

Praying the Ten Commandments in African Tradition

**"Almighty God of my people,
I stand before you humbled in Your sight. You are our only God. There
is none greater; none before you.**

**All things belong to You. You give to Your people, and You take from
Your people. You are our provider and You are our judge. Your name
is holy and is spoken in our hearts. No lips shall speak your name, so
great are you above all things. We, Your people, shall keep holy all the
days of our lives, for You are with us all the days of our lives. We shall
do nothing to bring dishonor to each other, or shame upon our house.
As we honor You, O God, so we honor ourselves. We shall not take what
is not given to us, and we seek forgiveness if we have done so.**

If I have offended someone I ask forgiveness.

To those who have offended me, I grant forgiveness.

**I shall not speak ill of anyone. I shall not cause anger or take the life of
anyone, even the life of my enemy. I ask forgiveness if I have done so. I
grant forgiveness to those who have done so to me or my people.**

**I shall not cheat or lie to anyone. If I have done so I ask forgiveness and
I grant forgiveness to those who have done to me or my people.**

**I shall not be envious of my tribesmen or of others. I shall not seek to
have their possessions. I seek and grant forgiveness.**

**I shall remain faithful in my marriage. I shall provide for my family as
it is my duty.**

**I shall bring no woman to shame or take from her that which is not
given.**

**I shall be true to myself as I am true to You, my God, in this life, and I
shall pass on to my children my prayers as we are Your people and You
are our God.**

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