

THE GERLE CREEK “BIG TEN”

FIRST COMMANDMENT: THOU ARE THY BROTHER’S (GATE) KEEPER!

Take thee thy time at every passage to replace the gate across the road and set thee the lock as thou would’st have thy neighbor lock it behind him. Thou hast then no need to forgive those who would trespass against us!

SECOND COMMANDMENT: PLACE THOU A SIGN AMONG THEE!

Love thy neighbor as thyself in respecting his privacy and pryeth not – nor permit the sounds of thy pleasures to overcome his sleep. Should he be not present, however, his thee to his cabin-site hence and hesitate not to query of strangers should they be in his abode yet displayeth not in the window the square-red symbol of permitted presence! So shall ye do unto thy neighbor. Let thy guests be informed of the use of thy sign, in proper display, as also the need of gate locking and tending all other commandments that they may not violate thy hospitality unwittingly in thy absence!

THIRD COMMANDMENT: LET THERE BE LIGHT BUT NOT CACOPHONY!

Weep, oh ye of little faith in Nature or gaseous substance, for he who hath a Generator must bury it that its unseemly sound disturbeth not his neighbor – and let the burial box generateth no sound! For it has been spoken that between the hours of nine in the morning and ten of the evening only shall the great wail of the Banshee be heard. And the law of the land so decreed that rest and tranquility might mostly prevail!

FOURTH COMMANDMENT: MONITOR THEE THY MOTOR-MONSTERS!

Gentle its throttle and raise not its horn against us! Nor shall thee nor thy guests zoom through the Tract, nor by the habitat of others, on thy beast of burden lest the wrath of all sleepers and seekers of serenity descend upon thy headpiece! Except on highway, harness too thy fleet, non-timerous beastie that it mark not these mountains with ugly scars. Beware that ye runneth not back and forth as on a chariot course, for from this land of lava and granite hard grew the vegetation – let not thy man-made monster destroy its beauty as it has shattered its quietude!

FIFTH COMMANDMENT: GOVERN THY GUN’S TONGUE!

Let not its fire be felt nor its thunder heard within the confines of the Tract nor within the distance deemed so safe therefrom, for the laws of this land have been so laid down that no life may be lost by careless hand! Blessed be he who raiseth not his gun at a target closer than the Dumps – thrice blessed be he who within the range of others shoots off only his mouth! Let the dolt whose trigger finger doth itch be admonished that, except during those seasons and places so set by law, he shalt not seek out to provoke, nor destroy, any wild

creature of these forests. Remembereth thou, this land was theirs to roam before us and, verily, unto them it may well return!

SIXTH COMMANDMENT: LET NOT LAZINESS LEAD THEE TO LITTER!

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away...but not thy garbage! Thou shalt not dump – neither shalt thou bury it! For it is written by those who govern our lands and have seen the shadow of man’s wastes, “Desist!” No longer shall ashes return unto ashes nor plastic unto dust. They are now desirous that we remove these blights from the wilderness unto the cities from whence they came. Unless, therefore, a Forestry Can be unfulfilled – haul thee thy refuse home! For he who doth desecrate the laws of Nature by willfully dropping the ruins of his rubbish anywhere within this natural forest is the vilest of vile and may the Lord curseth him with the plague, descending the weight of ten billion beer cans upon his unholy head, sending the blue-bottle flies to hatch in his meat forevermore!

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT: RESPECT THOU NATURE’S LIMIT OF ABUNDANCY!

Guard well the sweet waters which well forth from barren rock! Finding the land arid, many of our men came to match these mountains and labor to lay thereupon round tubes to carry this liquid gold across them. They filled tanks to quench thy thirst and cleanse thyself. He who thirsts may drink but let not thy faucet runneth over – nor thy hose runneth in abandon, for to waste not is to want not when the need ariseth! Nor forget ye, therefore, to perform a small labor and turn off thy hydrant’s source of supply when departing – lest ye become guilty of draining thy neighbor’s line and he wisheth the fleas of ten thousand thirsty camels upon thee!

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT: OBSERVE RULES OF SAFETY, CORRECT THY MISTAKES!

To err doth come easily to us all, but to forgive becometh difficult when thy error might also jeopardize thy neighbor! As we abide by the law of Ceasar so shall we render unto Ceasar that which is Ceasar’s, for his appraisers shall inspect thy abode annually and that which he doth deem be done for safety’s sake shall be observed....though Ceasar Himself be known frequently to change his rules!

NINTH COMMANDMENT: BE OF GOOD HEART TO LEND READY HAND!

Extend thy uncrossed palm for no man standeth alone yet formeth an association! Should thy help be sought to effect the good of the whole, thou needs not smile – but be of good will in giving of thy time and muscle. Remember that he who helpeth not when help is needed is not justified in complaining, neither is he forthcoming of assistance of others when he needs it!

TENTH COMMANDMENT: HEED, YE BE AWARE, PREPARE, AND TAKE CARE!

And the Messenger went unto them saying: “Don’t ask me how come – but thou art chosen to make use of this great land of milk and honey and enjoy the fruits thereof! But let ye be forewarned of the great devastation from forked fire which will smite this land and take it from ye should ye become careless in spirit!”

And the wise man did take heed and precautions therewith! Having helped to build tanks and to lay pipes carrying water, he thereafter kept ready supply of hose always at hand to protect his place in the sun and that of his brother and he became as One with this life-saving system, learning well all aspects of its function. With care did he safely store the small sticks he rubbed for fire, keeping them enclosed whereby neither beast nor fowl might disturb them; with care did he treat all manner of man-made light, making certain to refuel these only in the open air that no combustion might form; with care also tended he all dying embers that they be smothered in his presence and built he no fire upon ground that lay beneath tall tree.

So also did he seek to keep all sites in the wilderness free of hazards and his debris that The Evil might not spring forth to destroy. And he observed all rules of Nature in his manner of living so that the ravages of fire might not be kindled.

Thus the wise man practiced this wisdom, preaching it to the unwary, that his children and his children's children might grow and prosper with fulfillment of pleasure in this earthly paradise!

While he who sinned by omission was cast out forever!

#####

NATURE'S PRAYER

KNOW THESE COMMANDMENTS OF THE MOUNTAINS
AND LET THOSE WHO VISIT FROM AFAR ALSO LEARN
THESE WAYS.

FOR THIS IS GOD'S COUNTRY – IT GLADDENS THE
HEART – DELIGHTETH THE SOUL – AND PLEASETH THE
SENSES.

YET WE WHO SHARE THIS LEGACY MAY PARTAKE OF
ITS PLEASURES ONLY IN THE AWARENESS THAT WE
SHARE AS WELL THE OBLIGATION OF GUARDING ITS
BEAUTY, PROTECTING ITS SERENITY, TO HELP RETAIN
THE HAVEN WHICH IS EQUALLY THE RIGHTFUL
HERITAGE OF WILD INHABITANT AND FUTURE HUMAN
ALIKE.

MAY THEY TOO SAVOR OF ITS GLORIES.

AMEN

