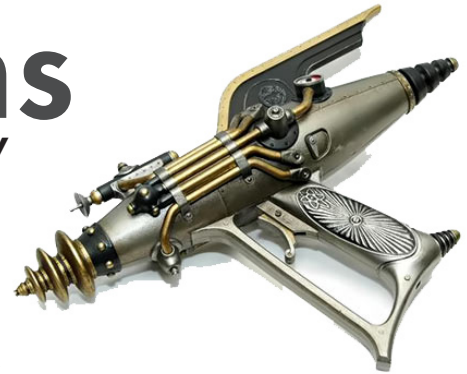


Robot Dreams

by Isaac Asimov



1. Early in the story, Dr. Calvin's age is emphasized as the narrator notices the woman's "lined face" and "gnarled fingers." She's even referred to as "Old Woman." What deeper point is being made by the narrator's emphasis of Dr. Calvin's age?

2. What is Linda Rash's official job title? What's ironic about her profession?

3. In your own words, summarize the Three Laws of Robotics. How does LVX-1's editing of the Third Law dramatically change its meaning?

4. In his dream, LVX-1 changes the law and works to grant freedom to his fellow robots. Many people today dream of changing laws, too. Give two examples of laws that are currently being challenged by people who want to change the rules that govern us. What point might Asimov be trying to make here?



Charlton Heston as Moses
in *The Ten Commandments*
(1956)

5. Linda Rash was successful in her efforts to help LVX-1 be more human. Based on LVX-1's first thoughts/dreams, what message can we learn about humanity?

6. Find and write the line from the story that makes the reader think LVX-1 isn't always as dormant as he appears when he is in his "sleep" or "silent" mode.

7. At the end of the story, LVX-1 is dead, but is the threat of a robot uprising over? Explain your answer.

8. Interestingly, this piece of science fiction includes several allusions to religion, including LVX-1's proclamation to, "Let my people go," which are the exact words Moses says to the pharaoh in the Bible. Look back over the story and find another element that you could link to the Bible or Christian beliefs. Describe the element/passage (paraphrasing is fine) and then explain how that element might be an example of religious symbolism.

