

Evil

An excerpt from one Theme of my book, *Themes of my Life*

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Published July 11, 2024

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Evil

The word evil is such a hot word and a real button for many people. It sounds so dark and it is so often used as an absolute. In conversations it can really set people off. Visions of Hitler or slavery arise. Some don't believe in it at all and others believe we are all evil, while still others believe they are not and certain other people or groups are inherently evil. But I maintain that evil is not one fixed state of being that is reserved for the most dastardly people. It is an element of life as a human. And it exists in many different amounts in each person. Also it is not an absolute within any one person. A person may act in an evil way under one set of circumstances and not under another. Or under one set of circumstances at one time, and then not under similar circumstances at another time. What's more, I think one needs to be clear that evil is not the opposite of good.

So, what is evil by my reckoning?

I read a friend of mine a dream I'd had about being obstructed by evil souls and she took exception to the concept of evil. I said I viewed it simply as the other end of the spectrum from harmony. And that now I do believe in evil beings; simply as those whose pain and solitude is so intense that they will do anything to anyone to keep from having their hoax exposed; to keep from having to face themselves.

But I believe I should modify the above. That is too absolute. There is no pure evil. It's all relative. Intensely evil might dominate and abuse huge amounts of people or mildly evil might just be willing to ruin your day to mask some pain. And within any being evil or lack of it is not absolute. It depends on the moment. Life is after all a series of choices.

My friend answered me in saying, "but it wasn't intentional and if it's not intentional, it's not evil."

I said certainly it is intentional. It is unconscious, but intentional, none the less. The choices she and I make every day with awareness are buried many layers down for many

people. And within the limits of our enlightenment we too probably take actions to protect ourselves from exposing our weaknesses; that with which we are out of harmony. And, it is true, in every part of the spectrum, people seek to control others for their own validation. I guess that's really a challenge to try and not coerce any one in order to support our insufficiencies. And to be aware when we do.

Also I would go so far as to say that there are no evil thoughts. Only evil acts. On this stage on earth we are here as souls to learn in the physical plane, where we choose to manifest impulses physically. And grow and improve ourselves depending on our choices.

In the original Star Trek TV series there was an episode called A Taste Of Armageddon in which, when Kirk destroys the machines that sanitized their war, the people were horrified of the possibility of facing the true ugliness of war.

Kirk gave the following soliloquy:

“War is instinctive. But the instinct can be fought. We're human beings with the blood of a million savage years on our hands! But we can stop it. We can admit that we're killers ... but we're not going to kill today. That's all it takes! Knowing that we're not going to kill ... today!”

So the thoughts are there. Do we act on them and create disharmony? Or do we rise above the impulse for the betterment of ourselves and all around us?

Although I said that there are no evil thoughts, only evil acts, there is inner turmoil generated by lack of willingness to take life and its complexities on without imposing your will on others. Hate is one such manifestation of this turmoil. And although hate is not in and of itself evil, if not dealt with within, it can often lead to evil manifest.

I once had a clear realization about reasons to hate.

It came clear to me that people don't have reasons to hate. They just want to hate and find reasons to justify their hate. If the plantation owner didn't have the niggers to hate it would be his wife or neighbor. If the redneck didn't have the hippie to hate it would be his boss or the guy who sold him some shoddy merchandise. If the hippie didn't have Nixon to hate it would be the neighbor's dog or the weather.

And it came to me that we can look at levels of justifying hate as a barometer of our growth and enlightenment. And we can (and do, on some level of awareness) use that barometer to constantly be letting go of baggage (becoming en-lighten-ed), continually changing the filter that finds “good” reasons to justify hating whatever it is that you hate.

This helps cleansing the self of justification for acts of evil and, of course, helps us move closer to the center of God.

And finally, something else that ties in with the idea of people controlling others. And that is that one of the biggest problems in the world is that people don't believe that doing what is right will work, when in fact it is the only thing that will work. In this case a dominant social paradigm is reinforced by those who lack vision and/or faith.

You hear it in religion, you hear it in politics, you hear it socially. "Yeah, that would be the ideal thing to do but it won't work in the real world." People are forever accepting destructiveness, inequality, and compromises to integrity because they don't believe that doing the right thing will work. And the paradigm is reinforced and feeds itself and makes the right thing ever more incompatible with *their* real world.

As a friend of mine once said, "anything that isn't value oriented, is doomed to failure."