

# Why God Allows Evil

Dr. M.W. Lewis

San Diego, 6-30-57

Evil's not a very good subject, so I'll just say a few words about it. But we have to know something about it to combat it. Now don't get discouraged, it won't be very much longer: on vacation coming there are extra announcements we have to give, so just bear with us.

The subject this morning is "Why God Allows Evil." And that's a very sensible question. Why does He allow this thing, evil? First, what is evil? Evil is that which takes us away, anything that takes us away, from the One Eternal Substance of God's Presence as Unity. Anything that does that is evil. And, therefore, you can see that evil is found in this Cosmic Dream Consciousness.

As long as we are identified with this Cosmic Dream Consciousness, we are subject to evil or delusion. Delusion is sin. A state of consciousness of good and evil is found in duality, or delusion. But when we rise above this duality, we find the Unity of God's One Eternal Substance, and in that there is no evil.

So remember that one point, that evil is anything that takes you away from the unity of God's Great Light and Love, His Eternal Substance, which has produced all things in the world. Now anything that will do that is evil. And so, if you are attached to this Dream here in any of its aspects, and forget God, you are practicing evil. In other words, you're in delusion.

Now, evil is delusion, as I have said, and underneath that delusion is the One Eternal Reality, which we forget. And that is the Light, God's Eternal Light, which has produced, and is producing, all things as we listen to in the Autobiography. Light is underneath this delusion. That's the reality. Anything that is this side of that Light, or in duality, is evil for us, because, if we are attached to it, it takes us away from the realization of the One Light.

Now, if we can view this duality, or this motion picture, so to speak, without being attached, there is no evil. But don't try it until you know God. Until you know the One Underlying Light.

So realize, realize those two things: duality, or this Cosmic Dream Consciousness, which passes away, and the Underlying Noumena, which does not pass away, Light, the Light of God. God created Light, and from that Light all things have come. All flesh comes from the Word, the Vibration – the electromagnetic Vibration. Realize that. Know that, and evil cannot touch you.

So let us understand now, just like in the moving picture, the motion picture, as we look at it we see the light and shadow. But behind that we see the beam of light which is producing it. Now that Beam of Light is God's Consciousness, His Light and His Love. Now Light and Love cannot be sick. Light and Love cannot be the villain, or the robber, or the thief in the motion picture, can it? Therefore, when you know God's Light is producing all things, realize it as the Unity, the Underlying Noumena of all things. There is no evil in that. Light cannot be evil. Light cannot be the villain. Light cannot be the undesirable characters of the motion picture. Those are in a different category; a category of light and shadow; a category of duality. Realize that's where the evil is, not in the Light of God's Presence, which produces the motion picture of this Cosmic Dream.

We have to understand those two things before we can tackle the question, "Why God Permits..." this thing called evil. If you will remember those two things, I think you can understand why He does this. It is because we have forgotten this thing. We have forgotten that we are nothing but a Beam of God's Light, and that we have become identified with this Play of light and shadow, this Cosmic Dream. It is because of that that evil exists. There's no evil in God's Presence. So anybody says that evil doesn't exist, say, "Do you know God?" If they say "Yes," and you feel it, then it doesn't exist. Otherwise, it does. Evil is a Force, a strong Force created by God.

And so, in the Dream Consciousness, wake up. When you wake up from it where is, where is your dream? And you know in your dream you can have evil. You have the villain, and you have the things you like, and the things you dislike. When you wake up, where is the evil? It is not there. Realize it is in delusion, in outward consciousness only. So I have given you the way to escape, pointed out the way, suggested the way to escape this thing called evil. Wake up from this Cosmic Dream into the Great Light of God. Know that, no evil can touch you.

And so, we must realize this one thing – that in the Dream Consciousness there is free will to do this, or that; what we like. And, because God has given free will to the Forces of evil to perpetuate this Dream, that's why it goes on. And that's

why evil is such a great Force. Evil is a conscious Force. Satan is a conscious Force; conscious Force of delusion. It has consciousness. It has free will to create situations to keep you, and to keep me in this Cosmic Dream, with all its trouble; with all its evil. Do not forget that. Do not think that evil is not a conscious Force. It is. It is organized, because that's the way of the Cosmic Dream. If it were not so, we'd all scamper out fast. But the Forces keep us in – pull us in. It's an organized Force. The evil Forces have free will, just like we have free will to stay in the Cosmic Dream, or to get out of it. Realize that one thing.

Now, we know, anyone who thinks a little bit knows that evil is a Force, and does exist. Many people say evil doesn't exist. That will not hold. You cannot deny evil away. It's impossible while you're in the Cosmic Dream. "Well," you say, "on what do you base that assertion, on what truth?" It says so right in the scriptures. It says so in our scripture – our Bible. It says so in the Bhagavad Gita, which two scriptures I will quote.

In our Bible, in Isaiah, the 45<sup>th</sup> Chapter, the 7<sup>th</sup> Verse, what do we read? "I form the light," says God, "and create darkness. I make peace, and create evil." God created evil. "I, the Lord, do all these things." So don't say you can just pass evil away. It is a Force. It is created by God. It is because of the duality of consciousness in which evil exists, it is because of that duality, which takes us away from God, that we are subject to it, and that it is delusion. God made it that way so that His Dream would go on; so that this Dream would be perpetuated.

Now the Bhagavad Gita says the same thing, in a little different way when it says, "All devouring death I am," in the 10<sup>th</sup> Discourse, 34<sup>th</sup> Line, "and I am the origin of all that is to come." And he goes on and gives a great number of things which come from God. And finally it says, "I am the gambling of the cheat." Isn't that evil?

God created all things – only through His Light, of course. And in that delusion of the Play of that Light, the light and shadow of this Cosmic Dream, that's where evil is formed. But it says, "I am the gambling of the cheat," and on the other hand, "the splendor of splendid things."

So let us realize, because we say God created evil, in our scriptures we read it, in the Bhagavad Gita, therefore, let us understand that God must have had a reason for creating it. As our subject says, "Why God Allows Evil;" "Why God Allows Evil."

Now, the reason for God allowing this, and creating it, is this. That He wanted to enjoy Himself, and so he created this creation with its manifold aspects. And we, being rays of His Great Ocean of Spirit and Light, we are supposed to enjoy, enjoy this Cosmic Dream just like we enjoy a motion picture – not forgetting our Immortal Nature. What did we do? We went right off and forgot it. Instead of enjoying this motion picture, what happens? We become attached to it – engrossed in it. And when there's a drama goes on of tragedy, what happens? We suffer, because of our attachment to the Play which God wanted us to enjoy, and yet not forget our Immortal Nature.

Now that's why God created evil, as I will point out in just a moment. God created evil, why? So that we would suffer; yes, so that we would suffer. And as long as we follow this Cosmic Dream, and are attached to it, the Play goes on, and the suffering takes place, and it multiplies due to the Law of Cause and Effect, until we get so much of it, and we suffer so much, what happens? We turn, and go to God.

Now that's why God created this thing. It says He created evil. He created evil so that the suffering, which we would induce within ourselves and would have to stand, would finally turn us back to Him as a way out of this evil – this delusion. That's the reason God created evil.

And so, the purpose of life is what? Is for us to know our Immortal Nature and return to Him. For as long as we do not, we are going to suffer. But the worst of it is that suffers gonna, suffering is gonna multiply, increase, until we are so fed up, so to speak, that we turn to God as the only solution. That's why a person who is really down and out, down and out in the gutter, so to speak, he's very close to God. He's just about ready in his need to say, "Lord, You can have it. Give me Yourself."

And so that's why I've seen cases, and I know you all know of cases, when they reach that point. When they realize they need one thing, and one thing alone – that is God – then the miracle happened. And they turn toward Him, and He lifts them from evil. "Deliver us from evil" becomes a reality.

And so, this is why God permits, or allows, evil. It's for our own good. So that through suffering, which comes from following evil ways, or ways of delusion, through that, we will turn to Him.

Now I'll close by one Bible reference, which illustrates the point in a wonderful way, if you listen carefully. In Ezekiel, the 28<sup>th</sup> Verse, 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Chapter, 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Verses. This gives the whole picture of what I have said this morning about evil, what it comes from, why it exists, and why we must rise above it into the one Presence of God. "Thou hast been in Eden." We had the Consciousness of God alone. We had the Peace and Bliss of His Presence. We realize we should have been, should be, children of God. "Thou hast been [in] Eden. Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God."

The "holy mountain of God" is the Thousand-rayed Lotus, the Supreme Center, which is in each and every one of us, and consists of the Spiritual Consciousness of God within us and His angels. We had that Consciousness. That's our Immortal Nature. For it says, "Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God..." Then it goes on to say, "And thou didst walk up and down amidst the stones of fire," referring specifically to God's Consciousness in the spinal Centers. Anything that gives off brilliant rays of Spiritual Consciousness and Light is spoken of in the scriptures as "Stones of Fire," like these stones, the gems.

And so, we had that Consciousness of the Stones of Fire, the Centers within us in our spine, and the Supreme Center in the brain. Now realize, in those Centers, God's Consciousness dwells. In those Centers is our own Immortal Nature, which as I said in the lecture, we have forgotten. Now we had that. This is proof that this is what has happened, and that's why God created evil, to once more drive us back to Him.

And so it says, "Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God, and thou didst walk up and down midst the stones of fire." "Thou wast perfect in thy ways," until something happened. Until we became attached to this duality of consciousness, and evil overtook us. It says just that. "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created till iniquity was found in thee." Well iniquity only exists when? When we're attached to the Cosmic Dream. You see the point?

When we became, when our Immortal Nature became attached to this Cosmic Dream, then evil existed within us – only then. This most beautifully said. Then it goes on to point out in the next line or two that according to karmic law, the evil increases, multiplies. You know you have desires. You fulfill that desire. You get another, and you fulfill that desire. You get two desires, and you fulfill those two, and you get three. There's no end to it. It says just that right here: "By the multitude of thy merchandise." Merchandise of evil desires, and all that

goes with it. "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned."

You see the sin comes when you become identified with this Cosmic Dream – with the delusion. By following these desires you become identified with the Play – the Cosmic Motion Picture – and it increases upon no end. "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence..." it might be evil, "and thou hast sinned." Therefore, what happened? "Therefore, I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God and from the midst of the stones of fire." Isn't that wonderful?

Because we have forgotten our Immortal Nature, we have lost our Immortal Consciousness – the Presence of God – and because that, because of that, we cannot, at will, be one with the Spiritual Consciousness of the Centers of the spine, or the Thousand-rayed Lotus where God dwells. And as it says in the scripture, the Kingdom of God is with man. Not somewhere outside. Not somewhere way off in the heavens. Right within us is the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is with man.

So, I think we can thank God that He did create evil; that He did create this thing, which will someday drive us once more back to Him. To His Great Light and to His Love in which we will find freedom from all superstition; freedom from all trouble; freedom from all problems, because in that Great Light of His Presence, we will find His Peace, His Bliss, and His Joy.