Good and Evil

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying,

Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,

you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

*(Genesis 2:16-17)*

How have good and evil been able to coexist so long, without either driving out the other? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)*

“That brave new world we’ve read about is here,” said the New York Daily News as an editorial. Last week, a team of scientists led by Craig Venter, the maverick geneticist, unveiled Synthia, the “first-ever man-made microorganism. “Unlike every other creation since the dawn of time, Synthia has no parents. Her DNA was designed on a computer and manufactured by Venter’s team from a few dollars’ worth of basic chemicals. The DNA was then implanted into a host cell, which started to replicate independently as a true new species. This isn’t quite Frankenstein, but the age of artificial life has formally dawned, said the Los Angeles Times. The ethical debates to follow will make those over stem cells “look tame.” The power not only to create life, but to design it, holds enormous potential for both good and evil, and “raises difficult questions about the expanding boundaries of science and the nature of life.” *(The Week magazine, June 4, 2010)*

We believe at once in evil, we only believe in good upon reflection. Is this not sad? *(Madame Dorothee Deluzy, French actress)*

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. *(Edmund Burke)*

When we realize that evil is simply the concealment of good, then any person who is unloving, vicious, or unjust is actually a person who is good but doesn’t know it. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, [. 124)*

****If there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers. *(Charles Dickens)*****

Wife: “We’ve run out of Doggy Bix.” Dog: “That’s bad!” Wife: “Could you nip down to the corner shop, Dear?” Dog: “That’s good!” Husband: “They’ll be closed now.” Dog: “That’s bad!”” Wife: “Go to the supermarket. They’re open until eight!” Dog: “That’s good!” *(Grahan’s Fred Basset comic strip)*

If we are spiritual now – divine – this spiritual part has dominion, and we begin to exercise this dominion. The moment we catch sight of this we begin to judge. We begin to put the thoughts that are good on the right and the others on the left. All our ideas of the attributes of our divine self we put on the right hand of power, while the thoughts of disease, death, limitation and lack we put on the left – denied, cut off. *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 45)*

Thank Goodness!: Will and Ariel Durant, who have spent a lifetime studying and describing the human condition in their 11-volume Story of Civilization, summed up the lessons of their labors in the following statement in The Age of Napoleon: “All in all, in life and history, we have found so many good men and women that we have quite lost faith in the wickedness of mankind.” *(Published by Simon and Schuster, in Reader’s Digest)*

Spiritual ideals and material faults can't exist in one body without ultimately destroying that body. *(Manly Hall)*

**Every healing of Jesus was a turning away from the illusion of good and evil to the recognition of the perfect Life of God as the only Reality. Because he understood this, he could speak with authority. He could order the man with the withered hand to stretch forth his hand because Jesus did not see a withered hand. He saw only the wholeness of Life*. (Jack E. Addington, in The Hidden Mystery of the Bible, p. 131)***

This is the story of a wise old man. He was considered to be an odd sort of fellow because of the way he had of looking at things. One time one of his horses ran away. His friends rallied around to console him. “That’s too bad,” they said. “We are sorry for you.” “How do you know it is bad?” the old man asked them. A few days later, the horse returned. He had two wild horses with him. This brought the neighbors on the run. “Good, good!” they said, rejoicing with him. “How do you know it is good?” the old man asked them. They could not answer that one either. So they said no more. In training the two wild horses, the man’s son was thrown and his leg was broken. Again the neighbors came to commiserate with him. “Oh, that’s too bad,” they said. “We sympathize with you in your misfortune.” “How do you know that this is bad?” the old man said again. The very next day a war lord and his army came through the land conscripting all able-bodied young men to fight for them. But not the son of the old man. He was not able-bodied. MORAL: There is neither good, nor bad, but thinking makes it so. (*Jack E. Addington)*

The surest way to work up a crusade in favor of some good cause is to promise people they will have a chance of maltreating someone. *(Aldous Huxley)*

Why is what’s bad so often so interesting than what’s good? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)*

The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts. *(Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, in The Gulag Archipelago)*

No party, no cause, no struggle, however worthy, is ever free from evil. No earthly cause is entirely good. And to believe with absolute certainly that you are "on the right side of history," or on the right side of a battle between "good and evil," is a dangerous and seductive form of idolatry. It flatters yourself. And it will lead you inevitably to lose your moral bearings because soon, you will find yourself doing and justifying things that are evil solely because they advance the cause of the "good." Sooner or later, you'll find yourself defending the molestation of a minor. *(Andrew Sullivan, in New York magazine)*I want all the bad parts of you out of my life – the good parts can stay.

*(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)*

Evil is never done so thoroughly or so well as when it is done with a good conscience. *(Blaise Pascal)*

Where there are no people, nothing is good or bad. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)*

**The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be good or evil. *(Hannah Arendt)***

No man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks. *(Mary Wollstonecraft Sheeley)*

I believe that there is one story in the world, and only one, that has frightened and inspired us, so that we live in a Pearl White serial of continuing thought and wonder. Humans are caught – in their lives, in their thoughts, in their hungers and ambitions, in their avarice and cruelty, and in their kindness and generosity too – in a net of good and evil. I think this is the only story we have and that it occurs on all levels of feeling and intelligence. Virtue and vice were warp and woof of our first consciousness, and they will be the fabric of our last, and this despite changes we may impose on field and river and mountain, on economy and manners. There is no other story. A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left only the hard, clean questions: Was it good or was it evil? Have I done well – or ill? *(John Steinbeck, in East of Eden)*

In a superhero movie it's typically good guy and bad guy, and bad guy attacks. Well, in real life, evil seduces. *(Joaquin Phoenix)*

To do evil, a human being must first of all believe that what he's doing is good.

*(Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn)*

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