Imperative Precepts

Exemplary and requisite for a worthwhile life, these precepts are intrinsic to the Omniascendent Principle and the Enchiridion of the Temple of Veracious Pacific Enlightenment

Preface: We are all fallible human beings. Life is most gratifying when we are diligent in all its aspects. We offer these precepts and encourage everyone to abide by them. But, we do not force our principles on others.

All these imperative precepts are interlinked and interdependent. Contrary to the popular self-deception of 'cafeteria beliefs', you cannot succeed by selecting certain precepts while ignoring or rejecting others. They must always manifest themselves in all the elements of human existence: *Thinking, Communicating and Acting*

A primary Imperative Precept: be Honest. This requires that you be as honest as you can with yourself and honest with others at all times. And, that your Thinking, Communicating and Acting are all consistent with honesty. We stipulate that Humility is an essential element of honesty.

Precept: be Responsible. A sense of Responsibility is a corollary of Honesty. Consider the consequences of your communications and actions. We have a responsibility to communicate and act in ways that are not destructive or harmful, but are as beneficial as can be to others and the world in which we live. We endeavor to live in a disciplined manner so that our own needs and wants are not injurious.

Precept: Control Your Emotions. There are two basic modes of human thought:
> emotional - feelings including love, fear, anxiety, hate, etc.
> rational - using reasoning and intellect and employing objective analytical and logical thought processes

Everyone experiences emotions. We should not ignore these feelings. But, thinking rationally first can prevent any damage caused by blindly acting on raw emotions. So, the most important question is: Do you control your emotions, or do your emotions control you?

Precept: be Rational. Reject superstition in all its forms, including beliefs, which are vague feelings in which someone places confidence without any basis in fact. Gather all the information on a topic and use objective, analytical thinking to find and accept the conclusion that conforms best with fact and reality.

Precept: be Pacific (peaceful) and thoughtful in all your Thinking, Communicating and Acting. Aggression and committing violence in any form harms all parties involved.

Precept: be Caring of others and of the world in which we live. And, reject all forms of greed. Do not hate people for innate characteristics which are mostly beyond their control. But, eschew violent, bigoted, hateful people and groups. Value individuals over organizations, especially corporations. Trust and respect must be earned. And, to be worthy of compassion and forgiveness requires the transgressor to recognize and admit to the error, to make a sincere request to be forgiven and have a true desire and to show success in reparation and an ongoing diligent effort to not repeat the transgression.

Precept: seek Enlightenment. This includes acquiring the prerequisites of: Knowledge (facts) and Intelligence (understanding of the knowledge) and then seeking Enlightenment (the wisdom to beneficially apply the knowledge and intelligence you gain.) Which means you also recognize that gaining wisdom is an ongoing process and none of us can become fully enlightened. Wisdom will help you in following these precepts with satisfying results.

Final consideration: abide by all these precepts and you will live a rewarding, satisfying and beneficial life. If you pick and choose among them you are fooling yourself and violating the primary Precept of Honesty. Remember, you cannot successfully hide from yourself.

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