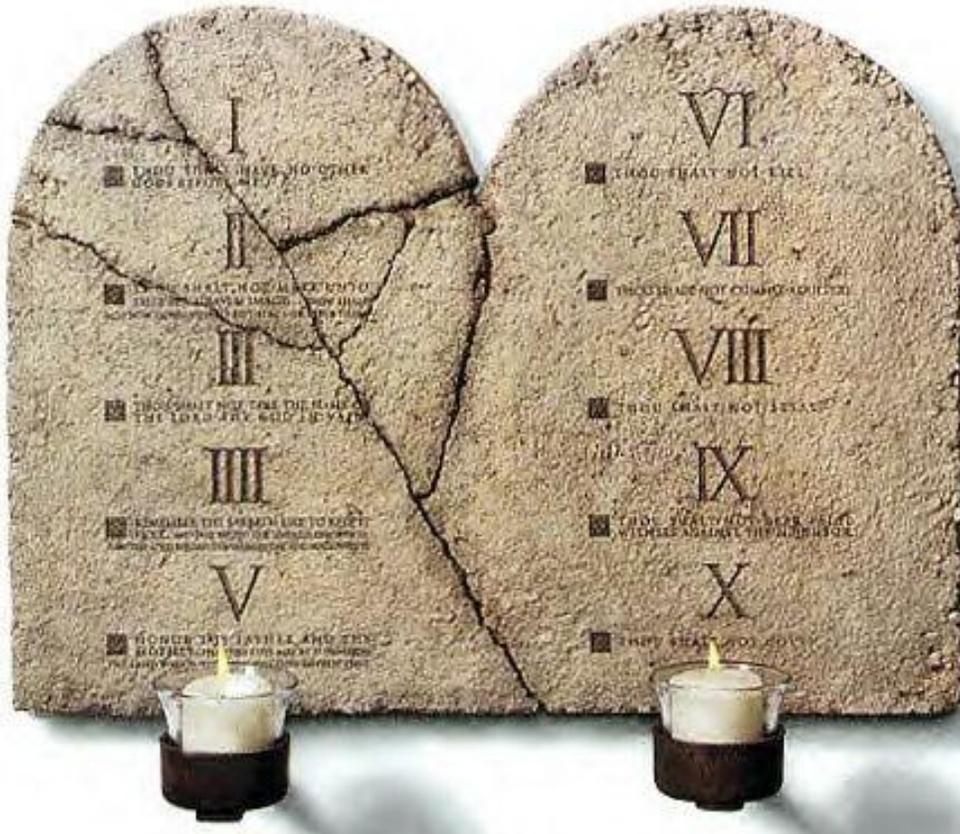




THE 10 COMMANDMENTS FROM A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE



“Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

~ 2 Corinthians 3:6

I

Thou shall not have no other gods before me.

The teaching of this first commandment is that God is the only Being. He is really the “All That Is” and “All In One”. There is nothing outside the realms of the Creation from the original source.

God told Moses with his appearance at the burning bush: “*I AM THAT I AM.*” (In this case, LIGHT)

Whatever is, therefore, is God. There can be no other thing outside of God. When we love God first, we love all creation and keep everything in balance. God here can be perceived as a Divine Essence that permeates all creation. As we respect and accept the sacredness of Creation, we are able to see the Divinity in others, including the ones that are different from us. They are all manifestations of the same creative energy.

Gods does not necessarily mean the plural of god as we normally think. When we are living life and drawn to certain material things and dwell in those material things, then these things become gods to you. The pursuit of greater material success and more expensive “toys” can become a very powerful god. With a broader perspective, we can say that a hyper-inflated Ego can become our god, if we do not keep it in check.

Have said that, we invite you to observe the law of tithing. You can interpret tithing as a need to carefully measure the use of energy in your daily life. One should always strive

to do things one time for the good of self and one time for the good of the others, or All (the universe). If this is not possible, the prescription described in the Bible refers to the act of donating at least 10% of your energy. It can be money, because money is also a way to measure energy circulating inside society, but also can be understood as time and general availability to assist others. Give the Universe it's 10% of your time and then there will be balance WITHIN you. Try not to dwell only on the material aspect of this recommendation; otherwise, “other Gods” may appear to have more relevance to you in your daily life.

II

Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shall not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.

We are here told not to set up and worship graven images. The word *Worship* means to assign great worth to, but what is really the meaning of graven images? Are they exclusive Icons? These images may be references to mental as well as physical ones. In fact, the reference to these things in heaven, on earth or under the sea refers to Spiritual, intellectual and subconscious images. Graven can mean carved or firmly fixed in mind. We are also talking about images or ideas that we create - false beliefs. These beliefs are based on our judgments of people, facts or events, and they are the

cause of most of our physical and emotional and spiritual realities.

In the Old Testament we see the episode of the worshiping the golden calf. It had come to symbolize honoring material wealth above the spiritual. In this sense we can understand Moses' anger¹. There is always a price to pay whenever we turn our backs on our spiritual life. It will not go unpaid; it is the Law of Balance.

Bow to nothing on the outside, the kingdom of God is inside you.

~The Gospel of Thomas

Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God

~ 2 Corinthians 6:16

III

Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

¹ While receiving the Ten Commandments and the Book of the Covenant, the Children of Israel compelled Aaron to build a calf out of molten gold to serve as an altar for sacrifices to God. Upon seeing this, Moses flung the stone tablets in anger Exodus 32:192; consequently, Moses had to reascend Mt. Sinai to receive a new set of tablets from God. This event occasions a recapitulation of the account of God's inscribing two stone tablets Exodus 34:1-4, and conveying the Book of the Covenant Exodus 34:10-28, in a highly condensed form in Exodus 34, what historians call "the Small Covenant Code."

What does it really mean to take the name of your God in vain? Perhaps you do that when you use God to try and justify yourself as being something that you are not, or when you use the name of God to justify actions, even when you know those actions are being used in a way completely against the meaning of the scripture. One can see this happening when the name of Christ Jesus, who spoke of "turning the other cheek", is used to justify wars and the killing of innocents. Don't use the sacred name to justify any selfish actions. Again, by the Law of Balance, there is an energetic result to this:

"Because of your tradition, I will reject you" ~Jesus

~The Gospel of Thomas

IV

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall not thou labor, and do all they work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.

View this as a prescription for living and how to reach the kingdom of God. If so, wouldn't this be also referring to the work one performs in meditation? It is known that when the Kundalini has reached the sixth chakra, the work is over, because there is no additional work required to reach the seventh chakra. The energy will move and open the seventh seal automatically.

"Tradition states that for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh

day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

What a wonderful thing it would be, in this age, if we were to follow this commandment literally. We would benefit physically, mentally and spiritually. Yet on another level, we are dealing with the symbolism of numbers again. Seven is the number of perfection, a completed and perfect spiritual journey. Seven it is also the living relationship between what is human and what is divine.

This is also a commandment that teach us the basic mechanics of “letting go”. There is a point when we have done all we can, represented by the “Six Days”. On the seventh, we must allow for the universe, or the cosmos, to manifest WITHIN. Sometimes, to have something resolve inside our lives, we have to detach ourselves from the situation and let the Law of Balance perform its actions to correct what is out of alignment.

V

**Honor thy father and thy mother:
That thy days may be long upon the
land which the Lord thy God giveth
thee.**

This is an interesting passage, because if your birth parents are not really honorable people, should you pay homage to them anyways?

Taken literally, these are verses are simple and easy to understand; but taken

symbolically, they also contain a very powerful message.

The “Father” represents the intellectual consciousness, the active energy of thoughts transformed to actions. The “Mother” represents the mind that is ripe for giving birth to the new mind, to new thought patterns. It is the two in balance and harmony, working together that will enable us to lead a balanced life. The land that we shall long be upon and which was given us is the state of consciousness that results from this harmony.

VI

Thou shall not kill.

The real and deep meaning of this commandment relies in its straightforwardness. Notice that we usually assume, “Thou shall not kill a person.” But, it is not so explicit. Since there are many ways to kill, and many sentient beings, we assume that maybe this commandment is not only referring to our Human companions. As Oscar Wilde wrote:

*“Yet each man kills the thing he loves
By each let this be heard
Some do it with a bitter look
Some with a flattering work
The coward does it with a kiss
The brave man with a mental sword.”*

A murderer may kill only the body. But what about other killing attitudes? Does the way we treat others, killing their hopes, “murdering” their ideals, their ways to believe, their ways to live and cope with their own problems not also a way to kill?

What about killing initiative and self-confidence? It is known that excessive criticism and condemnation are also killers. Hate, jealousy and anger can also kill.

If we are confronted with these types of attitudes, we should try to replace these thoughts with nurturing ones.

VII

Thou shall not commit adultery.

To understand the deeper meaning of this commandment, we must consider the meaning of the spiritual marriage. The spiritual marriage which is referred to in several places in the Bible has to do with the marriage of the intellect of conscious mind to the soul or "heart consciousness" - the union of the conscious with the unconscious.

To commit adultery on this level is to be untrue to the soul that is our source of truth and love. It is to seek the lower manifestation of one of your other natures, the physical or the emotional, when you are in accord with either of these two other natures, you are committing adultery.

The word adultery is also a synonym of infidelity. This is also a Spiritual recommendation for one to keep stay loyal and consistent to one's commitments and beliefs, not simply the element of extra-marital sexual behavior.

VIII

Thou shall not steal.

We know that from the law as Jesus stated it, "*As you sow, so shall you reap*".

This is true not just of material things, but also of actions, emotions and thoughts. If you are confronted with a situation where you can help someone, but just don't think it important enough to motivate yourself to do so, you are literally stealing hope. Another way to see it is, when you are employed and you do not give your best to your job or waste time there, you are stealing time from someone that entrusted you with a task. Still another perspective is to take love, kindness or advantage of another's generosity of spirit while knowing that you have no intention of reciprocating in some way is another form of stealing.

IX

Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

"Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge in the field of truth and knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods."

~Albert Einstein

False witness includes gossip, dishonesty and false judgments. When you bear false

witness, you convince yourself that a lie or a story which is based on your emotions is the true reality. When you do this, you are bearing false witness; it has nothing to do with any literal meaning. It is an illusion called Maya.

We shall make a little distinction on what is really gossip. Gossip is not only when you hear one story and pass it on. Gossip is when you create a story, based on assumption and create a “false truth”, and from there, this creates its own reality. When you practice such attitudes, you feed into the Illusion part of life for your own convenience. This just serves to create confusion, suffering and pain to others and ultimately you.

X

Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife, or his manservant, not his maidservant, not his ox, or his ass, not anything that is thy neighbor's.

To understand this recommendation fully, let's look to the transcendent elements described here. We understand that the commandments were not designed only to enforce social and communal attitudes in an emergent society, as we can describe the Israelites, but also to give instruction in how to live in peace with oneself.

To understand this fully, understand that the word neighbor is not exclusive used in this reference as simply someone next door

to you, but as elements that are innate parts of your character. Therefore, regard as your neighbors to be facets of your emotional and physical nature; as you read this, you are using your Intellect, the mental aspect. Therefore in everything you do, try keep the integrity of the nature of your *neighbors*. This is a secret of a balanced life.

“A man's enemies will be the members of his own household.”

~Matthew 10:36

We can regard your Mind as being the house. The wife, as we saw before, meant the emotions that can be used and manipulated. The same meaning is expressed through the words, maidservants and menservants. The ox and the ass are referring to instinctual and primitive behavior, or reaction, that comes from our lower nature, such as survival impulse, self preservation, affirmation of private limits etc.

It's all inside of you, within you. The element of peace starts in oneself. When you allow the good harmonious thought patterns to mix with the thoughts that arise out of the lower nature and you are moved by thoughts produced by these, you will be more the inclined to covet thy neighbor's “house”.