

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Sixth Commandment

“**T**hou shalt not kill.”
 We sprinkle poison on a trail of ants going into our kitchen; unknowingly, while walking through the woods, we crush a beetle with our feet. The shadows of war are ever around us. It is not so easy, after all, to obey this simple edict, “thou shalt not kill.”

If we look back at the Israelites to whom the Commandment was given we find perplexing contrasts in regard to it. For instance Moses, the first to receive the Commandments, caused a number of his own people to be killed. Joshua, his successor, waged wars and killed many people. David killed, and so did Elias.

Once again, then, it behooves us to regard the Commandment from the esoteric point of view. Truth is a diamond, many sided, and facets of this diamond can be directly opposite each other. Just as a diamond has its point of refraction within, illuminating all facets, so, too, does Truth illumine from within. Therefore apparent contradictions, in the light of Truth, resolve into a harmonious whole.

The number of this Commandment — six — stands for materiality and form. Under the number six God, the Word, and man, were made flesh. The symbols of matter in our three-dimensional world are the cube and the sphere, both built on six. A cube has six sides; a sphere is measurable by its radius, which is $1/6$ of its circumference.

The sixth house of Virgo fixes creation on the human plane. Virgo is the mother sign of the harvest and ripe fruit bearing seed, the triumph of matter. Virgo gives form to life, but because of its symbol of fruit and the harvest it also imparts continuance and preservation

of life. Virgo is the store-house of the fruits of our labors. The storehouse assures the future. The full storehouse of Virgo includes the microscopic and the macroscopic. And also, on the sixth day of creation God saw everything that He had made and, behold, it was very good.

The unalterable fact of God's creation is continuance, maintenance, preservation. The sixth Commandment was given to insure the continuance of creation. Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not destroy or disturb that which is created. Thou shalt not take life. On the contrary, thou shalt bestow immortality. This is the new way of reading the sixth Commandment. The lessons of a literal “Thou shalt not kill” should be behind us. The way of life now should be to bestow immortality. But how?

We have been told that “loving, self-forgetting service to others is the shortest, the safest, and the most joyful road to God.” We can be literal. Service is a road. Roads connect individual towns and bring them to life and unification. Service to others is a shining road giving life and purpose to all we thus touch. Only in mutual service do all orders of evolving beings become bound together; lack of service isolates them.

Service plays a very great part in the divine Plan. Service builds an archetype of unity in preparation for the Religion of the Father. Anyone, anything that disturbs or destroys this unity is guilty of killing. Service is the sustaining force of life. It is the ingredient of survival. Service is the servant of eternity.

In Service thou shalt bestow immortality along life's road. This is the sixth Commandment for the New Age.