

## Evil, Its Cause and Cure

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...that will not satisfy us. We will only be satisfied when we feel and know our oneness with God. And there are times, we wish there were many more of them, when we do feel God's Presence – sometimes just a little fleeting, passing glance, so to speak. But in that glance, you know that's what you want. And so on this Thanksgiving Day, I know we are all thankful, especially that God's Grace sent us Self-Realization with its great Masters, Jesus, the Great Ones, and our beloved Master. And I know I speak for all of you – that's the greatest thing, to be thankful, because life will be nothing without that Light. Life will be nothing unless you feel God's Presence. And Self-Realization with its techniques, its teachings, because they have been given to us through the channels of God, will enable us to know that One Eternal Father.

I've been asked to repeat a lecture I gave in Hollywood Church November 9th, because the subject is "Evil, Its Cause and Cure." It seems perhaps, hardly fitting for Thanksgiving Day, but I'm sure, if you listen, you will find that it is fitting, because we are thankful for that channel of Self-Realization, which helps us to cure this thing called evil. And evil is a Real Force. Evil is a Force. It is an evil Force just as the present day. But we can fix it.

Many people say, "Oh, evil doesn't exist." Well, evil does exist. Evil exists in the Dream Consciousness of God. It does not exist in His One Eternal Consciousness, but all things have come from God. All things have come from God. Everything has come from His One Eternal Consciousness. Therefore, evil has come from that Consciousness. Many do not like to hear that said, but it is so, and I can substantiate it easily, because God Alone is. His One Consciousness has produced all things. God Alone is, but there is a phase of His Consciousness, the duality of His Consciousness, the worldly consciousness, His Cosmic Dream in that evil exists, but not in the Unity of God's Presence.

And just as we dream, and in that dream we can have all sorts of evil things and conditions, so God has dreamed this Dream and in that, all sorts of evil exists. But because of the Great Ones, who have come, we can escape that evil. We can rise above it. We can supersede the consciousness of duality, this Cosmic Dream Consciousness, in which evil exists. But, nevertheless, evil does exist.

And so do not try to just pass it away, say evil does not exist. If that is so, when you're sick, if there's no sickness, why try to get well? No. In the Dream Consciousness of God, evil does exist. And so, God really is the cause of evil, because all things come from His One Consciousness. But do not forget that that evil is in the duality phase of God's Consciousness, not in the Unity phase which is above duality. That we must say. But while we're in the Dream Consciousness, evil does exist.

In Isaiah the 45th Chapter, 5th and 7th Verses, we read this, "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me." "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace and create evil..." "I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.1" But, that's in His Dream Consciousness. That's in this worldly consciousness, and we can escape that through the channel of Self- Realization Fellowship.

In the Bhagavad Gita, 10th Discourse, 32nd, [3]4th, and 36th Line, "Of the creation, the beginning and the ending, and also the middle, am I, O Arjuna...and all- devouring death am I, and the origin of all to come..." See there is only One Eternal Consciousness of God. Evil must come from that. But it's in the duality phase, which we, thank God, can escape. Now it goes on to say, "And all devouring death am I," as I have just said, and "I am the gambling of the cheat."

Krishna is speaking as an incarnation of God. "I am the gambling of the cheat and the splendor of splendid things, am I. 2" (Sic)

And so you see, we cannot just say evil doesn't exist. That will not do, because it does, it does exist in the Dream phase of God's Consciousness. Just like your own consciousness. Never forget that. When you dream, you can have all sorts of evil things. But when you wake up, where are they? And so, when we wake up in God, this evil will not exist.

And so, this delusive Force of Evil, or Satan, is a real, organized, intelligent Force. That's the worst of it. For instance, when God created this Maya, or separateness from Him in this duality of consciousness, when He did that, He cast a spell over the duality of separateness from Him. That's the delusion. And in that duality we find the Force of Evil. All things that take us up to the One Eternal Consciousness of God, the Unity of His Presence, in the Absolute sense, are good. Those things which take us away from Him, to this duality of consciousness, are evil.

And so, the more that we turn toward God and keep our consciousness in Him, the more we are turning toward the Absolute Good. But when we turn toward duality of consciousness, there we have in the relative sense good and evil. And so, realize, good and evil, in the relative sense, exist in the duality of

consciousness. One other thing I want to point out here is this – that this is an organized, intelligent Force – dual in nature. And because of that, because of that – it is an intelligent Force – we must not pass it aside lightly. It is organized, and you all have seen it organized in your life. It is an organized Force.

Now, good and evil exists relatively in the duality of consciousness. The Absolute Good is in the Unity of God's Consciousness. Realize that. But good and evil, in the relative way, exists in this duality of consciousness. For instance, it is supposed to be evil to tell lies. But some person you know, if you did not lie, their life would be ruined, their honor would be lost. Is it evil to tell a lie to protect that person? Think it over. The highest good will be done by preserving the honor of that person and allowing him to change his life, if he has done wrong, and go to God. And so, good and evil exists in relativity.

Now, take another illustration of killing people. That's evil, of course, to kill. But suppose one man is running amok, and if you will not do away with him – and the only way left is to kill him – by doing so, ten people, say, will be saved; is that evil? So we must realize this duality of consciousness, and understand that in that, good and evil exist, but only in a relative way. The only place that good exists, absolutely, is in the Unity of God's Consciousness. And in that, evil does not exist. But in the duality phase, this worldly consciousness, then evil does exist.

Now, I have a reference from Master's Autobiography,<sup>3</sup> to substantiate this. "The good and evil of Maya must ever alternate in supremacy. If Joy were ceaseless here on this earth, in this world, would man ever desire another? Without suffering he scarcely cares to recall that he has forsaken his Eternal home. Pain is a prod to remembrance. The way of escape is through wisdom.<sup>4</sup>" (Sic)

Pain exists in outward consciousness. You can prove it. If you can meditate deeply enough, and lift your consciousness to the Unity of God's Presence, there'll be no pain. Therefore, through wisdom, you can prove pain does not exist in the Unity of God's Consciousness. In outward consciousness, it surely exists. And so, as I have said, in the Absolute sense, good is in the Unity of God's Consciousness; it is permanent, eternal, it, there is no separation in the Unity of God's Consciousness. So you can see the key to the whole subject is the separateness from God. And that's the delusion He has cast over us. In the Unity of God's Consciousness, He has caused that spell which makes us feel apart from Him so that the Play could go on. There are other illustrations, which I haven't time to give tonight, of how the delusion works. But realize that it is the spell cast over as separateness from God which produces the whole trouble.

Now in the Unity of His Consciousness, there is no separateness, there is permanency. But in the duality of conscious, there is no permanency, and there is separateness from God. Remember those things. As you meditate and supersede this worldly consciousness, in the Unity of God's Presence there's no separateness from Him. Soon as you come down with separateness, instability, lack of fulfillment, nothing which we want, because it is not permanent. These are important things to remember.

So, all true fulfillment lies in the Unity of God's Consciousness. But the Intelligent Cosmic Force of delusion, or evil – and this is the worst thing – this Intelligent Force of Satan, or evil, has the power to make us feel that fulfillment is in outward consciousness. That's how evil comes in. It has the power to make us feel, in outward consciousness, in the attaining of things, in possessions, in all sorts of things, you will find fulfillment and joy. Well, we all know that's not so, because it all passes away. But that's the delusion, that this Evil Force makes us feel that we do not have to wait until we can attain God's Consciousness for fulfillment, we can have it in outward things, and that's how the devil works.

Now, that is why temptation, through desire, is such a powerful instrument. Because the temptation makes us want to find fulfillment in worldly living and things of this world, and it doesn't work that way. And, therefore, temptation and evil are definite Forces and Powers of this Satanic Force. Now Jesus knew that the Force of Evil existed. Jesus knew that because he said, "Father, lead us not into temptation...deliver us from evil.<sup>5</sup>" So, do not let anybody tell you that evil doesn't exist. It exists as long as you're in this outward consciousness. If you can supersede it, there is no evil. Let us realize that. Jesus knew this power of Satan, as I have said. And he also said, "...Get thee behind me Satan...<sup>6</sup>" It's a definite power – a definite Force. Let us realize that.

One other thing – God's Way was this, in this worldly existence, God's Way was this. He wanted us to enjoy this Cosmic Dream without being attached to it. He wanted us to know that we had a Divine Nature and enjoy the Dream. But what have we had? What have we done? We've followed the things of the Dream and lost that contact with God. We've forgotten what we really were. And Satan says, "Oh, you don't have to wait. Enjoy these things now, everything will be fine." Well we found it isn't fine. It is not so. And so, following God's Way is the way. Following Satan's way will not give us those things.

One reference comes to me, in Ezekiel, 28th Chapter, showing that we are Divine, but we've lost that nature: "Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God. Thou wast perfect in all thy ways until delusion entered into thee for iniquity. Thou dost walk up and down amidst the stones of fire.<sup>7</sup>" Those are the chakras of the spine. We had that consciousness until iniquity came into us. And because of that, because we have multiplied iniquity, we have lost that immortal consciousness of the holy mountain, of the Thousand-rayed Lotus and the chakras of the spine. Because we have lost that, it says that we have

been thrown out of heaven<sup>8</sup>. And since we have lost that consciousness – we had that – we were in the Garden of Eden. This is all in Ezekiel, the 28th Chapter. I do not want to take the time to read it to you. You can find it there, 13th to 16th Verses.

And so we had that. What happened? We left it. And that's what it means in Revelation the 2nd Chapter, when it said I know you hate things evil; I know you hate those people who do evil things. I know that you are very honorable in your work, but "I am (sic) somewhat against thee." Why? "...because thou hast left thy first love. 9" We have forgotten our oneness with God, our Divinity. We left that. That's our first love. That's the original sin, and it is that separateness that causes all the trouble. Even though we are good morally, we have committed that error of leaving God for this worldly existence. "...I am (sic) somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

Don't you see why? God's Love is the primary thing in all life, in all effort, in all struggle, because we have left Him. We've lost Him. We've forgotten Him. We have cast Him aside. That's what Master means when he said, "God loves us more than we love Him; He wants us more than we love Him." But when we're tied up in delusion we can't understand that, but that is true.

And so, that was God's Way. He wanted us to enjoy this Dream. We've forgotten that and become attached to the Dream, therefore, we have left our first love, and that's the cause of the whole thing. That's why God's Love is the Greatest Force in the Universe. If we can once get hold of it again, once touch it again, it will take us back to that Garden of Eden, to the Consciousness of the holy mountain, and the stones of fire, which represent the chakras of the spine. These things are all in the Bible, in Ezekiel and Revelation.

Now, going on just a bit so as not to take up too much time – the cure of evil – the cure of evil. That's why Self-Realization is so important. Never mind, we know evil exists, otherwise, Jesus wouldn't have said it. It does, and Isaiah would not have said that God creates evil, and the Gita would not have said "I am the gambling of the cheat." Never mind that. We have the way out, and that comes under the "cure of evil." That's why Self-Realization, with its Raja Yoga, is so important. If you follow it, you can beat this Satanic Force of Evil. We have the ways and the means, and that's on this Thanksgiving Day, we should be grateful for that. We do not have to bow to Satan, or evil. We can escape it.

And so, the cure of evil is this: first, right environment. Right environment is so necessary, because right environment is stronger than will power. If you come to these meetings, or such meetings, if you mix with such people who are here tonight, evil cannot bend you. I know that; you all know that. But a lot of

the time we have to be out in the world. But, nevertheless, we can make our own environment every time, every day in meditation. We can feel the Presence of God. Nothing can take that environment away from us, if we will but do it. So the first thing, important thing, in overcoming evil is environment. Environment – keep in the right environment. If you go in an environment where evil exists, no doubt, you will feel the pull of evil. But if you meditate regularly, and contact God, that's the greatest environment that you can have, and so right environment is very important.

Then the next thing is to develop the will to resist temptation. I think it was St. Paul said, "I don't know why I do the things I do." We have to develop that, how to resist temptation. And we can, if we realize that God is with us. We have sufficient power for every need. And so, that's the second thing, develop the will to resist temptation and bad habits. And this is done, as I have said, through Self-Realization – coupling your will with God's Will. Nothing can resist that, and especially if you love God. He won't let you down. But we do not love Him enough. So learn to resist temptation.

The third thing is this, regular and scientific meditation. That's where yoga comes in. That's where the power of yoga is, that it enables you to meditate scientifically and contact the Presence of God within. With His Power, and with your oneness with Him, no evil can stay, no evil can sway you. You can resist the greatest evil, but only, when through meditation, you feel God's Great Presence. That's why meditation is so important. That's why yoga is so important. And that's why we should be thankful today, that somehow, the Grace of God has come down and has persuaded us to follow this great path of Self-Realization. Meditation is the third and greatest way. And when through meditation, you contact the Presence of God, and His Great Light comes in upon you, no darkness of evil can stay. No darkness of evil can stay.

And so, there are three things which we must do to cure this evil and overcome this delusion. Keep in contact with the Presence of God within. Keep in contact with His Love, which is within you. Feel that Great Peace, and if you keep at it, you'll feel it in everything you do. And would you give up for evil, if you feel God's Presence? No. If you don't, you have to struggle. Greatest thing is God's Love. It's the Greatest Force in the Universe. And for that, I know we are all thankful today.

And so, finally, just one or two other points here. Evil habits and desires must be met and overcome. Jesus was tempted, and he met it, and he won it. You know the stories. The devil tried to tempt him, promised him everything, but he won. Why? Because he knew that in doing God's Will, he would inherit Eternal Life. And so we can, we can meet temptation, and we can beat it – we can overcome it. How?

First, don't lead yourself into temptation, as I have said before. Avoid those things which take you into negative conditions and outward consciousness. Keep away from them. The devil is very subtle, and he's organized. And so, don't lead yourself into temptation.

Next is, watch your habits, watch your habits. You know the habits that take you away from God. You know the habits that take you to God. In God it is Unity of Consciousness is good. Away from Him, in the duality of consciousness is evil, because it's duality, and evil exists in duality.

Third, be thoroughly sincere with yourself, or your conscience, as to what you do. Be thoroughly sincere with yourself. Is this the thing I should do? Is this action taking me to God, or is it taking me away from Him? Be sincere with yourself. Be honest with yourself.

And fourth, don't try to explain evil away. Don't say, "This evil does not exist." It does exist in this outward consciousness. It does exist in this Cosmic Dream. But also say at the same time, "I have the power, because God is within me, to resist it, and to overcome it, and to prove that in the Unity of God's Consciousness, evil does not exist."

And so, finally, never forget this one thing. If you listen to the voice of evil, or the voice of duality, or materiality, God's Voice fades. Realize it. It isn't too bad sometimes to fall. But, if you keep listening to that voice of evil, God's Voice behind you will fade away. As it says in Matthew, "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given..." If you listen to the Voice of God, if you listen to the voice of good, it will be increased. But, he goes on to say, "...but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he hath.<sup>10</sup>" So we cannot afford, we cannot afford – and we wanna cure this thing called evil – to listen to evil's voice, to listen to the voice of duality. Otherwise, that Great, Silent, Exhilarating, Self-sufficient Voice of God will fade, and we'll be left without anything.

And so, we cannot afford to do that. And we surely are thankful on this Thanksgiving Day that we have the inspiration to keep at it, not to listen to evil's voice, but to listen to God's Voice, which is within each and every one of us. And so, there are a few important points about good and evil which we can remember.

And, finally, I'd like to read just at this time, because I think it is a wonderful Psalm to read upon Thanksgiving Day, the 23rd Psalm with a little interpretation, which the Master has given from time to time: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." That is, the Lord is All-fulfillment. In this outward existence desires come, they pass away, and new desires, there's no end to it. And so, "The Lord is my

shepherd, I shall not want." When we have the Lord, He casteth away all desire. Do you know how hard desire is to overcome? That's natural. You get one and you find, say "this is it." You get another, and another comes. There's no end to it. But when God comes He casteth away all desire.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." "Green pastures" means the true wisdom which comes from contacting God will be ours. And the "still waters" refers to the still waters of Bliss and God communion.

"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Those who hear the Cosmic Sound of Om, and, and diligently try to merge in it, they are righteous. That's what it means.

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death," – or change – "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." If God is with us, who can be against us? No matter what change comes, if you feel and know the Presence of God, there is no death. The death is in outward consciousness. Know that Unity of His Presence. There is no change there. No death. "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me" – Thy rod of discipline, and Thy staff of goodwill. If we have the goodwill of God, we will be comforted. "Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Thou is...that means Thou preparest a table in the eternal establishment of God. Even though your enemies crowd you down here, if you have a table prepared in the Eternal Presence of God, what matters on this side – nothing matters.

"Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." That means Thou anointest my head with the Oil of Spiritual Consciousness. The Sanskrit word for "oil" and "energy" is the same. And so that refers, when they said "Thou anointest my head with oil," that refers to the Spiritual Energy, which we perceive, and know, and are one with in the holy mountain, of the Supreme Center of the brain. "My cup runneth over." Every cell vibrates with the Joy and Bliss of the Presence of God.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." By Thy Grace, O Father; "Lord" means Christ Consciousness. By Thy Grace, I will attain that Eternal Consciousness, which is Eternal, Existing Forever. "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

So Master gave a wonderful interpretation in the light of yoga, so to speak, and God's Love of the 23rd Psalm.

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1 Isaiah 45:5, 7, "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:" "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."

2 The Bhagavad Gita or The Lord's Song, translated by Dr. Annie Besant, 1939, 10th Discourse, 32nd Verse, "Of creations the beginning and the ending, and also the middle am I, O Arjuna. Of sciences and he science concerning the Self; the speech of orators I." 34th Verse, "And all- devouring Death am I, and the origin of all to come; and of feminine qualities, fame, prosperity, speech, memory, intelligence, constancy, forgiveness." 36th Verse, "I am the gambling of the cheat, and the splendour of splendid things I; I am victory, I am determination, and the truth of the truthful I."

3 Autobiography of a Yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, First Release 1946 (may be downloaded FREE from various Internet sites).

4 Ibid, Chapter 30, "My heart was still not comforted. The divine voice went on: "Creation is light and shadow both, else no picture is possible. The good and evil of maya must ever alternate in supremacy. If joy were ceaseless here in this world, would man ever seek another? Without suffering he scarcely cares to recall that he has forsaken his eternal home. Pain is a prod to remembrance. The way of escape is through wisdom! The tragedy of death is unreal; those who shudder at it are like an ignorant actor who dies of fright on the stage when nothing more is fired at him than a blank cartridge. My sons are the children of light; they will not sleep forever in delusion."

5 Matthew 6:13, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

6 Matthew 16:23, "But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

7 Ezekiel 28: 14, 15, "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." "You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you."

8 Ezekiel 28:16, "By the multitude of your merchandise they have filled the middle of you with violence, and you have sinned: therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from the middle of the stones of fire."

9 Revelation 2:2-4, "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:" "And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted." "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

10 Matthew 13:12, "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath."