

PHILOSOPHY. Chiefly five strands of philosophy guide me:
Zen Buddhism, Confucianism, Eclecticism, Stoicism, Taoism.
Along with Krishnamurti's, Einstein's and Hawking's insights,
they account for my interests and inform my belief systems.

RUSSELL. Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970) was a British writer,
philosopher, anti-war activist and populariser of philosophy.
Russell strove to rid philosophy of meaningless assertions;
he sought precision in argument by the use of exact language.
Russell 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.*