

X Commandments

1. I am as human as I am woman. I shall put nothing before my soul.
2. I am Xicana. My blood carries lost generations inside my veins. I am born from my mother as much as I am born from the corn. Though my skin is dry as crackling mud and my body rejects the corn, I will keep these holy.
3. I am conscious. My actions will not be without reason or justification. I will live purposefully. Intently. Without vanity.
4. I am my ancestors. My heritage lives within me and is not contained by borders but by blood. I will honor my birth, my land, my existence.
5. I am raw power. A desert storm kicking up dust and laying waste in my charging path. My strength may waver, but like the passing of the storm's eye, my vengeance will return tenfold.
6. I am strong but I am also weary. I will carry my burdens like an ass up the mountain, back down, and up again. But I will also rest by body, mind, spirit, and soul when the trial is over. My resolve will renew me; fires to a razed field.
7. I am nourished by the world around me. By springs and concrete and the sacred bleeding heart. By the slow warming southern winds and by the deep indigo soil of *Popocatepetl* and *Izaccibuatl*. I will know my place in the universe.
8. I am flesh. Folds. Openings. Deep Caverns. My body will be infinite. I am to be worshipped and held sacred. My capacity for love will be boundless.
9. I am a maker and my hands will know my heart. Like prophecy, my creations predict my future and my end. I will be an oracle to the revelations of *Tezcatlipoca*.
10. I am death. I am the dying marrow of my father, and his father, and his. My own death is foretold in the whistling, ringing of bells. Until then, my life will ring clear.