

RUSSELL. Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970) was a British writer, philosopher, anti-war activist and populariser of philosophy. **R**ussell strove to rid philosophy of meaningless assertions; he sought precision in argument by the use of exact language. **R**ussell saw logic and science as the tools of philosophy; he believed one task of the philosopher is to remove confusion.

Ten alternative Commandments, after Russell ...

1. *Do not be absolutely certain of anything*
2. *Don't proceed while concealing evidence, the facts or the truth*
3. *Never try to discourage thinking, for you are sure to succeed*
4. *On meeting with opposition, overcome it by argument, not authority*
5. *Have no respect for the authority of others*
6. *Don't use power to suppress opinions you deem dangerous*
7. *Do not fear to be eccentric with your opinions*
8. *Engage in intelligent dissent rather than in vacuous agreement*
9. *Be scrupulously truthful, even if the truth is inconvenient or hurtful*
10. *Don't be envious of the happiness of those who live in a fool's paradise*

Russell, winner of the 1950 Literature Nobel Prize, said three passions - simple but overwhelmingly strong - governed his life:

*The longing for love
The search for knowledge
The unbearable pity for the suffering of man
The latter is the notion that motivated the Buddha to pursue his search for a path to nirvana ... a state free from suffering.*