



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Is it Raining Yet?

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

How many scientific explanations have we heard for this drought? More than we can count. Unfortunately, few are sufficiently credible to hold water. Sorry. Bad joke.

It's time we considered another causative factor, though few Americans will want to accept it.

The Old Testament book of Leviticus is a book of God's laws. It specifies both the law and the punishment attached for disobedience. Chapter 26, verses 2, 3, and 4 say, in part: "Ye shall keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase..." Did you notice that little part about rain?

How do modern Americans look at the ancient laws of God? Few connect rain, violent storms, etc., with violation of His laws. I have watched the change that's taken place in our society, in respect to our attitude toward God over the past half-century. It hasn't been a good change, and we are paying the price in violence, deadly sexual diseases, divorce, destroyed families, gangs, etc.

Movies, TV shows, popular music and rap enshrine filth, anti-social behavior and violence. Let's describe it by saying, "Bing Crosby it ain't."

Let's enumerate the Ten Commandments and what I think is the typical response of today's Americans to those commandments, the latter in parentheses.

He introduces the Ten Commandments with these words: I am the Lord thy God... (You're kidding. Right?)

1) Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Gods? Who needs gods? I'm a self-made man. I didn't need any help; I didn't get any help. I did it all myself. Gods aren't real, anyway.)

2) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... (So, who needs graven images when we have the Oscars, the Heisman and Super Bowl trophies and Michael Jordan's shoes?)

3) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain...(You want us to be speechless, right?)

4) Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... (Everyone knows Sunday (or Saturday) was made for boating, hiking, hunting, but most of all, football. And shopping is not only fun, it's necessary, so what's the problem?)

5) Honor thy father and thy mother...(Why?)

6) Thou shalt not kill. (I only kill in video games. The Terminator, Rambo and James Bond do the rest.)

7) Thou shalt not commit adultery. (You just want to spoil our fun!)

8) Thou shalt not steal. (Hey! If he didn't want someone to take it, he should have watched it better.)

9) Thou shalt not bear false witness...(What's that mean?)

10) Thou shalt not covet...(Covet? I don't covet. I just take it.)

Today's Americans consider God an anachronism. Who needs Him? He's not even the opiate of the masses, anymore. He isn't anything. In fact, if you don't believe in Him, His laws don't apply. Right? Wrong. "Dissing" Him doesn't make Him nonexistent.

He's loving, supportive and kind. He instructs, guides and willingly fills in the gaps, covering for our inabilities; ask anyone who has struggled to reach a goal or to pass finals, knowing they were not up to the task on their own.

But if you want to make someone mad, it would be wise to pick someone else. His wrath can make hurricane Andrew look like the proverbial tempest in a teapot. Though sometimes He just decides not to let the rain fall.

He is not an anachronism. He is not uninvolved. And He is getting thoroughly ticked with Americans.