

GOOD AND EVIL

The creator of all reality sets the standard for goodness at an absolute level. Everything else is relative. Evil is possible because of this relativity. The creator is so positively good that there is no place at the absolute level for negative evil. Where goodness is light, evil is the shadow cast by imperfection. Evil is a partial realization of, or maladjustment to, universe realities.

The revelation of the creator's goodness is incomplete in time and space, therefore evil is necessary as an expression of this incompleteness. The fact of the partial in the presence of the complete explains the relativity of reality, creates the necessity for intellectual choosing, and establishes the value of spirit recognition and response. The incomplete and finite concept of the Infinite which is held by the limited human mind is, in and of itself, *potential evil*.

Evil is the immature or the disruptive and distorting influence of ignorance. The creator has endowed us with the power to choose between truth and error and has created the potential for making wrong choices. To attain perfection as an evolutionary experience implies something other-than-perfection as a point of departure, and this is the origin of potential evil.

The only world without error (the possibility of unwise judgment) would be a world without free intelligence. Free and inexperienced intelligence cannot possibly at first be uniformly wise. The possibility of mistaken judgment (**evil**) becomes **sin** only when the human will consciously endorses and knowingly embraces a deliberate immoral judgment.

Why does the creator permit evil and sin? Both are inevitable if humans are to be truly free. The human ability to choose good or evil is a universe reality. We are part of a gigantic creation, and it is not strange that everything does not work in perfection; our universe was not created in perfection. Perfection is our eternal goal, not our origin.

Goodness is living, relative, always progressing, invariably a personal experience, and everlastingly correlated with the discernment of truth and beauty.

At our level of existence, goodness will always be more of a quest than a possession, more of a goal than an experience of attainment. The presence of good and evil in the world provides the human moral will with an opportunity to identify these values and to choose between them.