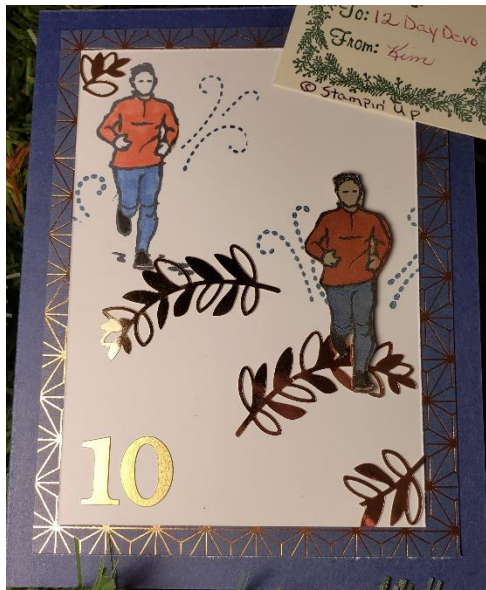


## Tenth Day of Christmas, 1/3 – Lords a-leaping



**Scripture:** And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before<sup>[a]</sup> me. “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery. “You shall not steal. “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” **Exodus 20:1-19**

The 10 commandments in the middle of the 12 days of Christmas! It strikes me that we are back to the idea that God is trying to care for us. These are the boundaries over which we may not cross. During the time this ditty was penned, **the English Lords were the ones who were the judges administering the law. They are connected here with the 10 commandments.** Thus, the Lords a-leaping!

We are like the Hebrew people as they were wandering around in the desert trying to remember how to be a community and make it to the promised land. This is when the 10 Commandments were given. But we need to remember that God has saved us through Christ and all of our external trappings are not the most important thing. So, if this list of commandments are things we have not done right, God will meet us where we are and take us to a new place of forgiveness, healing and loving.