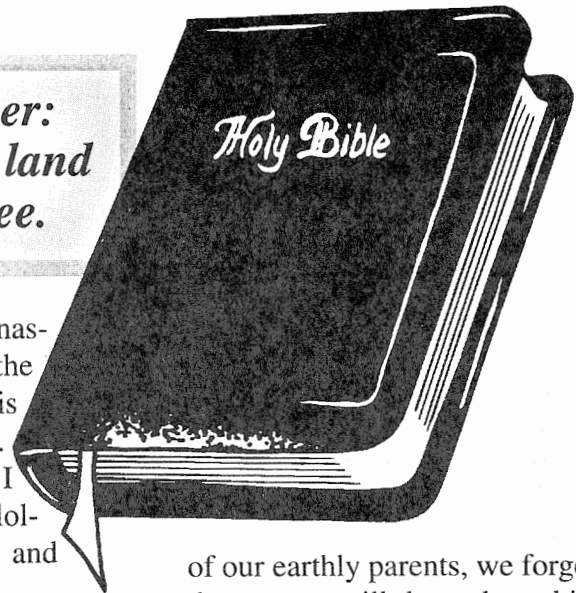


## WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

### *Fifth Commandment — Exodus 20:12*

*Honour thy father and thy mother:  
that thy days may be long upon the land  
which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*



**T**HIS COMMANDMENT IS UNIQUE inas-  
much as it addresses the child, the son and the  
daughter. In one sense, this Commandment is  
as old and as modern and as simple as can be.  
The parent speaks: If you are a good child I  
will give you a lollipop. The promise of a long life is the lol-  
lipop. If we are good to our parents, we shall live long and  
well.

The ancient Israelites were taught veneration of their elders. During the entire Piscean Age, the Patriarchs were held in highest esteem. Their judgment was wisdom; their voice was law. Old age then was considered the natural time of attainment. Now, however, youth is the outward symbol of attainment, and the Commandment must find a higher interpretation for our age. This Commandment is addressed to the child who remains a child through all lives. Whether young or old in years, we are all children of the Father-Mother God.

On the physical plane we, as children of our parents, owe them all in all. Through their reciprocal love we were conceived and brought to birth. To them belongs our debt of life. But now we are grown and, better versed in the mysteries of the larger life, we acknowledge God as the true Father-Mother. Our earthly parents were instruments of birth, but our Father-Mother God is the cause of our birth.

The subconscious regard of a normal child for its parents may be compared to a steadily flowing stream. In this stream, the child, as the pilot of his little boat of life, sails securely. The stream is home and parents. All his needs are taken care of, all is complete. Then the child grows to full stature of adulthood, and, in growing independent

of our earthly parents, we forget that we are still dependent children of the Father-Mother God. Yet, when the storms of life come we are not so sure-footed on our road of independence. We try to run to some sheltered place where stronger shoulders than our own will assume responsibility for us.

If we are wise in observing the Fifth Commandment, we turn to our Father-Mother God, the everpresent help in trouble. But, often, we do not do this; often we are laid low in agony of body and spirit.

The emotion that causes a toddler to pour out his woes to his mother may be frail com-

pared to the volume and intensity of the healing love that flows to him from her. His emotion, however, represents his all—his entire little being. The volume of understanding and love that flows to us from the Father-Mother God is also infinitely greater than the love, confidence, and feeling of dependence which we extend to Him. Unlike that of the child, however, our expression does not represent our all! This is the difference between a trivial Commandment and a powerful, swift-working one.

The Fifth Commandment is correlated to the fifth zodiacal house of Leo. The fifth house is ruled by the bodily symbol of God, the Sun, and in our bodies Leo rules the heart. Leo stands for supreme divine love.

The full trinity of love is born of three signs: Gemini, Cancer, and Leo. The lungs ruled by Gemini and nourished by the universal pabulum of air are symbolical of universal love, the love that "casts its bread upon the waters." Of the love symbolized by the breast and chest ruled by Cancer, it is said, "Whatsoever ye do unto one of the least of these ye do unto me." The love of the heart, Leo, is nourished by the divinity of life itself. The love of the heart is one-pointed, swift, intense. It is the intense love of the One and Only in all the world. It is the love designed to be the ladder to draw the heart of man to God. It is the love that is experienced by aloneness with God. It is love undivided, therefore intense.

It is said of St. Francis and St. Claire that at times they would meet in a hut in the forest to talk over the problems of their respective Orders. As they sat at opposite ends of a table, the intensity of their love for each other, their cause, and their God filled and surrounded the hut with a roseate light so brilliant that the peasants thought the forest was on fire. This kind of love is the pre-requisite for the true children of God in the dawning New Age.

Why, then, does the Commandment not say, Love thy Father and thy Mother? It says, honor. Honor is purity of love. Honor is love vested in all the virtues that make love noble. Honor changes the casualness of levity in love to sacredness. Honor is love in selflessness; it implies self-restraint. Honor, holding reins tight, allows no hurt

to bruise love. In giving honor, we acknowledge depths that have been explored by the honored ones which we have not explored, and heights the honored ones have attained that we have not yet climbed. The love that leads to the honor of our Father-Mother God is stripped clean and stands in awe. Love in the Aquarian Age is honorable.

"... That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Fullness of years is more important than length of years. Years filled with service, study, contemplation, and growth are the years that count, the years that bring happiness, peace, joy, and contentment to heart and mind.

If we learn to love our Father-Mother God with the ecstasy of one who is beloved—and we are beloved—our days shall indeed be long because they will be rich and precious beyond dreaming, for the well-spring of our gratitude has no end.

"Honor thy Father and thy Mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." □

## FOR JOY

For each and every joyful thing,  
For twilight swallows on the wing,  
For all that nest and all that sing—

For fountains cool that laugh and leap,  
For rivers running to the deep,  
For happy, care-forgetting sleep—

For stars that pierce the sombre dark,  
For morn, awaking with the lark,  
For life new-stirring 'neath the bark—

For sunshine and the blessed rain,  
For budding grove and blossomy lane,  
For the sweet silence of the plain—

For bounty springing from the sod,  
For every step by beauty trod,—  
For each dear gift of joy, thank God!

—*Florence Earle Coates*