

## **What if Moses Had Asked God to Amend the Ten Commandments? (A Parody)**

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai it is said in Exodus that he found the Children of Israel worshipping before an altar of a golden calf. In frustration Moses threw the two tablets on which were the Ten Commandments onto the ground where they broke into many pieces. The biblical story tells us that God said to Moses to make two more tablets of stone and to bring them to him so that he, God, could scribe onto those replacement tablets the Ten Commandments as he done with the original pair. Given that Moses surely was still vexed with the behavior of the Children of Israel the author wonders if the conversation between Moses and God did not go something like what follows.

Moses stood before God and said, “God, they are hopeless. When I arrived at the bottom there they were, already disobeying the first four of your commandments (Septuagint tradition.) I need something stronger, something more than the ten you gave me, if I am to make these people do as you wish.”

“You believe this?” replied God.

“Well look at them,” answered Moses, “They cavort before a false idol. And as they do I see them go about the other things your commandments tell them they shall not do.”

“And for that you believe what?” inquired God.

“We need a stronger set of rules, a set of laws which enforces what is right and principled. And we need those laws to give me a guide for punishment of those who would still disobey,” answered a frustrated Moses.

“And with these additional rules and this guide you believe the Children of Israel would come into line and there would be no more problems?” asked God in a calm voice.

“Well, yes,” said Moses. “If nothing else it would give me a more assured way of controlling the wickedness that insists upon disobeying the Ten Commandments you have given.”

“So you want amendments to the first ten?” Inquired God.

“Yes,” cried Moses. “I need all the help I can get if I am to make these people obey the Ten.”

God said in a smiling but firm voice, “Listen to me Moses, even you have yet much to learn.

“It is I who made Man and it is I who has given Man the will to chose knowing that if his choice is to not follow those commandments he will will perish.

“Think of all of this as opportunity for the Children of Israel to learn why they are here. It is my way of teaching.

“As for the Ten Commandments I put onto stone, they address the fundamental nature of Man. If the Children of Israel were not inclined to do those things I command them not to do then I would not have to write them down.”

Moses turned his head away from the voice of God, towards the still burning bush and said in a small voice, “Then you are saying it is the very nature of Man to do these things?”

“Yes,” answered God.

“Then why did you make it this way?”

God’s voice sighed, “I have my reasons.”

“You walk in mysterious way,” commented Moses.

God chuckled, “But only so to Man.”

Moses gathered himself, “Then you think the ten will suffice?”

“Moses, I have given the Children of Israel Ten Commandments. “They are the values and principles of my way.

“If the Children of Israel choose to ignore them then no amount of amendments will make the Ten any stronger or any more faithfully followed. As I have said, the ten address the very nature of Man, the worst of Man, and the weakness of Man.

“If the Children of Israel choose not to follow these ten then nothing added will cause the Ten to be followed. My way must come from within, from the very values and principles that are within. There will always be temptation because of greed, thirst for power, and self-serving motivations.

“Man must find within himself the means to adhere to my commandments. No set of laws can regulate my values and principles into being. As I have told you, if the Ten Amendments are not followed by the Children of Israel then no supplementary rules or what not will cause a following.”

“So God, what is it you wish that I do?” asked Moses.

“I have told you,” answered God. “Give me the two blank tablets you have made to replace those you destroyed in anger. I will put on them the Ten Commandments.

“You will take the two tablets to the Children of Israel. You will live by these ten yourself and with that know how to teach them to the others. If what is on these two tablets cannot be followed it is not the failure of the tablets.

“Moses, again I say to you, the Ten Commandments challenge Man to abstain from that which is of his nature and to accept and grow the values and principles of mine that are also within him. My teachings are by the experience of consequences. I made Man with a fundamental desire to sit in heaven with me. To simply allow that reward without challenge

would be to deny Man understanding and adherence to my values and principles, and thus appreciation for sitting with me. While Man is on Earth he must recognize this. And he must recognize this is so for all those around him and the government he makes of his own while on Earth. And then so must there be leaders who accept and live by my values and principles who lead Man while on Earth.

As leaders you and those who follow must know and accept this. You and those who follow must understand that following the Ten Commandments must come from within and not through some set of laws or regulations to supplement them in order to catch up loose ends. That is my challenge to Man and that which I have set him to learn.

So Moses back came down from the top of Mount Sinai, again with two tablets on which were Ten Commandments inscribed with the finger of God.

So the author asks, what is that an Article 5 Convention is to remedy?