

Rabbi Yael Levy

**Reimagining the Transcendent Moment
at Mt. Sinai, when . . .**

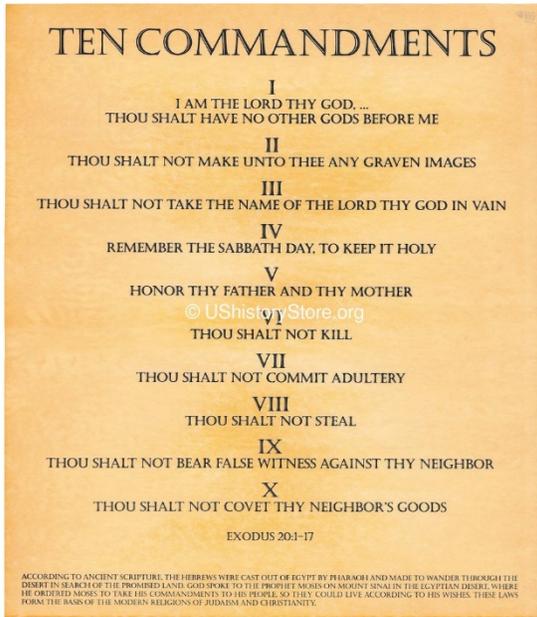
...the world disappeared.
All distinction vanished.
There was no I, no you, no tree, no bird, no water, no rock.
There was only One:
One breath,
One life,
Only One.
Infinite.
Eternal.
One.

And all of us stood
With the One breath still on our lips
And we knew.
We knew
The One inside the many
The One beyond anything that could be or seen known
The One:
Infinite,
Eternal
And we trembled in awe...

We listened to the One reverberate in our hearts
And in the silence, we heard the Mystery call:

1. I am, I was, I will be. I am the unfolding of all that is. I am constant transformation calling you forward to be.
2. You cannot arrest me in motion. You cannot grasp or hold onto time. Do not strive for certainty. Do not seek permanence.
3. Do not use a Divine name to make false promises. Do not use sacred teachings to lift up a destructive path.
4. Rest, Stop, Pause. Be. Honor creation. Declare your freedom. Rest and allow others to rest as well.
5. Honor your parents. Honor your ancestors. Honor those upon whose shoulders you stand.
6. Do not murder.
7. Do not betray.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not use the power of words to hurt or destroy.

10. Feel the fullness of your life. Don't be led astray by comparing yourself to others. Don't get lost in desiring what others have. Be content, be fulfilled with what your life brings.



Amistad, 1997

In 1840 Lewis Tappan and Ellis Gray Loring of the Amistad Committee approached the 72-year old John Quincy Adams to defend the Amistad Mende African captives. Initially hesitant, he eventually took the case believing it would be his last great service to the country. In February 1841 he argued the Mende were free men illegally captured and sold into slavery, and as such should be returned to Africa. Adams speaks with the Mende leader, Cinque before the trial:

John Quincy Adams: Cinque, look. I'm being honest with you. Anything less would be disrespectful. I'm telling you, I'm preparing you, I suppose I'm explaining to you, that the test ahead of us is an exceptionally difficult one.

Cinque: (speaking in Mende / Ens. Covey translating) We won't be going in there alone.

John Quincy Adams: Alone? Indeed not. We have right at our side. We have righteousness at our side. We have Mr Baldwin over there.

Cinque: (speaking in Mende / Ens. Covey translating) I meant my ancestors. I will call into the past, far back to the beginning of time, and beg them to come and help me at the judgment. I will reach back and draw them into me. And they must come, for at this moment, I am the whole reason they have existed at all. See the film clip below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8Jkls3xgvg>