01. The Origin of Evil

Let us consider one of the greatest mysteries in the world that people have tried hard to understand: The mystery of evil. How did evil begin in a world that was created by a perfectly good God Who is full of wisdom? Why has God permitted evil to exist and to spread so much? Why does evil have the upper hand in every part of the world? Why is there so much sickness, poverty, and sorrow? Isn't God interested in helping us?

There is an answer to this question of why God has allowed evil to exist. Is it because God could not control it? Very often we find people suffering in so many ways in different parts of the world, and our hearts are moved - how much more the heart of God, Who is full of compassion?

Before we proceed further, we need to understand that our human reasoning cannot tell us what God is really like. A dog cannot understand a human being because a human being is higher in the levels of creation than a dog. In the same way, we cannot understand God. If a dog is to understand a human being, it must be taught human commands by the human being himself. Likewise, if we use our mind to understand God, it would be as foolish as a dog trying to understand a human being; it's impossible. We must instead allow God to reveal Himself to us. That's what we read in the Bible: God has revealed Himself to us in His Word. In the Bible, we read of a God who is interested in a personal relationship with every single human being on the face of the earth. He's intensely, deeply interested in every single detail in our life. God is full of wisdom; He's Almighty, All-Powerful, All-knowing; He knows the future, and has total control of the whole universe - not only this earth, but the whole universe with its

01. 罪恶（邪恶）的产生

现在让我们来一起考虑一个世上最难以理解的问题之一——罪恶（邪恶），罪恶（邪恶）的存在让很多人觉得难以理解。为什么充满智慧的完美的神，创造的完美世界，会有罪恶（邪恶）出现？为什么神会允许罪恶（邪恶）存在，并如此散布和传播？为什么罪恶（邪恶）在世上到处占上风？为什么世上有这么多的疾病、穷困和伤悲？难道神不想帮助我们吗？

这个问题是有答案的。难道神对它失去控制了吗？我们常看到这世上不同地方的人，遭受着不同的痛苦，连我们的心都会为之动容。那充满了同情心的神，比我们有更多更多这样的心情。

在继续说下去之前，我们需要明白一件事，就是，我们人类的理解力，是没法知道神真正是什么样子的。狗无法理解人，是因为人被造的比狗高级许多。同样的，我们也是无法真正理解神的。如果想要狗理解人，人必须亲自来教它人类所发出的各样指示。同样的，如果我们用自己的头脑去理解神，就如同狗试图理解人，这种企图本身是愚蠢的，而且是不可能的。我们必须靠神把祂自己揭示给我们。这就是我们在《圣经》里读到的：神通过祂的话语，把自己揭示给我们。在《圣经》里，我们读到，神想要地球上的每一个人，都亲身和祂建立关系。祂对我们生活的每一个小细节，都非常非常的在意。神充满了智慧，祂是全丰全足的神，是全能的神，是全知的神，祂知晓全部未来，整个宇宙都在祂的全部掌控之中——不止是地球，而是包括了亿万颗星的全部宇宙。神是绝对的纯粹（纯洁），祂的纯粹是我们用头脑所无法想象和理解的。并且祂是无止境的爱，充满了爱，充满了良善。神的爱是完全无私的爱。我们在地球上见到的爱，经常都是自私的爱，不是神之爱。祂的爱是完全无私的。从祂创造了人的那一刻起，神就想要与我们

millions of stars. God is infinitely pure, we cannot understand His purity. He's also infinitely loving; full of love, full of goodness. God's love is totally unselfish. Very often, the love that we see on earth is a selfish love, but not God's love. His love is totally unselfish. Right from the beginning when He created Man, God wanted to share His joy and happiness with others, and with us. That's why He created living beings. Before He created man and the human race, we read in the Bible that God created millions of angels. Long before He created human beings, His purpose in creating angels was that He might share His happiness and His glory with all of them.

When God created angels, He created them with a free will. When God created the stars and the planets, He did not create them with a free will. The planets, for example, rotate around the sun with perfect timing. They never slip up; they have been doing that for ages. And they have never disobeyed the laws God has made for them. Every star in the universe moves in an orbit designed by God. The Earth moves on its own axis in perfect split-second timing, in perfect obedience to God's commands which were put into it ages ago. But when we consider the angels and the human race, God created them with a free will. In other words, unlike the planets, stars, plants, and trees, God created the angels and the human race with a freedom to choose whether we wanted to obey God or not; whether we would obey Him or not. The plants grow, and naturally obey the laws of nature which God has put into them. They don't have freedom to choose to disobey. This is why a star, or planet, or tree, or plant can never become evil because they have no freedom of choice. And though trees and plants may do us a lot of good because God has created them to be useful, they cannot do good out of their own

分享祂的喜乐与幸福。这正是为什么祂要创造活物。我们在《圣经》里读到，在神创造人之前，祂造了许多许多的天使。那是在神造人很久很久之前，祂造这些天使，就是为了与他们分享祂的喜乐和荣耀。

当神创造天使的时候，给了他们自由意志。当神造恒星、行星及各种天体的时候，没有给它们自由意志。比方说，行星环绕太阳，总是按照既定的安排，准确无误。它们一直这样，从没出过差错。从没违背过神所制定的法则。宇宙里的每一个星，都按照神所制定的轨道运动。地球在它自己轴上的运行，每一个瞬间都准确无误，长久以来，完全遵循神的指令。然而，在神造天使和人类时，给予了他们自由意志。换句话说，不同于行星、恒星、草和树木，神在造的天使和人类时，给了我们这个自由，去选择是否顺服神，以及去选择是否真心顺服神。植物的生长，自然地遵照神给它们制定的自然律。它们没有自由去选择违背。这就是为什么恒星、行星、树或草，无法变得邪恶，因为他们没有选择的自由。而且，虽然神创造的树和草可以对我们有很多益处，可那是因为神把它们造的对我们有用，它们无法自主的选择去对谁有益。一个行星、恒星或是树无法自己选择做好事。一棵树的生长，是按照已经建立在它里面的自然律法，它无法选择。所以，我们可以得出一个结论，就是这一类的被造物，类似恒星、行星或是树，既不善，也不恶。它们就如同定好了程序的机器人。如果你家里有一个电脑控制的机器人，你可以定程序，让它给你拿拖鞋或干别的。机器人可以给你拿报纸，兴许还能给你做咖啡。很多事你都可以用程序来安排机器人为你做。但

voluntary choice. A planet, star, or tree cannot do any good out of its own choice. A tree grows according to certain laws of nature built into it, and thus, has no choice. So we can conclude that these beings which have no choice; these arts of creation like the stars, planets, and trees can neither do good nor evil. They're like programmed robots. If you had a computerised robot in your home, you could program it to pick up your slippers and do many other things. The robot could bring in the newspaper; perhaps even make a cup of coffee. There are several things you could program a robot to do. But the robot would not have any feelings of its own. It would never disobey you if you programmed it correctly; it would do every single thing that you ever wanted it to do. God could have made man like that robot, where we would never do anything wrong, but would automatically, blindly, and dumbly as it were, obey God in everything. But God never wanted a race of people like that. They could never be His children. Robots could never be our children even though they obey. Any father would say, "I'd rather have a naughty, disobedient son of my own than an obedient robot." It is the same with God.

Do you know how robots and machines bring no joy to a childless couple? Do you know why human fathers would rather have a disobedient son than an obedient robot? Because we are made in the likeness of God, we have something of God's nature in us. Married couples long to have children. They're never happy with obedient machines, they want children. And there we see the heart of God: God's also interested in children. Our children can turn out to be disobedient, and can bring a lot of sorrow to our hearts. And there we understand why God created the angels and human beings with a free will, unlike the stars and planets.

机器人自己没有它的感受。如果你给它设对了程序，它不会违背你。它可以做一切你想让它做的事。神完全可以把人做的像机器人一样，我们就不会犯错，而是机械地、盲目地、默默地顺从神的一切安排。但神永远不想要一群这样的人。这样的人永远不会成为祂的孩子。机器人就算再顺服，也不能成为我们的孩子。任何一个父亲都会说，"我宁愿要一个淘气，不听话的儿子，而不是一个听话的机器人。"对神来说也是这样。

你知道为什么机器人或机器，无法给予没有孩子的夫妻快乐吗？你知道为什么做父亲的人们宁愿要一个不听话的儿子，而不是一个听话的机器人？因为我们是被按着神的样式造的，我们里面有神的一些天性。结婚了的夫妻渴望有孩子。那种快乐，是听话的机器所不能满足的，他们想要孩子。在这里我可以看到神的心性：神也同样想要祂的孩子。即使我们的孩子可能会变得不顺服，也可能给我们带来很多伤悲。这样我们就能够理解，为什么神造天使和人类，并赋予他们自由意志，而不是像星体一样。

This is the first thing that we need to understand: Free will is the first essential for one to be a moral being. And if we don't have free will, we cannot become moral beings. And the second essential is a conscience; something within us that tells us what is right and wrong.

Let us consider birds and animals, they also have a free will - they are better than trees and stars in their ability to choose. A dog can choose to obey or disobey. But they are not moral beings; they have no sense of morality because they don't have a conscience. Though they have free will, they don't have a conscience. But we as humans have the two essentials necessary for morality: we have a free will and a conscience. The lack of these two essentials is why birds and animals can never become sinful or holy, or become children of God. A dog cannot be a child of God because it doesn't have a conscience. You can train a dog over a period of time, and teach it certain things it should do or not do, but the resulting obedience is not because of an inbuilt conscience but because of external training. This training is similar to teaching a computer by programming it to do certain things a certain way.

But when we consider the human race, we have a conscience. Before the human race was created God made all the angels. He created millions of angels, all with a free will. Among the angels, there was one who was the leader. His name was Lucifer. The Bible says, in Ezekiel 28:12-15, that he was created perfect in wisdom and beauty, and given a high position. But gradually he began to have thoughts and ambitions in his mind that were not good. How did that happen? Because he had a free will, and that's where evil first began in this universe.

这是我们需要明白的第一件事情：拥有自由意志，是成为"道德的生命体"（moral being）的第一个必需条件。第二个必需条件，是道德心，就是那在我们里面，告诉我们什么是对什么是错的。

接下来，让我们来看看鸟与兽，它们是有自由意志的——同树和星星比，它们有能力自己选择。比如一只狗可以选择听或不听话，然而它们却不是"道德的生命体"，它们没有道德感，因为它们没有道德心。虽然有自由意志，鸟兽却没有道德心。而我们人类则同时具备拥有道德所需的两个必要条件：自由意志和道德心。由于不是同时具备这两个条件，因此鸟兽既不邪恶也不圣洁，所以也不能成为神的孩子。一只狗不能成为神的孩子，因为它没有道德心。你可以通过训练狗一段时间，来教它可以做一些事，或不可以做一些事，但得到这个顺服的结果，不是由于内置于狗心中的道德感，而是来自外在的训练。这和编程让电脑做事有着相似性。

但对于人类而言，我们则是拥有道德心的。在神创造人类之前，祂造了所有的天使。这成千上万个天使，都拥有自由意志。在这些天使中，有一个是众天使的领袖。他的名字叫路西法（Lucifer）。《圣经》在以西结书 28 章 12 节至 15 节中说，路西法被造得智慧充足，全然美丽，而且神授予了他高高的职位。但渐渐地，他开始产生不良的想法和野心。这是怎么发生的？这就是因为他拥有自由意识，这是罪恶第一次进入了这个宇宙。

Not only were Lucifer's thoughts evil; they were also proud and rebellious thoughts of discontent with the lot that God had appointed for him. Until then, the universe was perfectly pure, but now, evil had lifted up its head in the heart of an angel God had created. That is how evil came into the world. Initially this evil that was in the heart of Lucifer the angel did not manifest itself externally in any way. Evil always begins in the heart. Even a murder is planned by a man in his heart, and from the heart it goes out into action; that's how it was with Lucifer too. But as soon as this evil came up in his heart, God could see it. God can see into a person's heart, and God cast out Lucifer from His presence. So there we learn something: God hates evil. But when He created a moral being, He had to give that moral being a free will. There is the origin of evil.

But there is a solution that God has made through Jesus Christ, and we want to consider that in greater detail. Let us remember this about evil; that it is not outside of God's control. Evil is something God knew was coming, yet He permitted it, He accepted it, and He has provided a solution for it. That solution is in Jesus Christ.

路西法的念头不止是邪恶的，而且是骄傲又叛逆的，其原因是他的不满足，不满足神给他的一切。在那以前，宇宙曾是完全纯洁的，而现在，邪恶在神创造的这个天使心中抬起了头。罪恶就这样进入了世界。起初它只是在路西法的心里，外在并没有显现。邪恶总是从心里开始。甚至谋杀，也是人在心里做计划，尔后才变成行动；路西法也是这样。然而，当邪恶在他心里升起的那一刻，神就看见了。神能看清人的心，尔后神把路西法从自己面前驱逐了。所以，从这儿我们学到了一些事情：神憎恨邪恶。但当创造这些"道德的生命体"的时候，神给了他们自由意志。罪恶/邪恶就是这样开始的。

然而，神通过耶稣基督，为我们提供了解决之道，后面会详细地讨论。现在请让我们记住，邪恶在神的控制之中。神知道罪恶/邪恶会来临，然而祂允许了，接受了，并提供了解决的方法。这个方法，就在耶稣基督。