

7th Workbook

THE PREVARICATION OF THE ARCHANGEL LUCIFER WHO BECAME SATAN, THE PRINCIPLE OF EVIL AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN THE DIVINE IMMENSITY

When God had emancipated and given over to their own free will the Spiritual Beings who were first emanated, so that that they could operate freely according to their own devices, the Archangel called Lucifer (his name alone indicates his great elevation) the principal Leader of the Circle of the Septenary Spirits forming the Third Class in the Spiritual Hierarchy, dazzled by the great power with which he saw himself imbued and, as a pure spirit being able to read in the Divine Creative action which operates the spiritual emanations, conceived in his mind the intention to make himself equal to God, and the creator of other Spiritual Beings, which, being created by him would be dependent on him, as he felt himself to be dependent upon the divine Creator.

This prideful thought, soon fortified by the acquiescence of his will, which consummated his rebellion so far as it could (for it wasn't in his power to accomplish in action the design of his thought and will, since God was the Sole, Unique Creator of Beings) was soon known, examined and judged by all the Spiritual Beings inhabiting the Divine Immensity, in light of the ability innate in all pure spirits who weren't enveloped in a corporeal form to be able to read clearly the thoughts of the others.

The largest number of inhabitants of the four Circles, and principally all those in the two superior Circles, as well as a part of the two inferior Circles, frightened and outraged by the disruptive audacity of Lucifer repelled his criminal thought with horror, and remained invariably attached to the Divine Law, by abjuring their own will and abandoning it entirely to that of the Creator, who accepted the tribute, and by that acceptance operated their eternal sanctification.

But a greater part of the beings of the two inferior circles, adopting Lucifer's thought, joined their will to his, declared themselves his followers, and linked themselves to in supporting his enterprise.

Such was the origin of Evil, which was a formal opposition, a contempt voluntarily made against the Laws, Precepts and Commands that the Creator had given to his creature, so that he might be a powerful restraint against any disordered employment of it, and against any possible abuse of his abilities.

However, men today often commit the injustice of accusing God of indirectly being the author of Evil, claiming that if He had wanted to, He could have prevented the thought in the prevaricating Spirit and prevent the results; as if God Who, foreseeing the possibility of the abuse that he would make of it, would have been able to powerfully forearm Himself against such danger, or would have been able to read in him that very evil thought which had not yet been conceived, or even less stop the action of his will, without destroying his liberty which was that being's prerogative, as it is for any being who is not God.

Evil, the fruit of pride is not a real being: it is born from the spirit and not created, because all creation belongs to the Divine Creator alone and not to any creature. Evil thoughts are given birth by the evil spirit, just as good thoughts are given birth by the good spirit. These thoughts, good or evil, are heard directly by the Creator who receives them or condemns them; and evil is consummated when the will of the spirit adopts the evil thought it has conceived.

However, it must not be thought that the spirit which gave birth to the Evil, which has become the Principle of Evil, is itself evil; because if the Demons changed their evil will, their evil action would also change, and from that moment, there would no longer be Evil in the whole extent of this Universe. People will say that this cannot happen, because God, Who is unchangeable in His Decrees, has condemned those who gave birth to Evil to eternal privation and infinite punishment. The Creator, it is true, has condemned the teachers of Evil to eternal privation; but at the center of the manifestation of His justice to His guilty creatures, He has called Himself the Father of Mercy without limits. So, who would be foolhardy enough to claim to found his beliefs on whatever base he claims, who would dare to put any limits to this Mercy which is called infinite? And wasn't the creation of man placed in the center of the created Universe with the mission to bring to repentance the original criminals, as we shall soon see, already a great act of Divine Mercy towards them?

The scandal and disorder which burst forth in the Divine Court through the result of their prevarication were so great because that form of prevarication was so monstrous, since the leader of the rebels, who was dazzled by his great power and swollen with pride, had dared to attack the Sovereign, the Unique and Eternal Lord in His Divine *Unity*, and in His *Eternity*. He attacked Him in His *Unity*, by wishing to divide Him, by wishing to make himself equal to God, and to be the creator of other Spiritual Beings who would depend on him; and in His *Eternity*, by considering himself more as a God than as a being who had a beginning, who had been emanated from another Principle Who was more ancient and more powerful, and on whom he in turn depended.

Such was the first crime of the prevaricating Archangel and his followers: we say the first crime, because that crime was soon compounded by others, as we will see, by which they extinguished all the means to return which the Mercy of God had preserved, overwhelming them by the weight of His Justice and Power, by which they finally brought about their eternal damnation.

For the cunning efforts their Leader then made – as we see in his turn – to deceive, seduce and lead man into rebellion; man, that privileged image and likeness of his Creator, flattering him through pride in order to win, by this victory over His cherished image, a triumph over God Himself, was indeed a new crime which had to worsen, and indeed did worsen their punishment by making it endure forever.