The Ten Commandments in Aztec

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**Abstract:** A series of brief comments in which the author presents archaeological findings, architectural notes, and myths and legends that deal indirectly with the Book of Mormon. Dibble discusses the wheel, ancient irrigation methods, metals, Mexican and Mayan codices, Quetzalcoatl, ancient buildings, and numerous other related items. The twenty-ninth part covers a translation of the Ten Commandments into Aztec characters.
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

By DR. CHARLES E. DIBBLE

THE early Christian missionaries to Mexico endeavored to teach Spanish to the natives in order to deliver the gospel message to them. Other enterprising ecclesiastics made an effort to convert the precepts of Christianity into hieroglyphs, thus enabling the Indians to know the gospel through a medium already familiar to them. These hieroglyphic documents were written either by a priest conversant with Indian writing or by a native Indian scribe familiar with Christian teachings.

One such document presents the fourteen Articles of Faith of the Roman Catechism and the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are sufficiently visual to enable us to recognize their meaning even without a knowledge of Aztec writing.

Reading the fifth line in the illustration from left to right, we decipher these commandments:

First section: The first three commandments are about God, the remaining seven deal with man.

Second section: God is shown holding a human heart in his hand. The section indicates the first commandment: Thou shalt love God above all things.

Third section: God is shown with a hand extended toward two black marks: The second, thou shalt not take the name of God in vain.

Fourth section: A priest appears inside a temple: The third, thou shalt keep the Sabbath day holy.

Fifth section. A child appears between mother on the right and father, with an ear of corn in his hand: The fourth, thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother.

Sixth section: A man shrinks from a second man holding a sword: The fifth, thou shalt not kill.

OLD GARDENER

By Ruth Margaret Gibbs

LET me remember him only like this:
His old head bent above some flowering thing
That climbed, or bloomed, or crept along the ground:
This was the music for his laboring,
For his closed ears an unmistakable sound.
And let him stand always before my eyes
Deep in a garden that has need of tending—
Some tangled garden that was left to run
Too loose and wild before the summer’s ending.
I cannot think his hands, that fumbled so
With keys and dishes, should have lost at all
Their art of pruning and their slow, sure way
Of training rambler roses up a wall.
So, let me keep him in remembrance thus:
This heart that bowed before his Lord, and beauty...
And God, in your own garden spot, I know
He would be proud and think it but his duty
To dig and tend it as he has below.

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