

Spiritual Commandments and Rules of Right



Spiritual Commandments

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We commend to our readers a little book, published under the auspices of the Samarshahi Sabha, Lahore, under the above title. The principles and rules of conduct are clearly and carefully announced, and a thoughtful reading of them will prove a powerful auxiliary to efforts for righteousness. We give them below and are sure that they will be read by all with interest and profit.

- 1 Thou shalt search for *Truth* in every department of being, — test, prove, and try if what thou deemest is *Truth*, and accept it as the *Word* of God.
- 2 Thou shalt continue the search for *Truth* all thy life, and never cease to test, prove and try all that thou deemest to be truth.
- 3 Thou shalt search by every attainable means, for the laws that underlie all life and being; thou shalt strive to comprehend these laws, live in harmony with them, and make them the laws of thine own life, thy rule and guide in all thine actions.
- 4 Thou shalt not follow the example of any man or set of men, nor obey any teaching or accept of any theory as thy rule of life, that is not in strict accordance with thy highest sense of right.
- 5 Thou shalt remember that a *wrong* done to the least of thy fellow-creatures is a wrong done to all; and thou shalt never commit a wrong wilfully and consciously to any of thy fellowman, nor connive at wrong done by others without striving to prevent or protesting against it.
- 6 Thou shalt acknowledge all men's *right* to do, think, or speak, to be exactly equal to thine own; and all right whatsoever that thou dost demand, thou shalt ever accord to others.
- 7 Thou shalt not hold thyself bound to *love* or associate with those that are distasteful or repulsive to thee, but thou shalt be held bound to treat such objects of dislike with gentleness, courtesy and justice; and never suffer thy antipathies to make thee ungentle or unjust to any living creature.
- 8 Thou shalt ever regard the rights, interests and welfare of the many as superior to those of the one or the few, and in cases where thy welfare or that of thy friend is to be balanced against that of society, thou shalt sacrifice thyself or friend to the welfare of the many.

- 9 Thou shalt be obedient to the *laws* of the land in which thou dost reside, in all things which do not conflict with thy highest sense of right.
- 10 Thy first and last duty upon earth, and all through thy life, shall be to seek for the principles of *right*, and to live them out to the utmost of thy power and whatever creed, precept or example conflicts with those principles, thou shalt shun and reject, ever remembering that the laws of right are:
 - In morals, *Justice*;
 - In science, *Harmony*;
 - In religion, *The Fatherhood of God, The Brotherhood of Man, the immortality of the human soul, and compensation and retribution for the good or evil done on earth.*

Rules of Right

- 1 Temperance in all things, whether physical, mental, affectional or religious.
- 2 Justice to all creatures that be — justice being the exercise of precisely the same rules of life, conduct, thought or speech that we would desire to receive from others.
- 3 Gentleness in speech and act — never needlessly wounding the feelings of others by harsh words or deeds; never hurting or destroying aught that breathes, save for the purposes of sustenance or self-defence.
- 4 Truth in every word or thought, spoken or acted, but reservation of harsh or unpleasing truths where they would needlessly wound the feelings of others.
- 5 Charity — charity in thought striving to excuse the failings of others; charity in speech, veiling the failings of others; charity in deed, wherever, whenever, and to whomsoever the opportunity offers.
- 6 Alms-giving — visiting the sick and comforting the afflicted in every shape that our means admit of, and the necessities of our fellow-creatures demand.
- 7 Self-sacrifice, wherever the interests of others are to be benefited by our endurance.
- 8 Temperate yet firm defence of our views of right, and protest against wrong, whether in ourselves or others.
- 9 Industry in following our calling we may be engaged in, or in devoting some portion of our time, when otherwise not obliged to do so, to the service and benefit of others.
- 10 Love — above and beyond all, seeking to cultivate in our own families, kindred, friends, and amongst all mankind generally the spirit of that true and tender love which can think, speak or act no wrong to any creature living; remembering always, that where love is, all the other principles of right are fulfilled beneath its influence and embodied in its monitions.