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Many years ago, while still in Europe, Leo wrote his own "Ten Commandments." He wrote them in German and was never satisfied with any attempts at translation; he considered them untranslatable. They were therefore published only in the German edition of his book "The Voice of the Dolphins" and are known only to a few.

To me they represent his true "last Will and Testament," and I want to share it with our friends whose kind words and deeds have given me so much comfort after Leo left me: I got him back a little bit reflected, as it were, in the mirror of his friends.

On this occasion, for those of our friends who do not read German, a colleague and friend of Leo at the Salk Institute has kindly prepared the enclosed translation at my request.

ZEHN GEBOTE

1. Erkenne die Zusammenhänge der Dinge und die Gesetze der Handlungen der Menschen, damit Du wissest, was Du tuest.
2. Deine Taten sollen gerichtet sein auf ein würdiges Ziel, doch sollst Du nicht fragen, ob sie es erreichen; sie seien Vorbild und Beispiel, nicht Mittel zum Zweck.
3. Sprich zu den Menschen wie zu Dir selber ohne Rücksicht auf die Wirkung Deiner Rede, auf dass Du die Menschen nicht ausstossest aus Deiner Welt und in der Vereinsamung der Sinn des Lebens Deinen Augen entschwindet und Du verlierest den Glauben an die Vollkommenheit der Schöpfung.
4. Zerstöre nicht, was Du nicht erschaffen kannst.
5. Rühre kein Gericht an, es sei denn, dass Du hungrig bist.
6. Begehre nicht, was Du nicht haben kannst.
7. Lüge nicht ohne Notwendigkeit.
8. Ehre die Kinder. Lausche andächtig ihren Worten und sprich zu ihnen mit unendlicher Liebe.
9. Verrichte sechs Jahre lang Deine Arbeit; im siebenten aber gehe in die Einsamkeit oder unter Fremde, damit die Erinnerung Deiner Freunde Dich nicht hindert zu sein, was Du geworden bist.
10. Führe das Leben mit leichter Hand und sei bereit fortzugehen, wann immer Du gerufen wirst.

From: Leo Szilard "Die Stimme der Delphine." Utopische Erzählungen.
Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag. 1963.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. *Recognize the connections of things and the laws of conduct of men, so that you may know what you are doing.*
2. *Let your acts be directed towards a worthy goal, but do not ask if they will reach it; they are to be models and examples, not means to an end.*
3. *Speak to all men as you do to yourself, with no concern for the effect you make, so that you do not shut them out from your world; lest in isolation the meaning of life slips out of sight and you lose the belief in the perfection of the creation.*
4. *Do not destroy what you cannot create.*
5. *Touch no dish, except that you are hungry.*
6. *Do not covet what you cannot have.*
7. *Do not lie without need.*
8. *Honor children. Listen reverently to their words and speak to them with infinite love.*
9. *Do your work for six years; but in the seventh, go into solitude or among strangers, so that the memory of your friends does not hinder you from being what you have become.*
10. *Lead your life with a gentle hand and be ready to leave whenever you are called.*

Translated by Dr. Jacob Bronowski.

