

INTERPRETING GOOD AND EVIL

The story of God and the Devil is told to us by the Bible as well as other religious books. Regardless of which one is or was the positive or negative figure, they can both be interpreted as forces, probably opposite forces in conflict with each other for a matter of universal power. Our societies have interpreted this as a struggle for ruling our World and this is where I will focus some attention in this article. In the Bible, God wins by sending the Devil away and maintaining his reign over the World. Again a rather graphical interpretation of an apparent Good winning over an apparent Evil. But in this story, what exactly has led us to believe that the God entity of Genesis is really the loving being that religions describe? How do we really know that the force that won the battle to rule the World has good intentions and loves humanity? Only the latter scriptures attempt to say this, most probably as a response to the very same question people were asking a few thousand years ago. If humans and our World are a reflection of the power of God, wouldn't it make sense to start wondering whether God could actually be simply neutral rather than loving (which would explain why there is both good and bad in every human and in the world) or even perhaps not so nice after all? The fact that the myth of Genesis says God created man doesn't necessarily make the creator a good and loving entity. Ironically it says God created man in his image. Human beings constantly create things even living beings with the most horrible intentions most of the time. Other negative manifestations can be seen in all the natural disasters, all the innocent people and children that die every day in terrible circumstances, hunger, wars, disease, starvation and even just human nature with its destructive behaviour, as well as the need to control others and gain power.

Yes, one could blame humans for all of this but if God was really a pure loving essence, where does all the negativity come from? Religious people wouldn't dare answer "the Devil" since that would mean that the latter is more powerful than the one we call God Almighty given how negativity clearly reigns in our realm. Some people justify the "bad" occurrences by saying that God lets us live our lives in any way we want (referring loosely to Free Will) and lets us make mistakes so we can learn from them. However, this theory can be applied to the little obstacles that we all face in our everyday life, but not to the extreme cases such as cruel and painful death, disease and all the extreme circumstance that large masses of innocent men, women and children have to suffer. From the monotheistic teachings, God is omnipotent in the universe of universes and has a particular interest in our tiny human Earthling existence. He (or She but we shall stick to the convention) should then be able to at least avoid extreme suffering to the innocent. Then why doesn't he? Some monotheistic religious faiths say that bad happens when people don't go to God yet why should we have to go to anything if God is omnipresent and omnipotent? Why would such an absolute force care if we believe in it or not? Here are two possible answers that can be extended upon: either he is not as powerful as we think he is (and therefore perhaps the God of monotheistic religions is not the Absolute Divine Essence) and it requires human energy in the form of belief in order to exist, or maybe he is simply not a positive and loving essence, perhaps just a neutral and random creation and creative force that lets loose its creations without

looking back. If this is the case, then could this mean that among the two forces there is a chance that the “outcast”, in this case Lucifer, was a more conscious being and dare we say more positive in respect to Human existence? *Let's not get into the fanatic labelling of devil worshiping for this is purely a philosophical approach.*

- Whoever is offended by this should stop reading now. -

It is important to note that these concepts have changed meaning as religions took over the minds of the world population. Lucifer, which is one of the names for the Devil in the Bible, actually means “bringer/bearer of light”. This name is taken from much earlier concepts that have nothing to do with Judeo-Christian dogmas and actually refer to a rather positive concept. Somewhere in history the patristic councils got something mixed up, but not necessarily by accident. It is therefore not entirely absurd to derive that the Lucifer entity was defeated by the negative entity (from the Human point of view) for wanting to bring light or enlightenment to Humanity and release it from the enslavement of its creator. In essence, the story could be interpreted as follows:

A powerful being creates living creatures (the purpose will not be discussed here) and keeps them in a golden cage called “Paradise” where these creatures have everything except Free Will. Another being (Lucifer) from that same realm disagrees with the enslavement of these new beings which he believes to be conscious and therefore with a right to Free Will. Lucifer decides to rebel against the boss and helps the new creatures in gaining awareness of their status in the universe. The creator then expels everyone from his estate and makes a point to make things difficult for everyone as much as he can.

This is just one possible interpretation of course but what if the only reason why we believe that the empirical successor of Yahweh is good and whatever opposes it is bad is simply because we have been indoctrinated by religions to think that way from generation to generation? Or maybe because human beings want to believe that the world is ruled by a loving God that takes care of us and guides us, so that we do not feel so lonely in the universe and we don't have to take responsibility for the things that happen to us since everything is “God's will”. We tend to think that when good things happen it's because God listened to our prayers, but when bad things happen, we right away justify the bad by saying that God works in mysterious ways and we simply have to trust Him no matter what. This could look as though humans simply WANT to believe in what seems like a reassuring image of God and the world we live in, without really searching for other possible explanations.

Jesus Christ was said to be the son of God, but this is merely a poor interpretation lost in translation of the widely misunderstood words of a highly philosophical character. In the historical point of reference, anything that was remotely divine was related to the one and only God. However, Jesus declared many times that he came to earth to save us, which was interpreted that he came to save us from our sins, therefore from evil. If our

world is fully controlled by a loving God, why does Jesus need to come to earth and try to save us? If we are the creation of a loving God in his image, why do we do more evil than good? Some studies suggest that Jesus (the persona rather than the symbol) came to enlighten us about the condition of humanity, and he wanted to free us from the enslaving entity, perhaps the very same one we call God. In essence, Jesus Christ strongly and openly criticised the only monotheistic religion that existed at the time. He wanted us to believe in ourselves, our inner selves and our own potential as humans, which is why he encouraged his apostles to go around the world healing people and repeatedly stated that God is within us. It is important to note that his definition of God, as obscure as it may be, was rather different from the current Judeo-Christian concept. He wanted humans to realise that he wasn't the only one capable of miracles and that the human potential from within was the real God. However, not only have human beings failed to understand his message, but the so called believers have made Jesus Christ fail in his quest to truly free us from the enslavement. He was even killed by the very people he was trying to save. Looking at this from a more cynical point of view, this very fact reaffirms once again the dominance of evil in our world. After his death, everything Jesus preached was further misinterpreted and instead another dogmatic religion was invented. History has told the dire consequence of pain and death this has brought on humanity and it perpetuates even now with the subsequent and derived dogmatic religious teachings which preach for a perpetual enslavement of the human soul and the total submission to the will of a God we don't really know.

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