

I want to write this, because I feel a calling to it and I think it may be helpful.

I know that in writing this, there are many things I do not understand, many things I misunderstand and many things in which I have made mistakes in. In consideration of the nature of this topic, however, perhaps this is unavoidable.

Therefore rather than look at this piece as though it were an authoritative source beyond question, I think it is better if it were looked upon as though it were a kind of scientific hypothesis that is attempting to settle down the best possible understanding of this subject from the evidence given, and which may be disproved on the basis of later findings or discoveries.

My sources for all the conclusions I make come from what I know from what reliable authorities (eg. the saints, the teachings of the church, the bible) have written on these subjects, from what logic necessarily dictates, from the discoveries of science and history, a huge amount from my own imagination and to a tiny degree from my own experience.

However, I think that what I can give to you is an understanding which, if not completely trustworthy, will at least be more clear and trustworthy than many others who have written on this topic.

That is to say, when talking about witchcraft, there is a large amount of information from other sources which is filled with mistakes and things that are outright false, and people may find confusion understanding what it is, whereas what I am attempted to write here, while not infallible, as at least more trustworthy than many of the other sources being read today.

Introduction: If you live in the developed western world perhaps when you think of the word 'witchcraft' you think of ugly women in pointy hats riding on broom sticks and casting spells. Or perhaps you think of the burnings of women in the past centuries after the milk went sour and accusations were made as to what the cause was. You perhaps may even think that it is entirely imaginary and superstitious to think in the modern day and age that people with such power actually exist.

If you live in many other parts of the world, perhaps you have a different opinion. Perhaps you have seen or heard of people practicing witchcraft or some other similar art and even seen results come from it. Perhaps you even have gone to people who say they can use this power to help eliminate some disease or problem from your life, and you actually saw a result that came after you went there.

And then again perhaps you have another viewpoint entirely different.

Throughout history and throughout the world, even in the modern-day, there are huge multitudes of people whose lives are affected by this phenomenon. It occupies an important place in the cultures of many people, especially in Africa or the Caribbean. From an Albanian grandmother who does magic while singing verses from the Quran she doesn't understand, to a blind man sitting on a stool on the streets of Beijing who people say can tell you what your family name is without having met him before, to a group of sisters in Canada who link arms and predict their mother's death... even in the modern world, it is still being practiced. Historically there is no place in the world which has not been affected by it.

Even though it has had such a great effect on the world, I think the vast majority of people, even including those who believe in it or practice it themselves, really do not understand what it even is, how it works, why it can produce results, etc. This work seeks to answer that.

## I: The Spirits

In talking about the subject, 'what is witchcraft?' the first thing I want to talk about is something that predates humanity.

In the first chapter of Genesis, the story begins by telling us that on the first day God created light. He then separated the light from the darkness, the darkness He called night and the light He called day. The text does not tell us that God created darkness but only that He created light and separated the darkness from the light.

In the beginning, God created a huge number of beings who had souls but no bodies. Their total population number is a finite, and not an infinite amount, but it is huge. It is far larger than the number of human beings who have lived in the world. These spirits in later times were called 'angels', because they served as messengers (angelos, the word used in the Greek bible, means messenger).

They were the first things that God created. Before the Big Bang, they were already there.

Each one of them had a name that was unique to them. No one spirit possessed the same name as another spirit. And each name signified what their function was. For example, one spirit was given charge of the stars of the universe, while that spirit would have other spirits serving him who would have charge of each individual star. Another spirit perhaps would have charge over a particular person who would be born into history and die in history. Another spirit was created to teach people to love God. Another spirit was created to punish people for their sins, and maybe this spirit would have a multitude of spirits working for him that had charge of each particular type of punishment.

Now, the physical universe had not been created yet.

When the spirits were first created they knew that God existed but they didn't yet see Him face to face. God's plan for the universe was revealed to them, and God told them that He intended to create the universe and place another being into the physical universe and this being would be the highest point of His creation. This being was like them and had a spirit, but unlike them also possessed a physical body. He told the spirits that this being would be even superior to them and that He Himself would come down and become one of these beings.

He asked the spirits to choose to love Him and love these beings.

Some people wonder why God gave them a choice to love or not to love. Why did He give the free will to love or to sin?

The reason is because love, in order to be love, must be freely given. A robot cannot love and a puppet cannot love, because they are not choosing to love, but rather they are just following a command they cannot resist. If the spirits were incapable of saying no to this request, then they would also not be

capable of saying yes to it either, because in order for love to truly be love, there must also be an option to say no. If it is coerced or forced, then it is not really love.

If so, maybe try to imagine it like this: if you built a robot that said 'I love you' over and over again, and was unable to not say 'I love you', would you think that what the robot had for you was love or not? It would not be love, it would just be programming, it would just be the workings of a machine. We know that that is true instinctively; I don't need to prove it. A robot or a puppet is unable to love, because it is not loving when it says it loves you; it cannot do otherwise. The only way that it could really love, would be if it was able to choose not to love.

If you understand that, then you understand why God gave free will. God must give free will to humans and spirits, otherwise they are incapable of love. Similarly if free will was ever taken away, and we became incapable of sin, then we would also be incapable of love.

But when they were first created, God gave them no desire to love Him or not to love Him. They had no desire for either option, and so when God asked them to love Him, He asked them to choose something they did not desire but at the same time they had no desire to resist.

It is not like the choices that we as human beings face when we make decisions and we have desires for or against something. Because in the beginning they had no desire for either good or evil; for it would not have been possible for them to have a desire for evil, because God had not created such a desire in them.

This was different than what we human beings experience. Human beings have desires for evil, because they are tempted by the devil. But in the beginning, when the devil himself was created, the devil was not yet evil. There was no evil anywhere in the universe, and therefore there was no one who tempted the angels to sin. Therefore they could not have had any desire for evil, because where would that desire have come from?

It was only after the devil and others angels sinned, that they became evil and henceforth were known as demons.

But if they had no desire for evil in the beginning, then how did some of them commit evil and become demons?

God told one great spirit, who would later be the devil, that his name and duty was to be a light-bearer. God said he would show the other spirits and all human beings how great God's Light is and how much they need God's Light.

God's Light was His Son, who would later say 'I am the Light', and this spirit was told that he was going to show all beings in the universe how great this Light truly was. This spirit was very powerful and very beautiful, and God loved him very much. He was more beautiful and had a greater name than all of the other spirits that God created, but he still was incomparable to God's beauty. In a similar way, one can say that a million is far greater than one, but a million is no closer to infinity than one is, because either one is separated by an infinite amount.

This spirit was so beautiful, so wise and so good. But when God told him to love Him and to love this human being whom God would create in the future, the spirit disobeyed. He did not look at God's beauty, but instead focused his attention on himself and gazed at his own beauty.

He had no desire to disobey God, but at the same time he had no desire to obey Him. He was given a choice between right and wrong, and given no bribe to make him prefer either one.

He had no desire for evil, because there was no temptation yet.

But God also did not give him a desire to do good, because if God had done so, God would be unable to test that his love for Him was true. If God had given him a feeling, a desire or some sort of liking for good rather than evil, then he would have chosen good rather than evil. But God could not do that or else love would not really be love. He had to present the devil and all the angels with a test to see if their love was real or not.

Most of the angels, upon hearing this request of God, decided by their own free will to do as God requested. They had no desire to do so, but they chose to do something that they had no desire for. They loved, not because it felt good or they liked it, but because they chose to love; this was the true love God was looking for.

They willed to love God, to love the being He would create later, and upon doing so they immediately saw God face to face and knew how great His love was for them, and God revealed to them that they would forever enjoy His friendship and love, and they were very happy.

The devil could see the other angels joining to God, and he felt displeasure. But some of the angels- a minority of them- were given the same test and they also made the choice that the devil had made. Rather than love God and love these beings that God would create later, they instead chose to focus on themselves.

They and the devil refused to love God, but they preferred themselves over God.

The great name that God gave to this spirit to show the greatness of His Light was then warped, and he used the power that God gave him to show how great his own light was to them and how wonderful their end would be if they followed him rather than God.

In the book of Revelations chapter twelve, the great red dragon swept down a third of the stars of heaven with his tail.

And God did not show Himself to them, but revealed to them that they forever would be without His presence and that they would forever suffer because of it.

This spirit, who was originally the bearer of God's Light, became known as the 'enemy' (Shaytan in Hebrew, from which comes the word 'Satan').

Although he compared himself to God, there was no contest between his power and the power of God. The angels who had chosen to love God, by the power of God, struck him and his spirits down instantly; from the very beginning they had no possibility of overthrowing or usurping the Almighty.

Thus the test was finished and their salvations were set. On the first day of the week God separated the light from the darkness.

Perhaps that is difficult to understand. Why did God give a test like this to His own creation and then divide them accordingly?

If God had made them all desire good from the beginning and see how bad evil was, then they would have all chosen good. But if God had arranged it like that, then their love would not be real.

Human beings have a different test. God lets them be subject to temptation, so that they desire evil, but are told to choose the good. But God could not test the angels like that, because He tempts no one and could not create a desire for evil for them.

His test for them was simply giving them no desire for either one, so that they could choose which way to go.

But why did God not just make them all desire good, so that they would all pass the test and choose good?

If he made them all desire good, then they would have all chosen good, but that would not really be the love that God wanted however. God wanted them to choose what was right because it was right, He wanted them to choose Him for His own sake, and not because it felt good to do so.

Imagine if we were to look at this in another direction: if all the spirits desired good and they all choose good rather than evil at the first choice, then they all would have gone to heaven and seen God (and really 'heaven' is not a place per se, but is rather a word to describe the state of being perfectly united with God... wherever God is, that is where heaven is). And after they had seen God, God would tell them 'you love me, but only because it felt good and you desired it. But if I gave you no desire for it and it didn't feel good, then you wouldn't love me'... now what do you think, is that really love?

It is not really love, because if in the end the difference in the angels decision was made by the presence of a desire, then really they choose to love God, not because they really loved God but because they loved feeling good.

If God had shown them that loving Him would bring happiness and not loving Him would bring sadness, then they would have chosen God, not because they loved Him, but because they wanted to be happy.

Hence he had to deprive them of any desire for Himself, and since there was no temptation either, they had to choose either to love Him or not, for no other reason than for His own sake. It could not be otherwise, or else it would not truly be love.

If I love you because of what you give me, but I would stop loving you, if you didn't give it to me, would my love really be love? If they loved God only because He told them they would be happy if they loved Him and suffer if they did not love Him, but they would not have done so if He just told them to love for Him His own sake, then their love would not be real.

Only those spirits who really loved God for His own sake, and not for any other reason would be the ones who would see Him and serve Him as angels, and the spirits who would not love God unless they were bribed with a desire or a feeling... these were the others who would not see Him and become demons.

It could not be any other way than this, or else love would not really be love.

All these spirits who turned away: if they chose to, they could have simply turned back and changed their minds and God would have forgiven them. But, they by their own choice choose to stay away from God forever. They would suffer without God's presence, but their pride was such that they preferred to suffer rather than to serve Him.

And their pride led them to envy. They were so fascinated with their own beauty that they could not accept that others would be more beautiful than them. Therefore they could not accept that God would create another being who would be greater than the spirits and that God Himself would become one of them.

They envied this creature, not yet created, and their envy led to hatred.

They hated this creature so much; they could not stand the thought that this creature would share in God's glory, in His presence and pass the test that they failed.

## II: Man and Woman

The spirits who loved God were then sent by God and given power to create the entire universe. Each spirit, according to the name of each spirit, would have charge of some different aspect of creation. God created desires and talents inside of them to govern each particular part, and so for example, the spirit who governed the stars had a desire to create the stars and arrange the physical universe to make way

for their existence. The angel who would be a guardian of an individual arranged the whole universe to be ready for the entrance of that person into the world.

It is an amazing idea; that your guardian angel existed before the Big Bang, and for billions of years he was preparing the whole universe to be ready for your entrance into it- he had no other purpose in spending this time other than that.

All of creation was prepared by the spirits for the entrance of this being into the universe. The laws of physics, the laws of chemistry, etc., were created by these spirits to order the universe in a way that this being could understand it. It is a strange fact to think that people who study these laws today never wonder of how or why it is that they should be able to understand the way the universe works using methods and equations that the human mind is capable of comprehending.

They understand it because it was designed so that they could understand it. Who created these laws? Where did they come from? Why can they be understood by such a small finite mind?

It is like a teacher who reads a story to the children and uses the simplest words she can so that the children can follow along.

God gave incredible intelligence and ability to these spirits, so that in the course of billions of years they formed the entire physical universe and made a planet that would be their home. They caused life to come into existence, which was extremely unlikely, because the complexity of the DNA upon which they would base life was not something that can be easily achieved by a random and mindless mixing of chemicals. And they directed the course of the evolution of this life to reach the point at which this being whom God had spoken of at the beginning would be capable of entering the world.

In the Genesis story, the six days are not a literal six days. But rather it may be thought of as a message to tell us that the whole of creation was arranged for what would happen on the sixth day when God ended His work, which was the creation of human beings. All things were arranged and created for the entrance of this being into the world as the final goal of all creation.

The spirits who loved God were not unhappy about this being who would become greater than them. Instead they loved them, as a good son or daughter loves a newborn baby brother or sister to whom the parents give more attention to than the older sibling.

They knew human beings would need physical dimensions and live in the physical world, so they arranged the laws of physics and chemistry such that the physical world could exist. They knew that this being would need a terrestrial planet to walk on and an energy source that would sustain life on it; hence they made the solar system and the Earth. They knew this being would need to be alive, and reproduce, and so they made life. They created the different animals, but they were not found as satisfactory to receive a soul made in God's image that could rule over the rest of creation. The dinosaurs were big and could dominate other creatures easily, but their brains were too small to understand it and they could not really manipulate the world without hands. So they arranged evolution to come down to reach a being who had a brain intelligent enough to understand and dominate the



world around him, and who could use his own limbs and hands to order the world as he wished, all according to God's plan.

The entire solar system was formed from the accretion of dust in the vacuum of space. And the Earth was therefore made from dust as well, and therefore when Genesis tells us that God made man from the dust, even if Adam was born of two hominid parents, he still ultimately came from the dust.

When Adam was born, he was different from the animals who came before him. God created him in His own image, and made him like Himself. Adam's parents were not in God's image, and they did not possess the understanding or the ability to love God that Adam would possess. Adam's parents were similar to him in every way physically and mentally, but just without the ability to know and love God, to know good from evil, etc.

Animals have souls and bodies, just like humans, but they lack the divine part. Animals can understand things, they can think, they can do many physical and mental things... but what separates them from the human being is the ability to know God. Perhaps some animals in the past, present or even in the future will even have greater intelligence than human beings, but they will not be able to know God because they lacked the divine part that was given to human beings.

In creation you can see Chimpanzees, Apes, Elephants, Dolphins, or Whales that are very intelligent, who can figure out and understand many things. Squid and Octopus are also said to be very intelligent. These animals are so smart they can learn, communicate with each other to a limited degree and even understand your own behaviour human behaviour to some extent.

Because they can understand human behaviour to some extent, they can even have a relationship with you and help you or hurt you, but they are still not able to know God. They have souls, but not made in God's image; they do not go to heaven or hell when they die, and they do not sin, because they do not really know good from evil. When they die, I do not know what happens to their souls; perhaps they go somewhere and will resurrect in the future, but I truly have no idea.

Adam's parents would have been like those animals. They would possess the same brain as he did, with the same understanding of everything, but simply without the ability to know God. They were very intelligent, and would have helped and loved Adam as an elephant helps and loves her own calf, or as a chimpanzee takes care of its own baby. Adam would have talked with them and they would have talked with him, just like how whales can use sound to communicate messages to each other, but Adam himself would have possessed a divine image that his parents did not.

In some pagan legends, the founders of nations are born or raised by animals, like Romulus and Remus raised by the she-wolf. These legends may have a glimmer or reflection of truth in them.

Adam lived in this world among the other hominids, doing the things that they did and living with them, but able to understand something that they did not understand.

He could see God; they couldn't.

He was therefore different from all the other hominids. He learned that he could talk to God and God would listen to him, and God would respond to him. God told Adam many things. For the billions of years of waiting, finally he had been born and God told Adam that this entire place and everything in it was made for him to live in.

Everything Adam asked for from God, God gave to him. And so Adam did not have to suffer any of the things that the other hominids would suffer. Adam did not want to be cold, so he asked God not to suffer cold, and so God arranged for him to never have such weather affect him. Adam did not want to go hungry, and so he asked God never to be hungry, and so God arranged for him to always be able to find food. Adam did not want to suffer boredom, and so he asked God never to suffer boredom, and God made it so that creation was ordered so that Adam was also interested in what happened around him. Not one thing did Adam have to suffer, because his every need was fulfilled by God, and God would bend the creation around Adam to suit Adam's every need and desire, just as Adam requested.

The other hominids, who did not know God, were not able to pray. They did not know there was a Creator to this reality who could fulfill their every need. Instead their food, their sustenance, was all provided by the world around them, but they suffered want and death. Adam did not have to, because he simply asked God and God listened to his prayer and let him live without want and death.

And so Adam lived without dying, and his parents died, and all his brothers and sisters died, but they were all not made in God's image. They were not able to pray.

Adam loved them all; they were only animals and not people, but they loved him and he loved them, just like a herd of elephants looks after one of its own members, or a pod of dolphins plays with each other.

Adam loved them, but they were different from him. They could only love him as a member of a group of animals is loved, they could not see the divine spark in him. He could not find anyone among them who was like himself, who could know God and be like another 'him'.

As much as Adam loved them, he could not find such a companion among them. God knew this and knew that it was not good for it to be like this.

Eventually God created another person just like Adam, who was able to see God and love Him and pray to Him, just like Adam was. And she would be his wife and the two became joined together. She could be a companion to him in the ways that the other hominids could not. And like Adam, she could pray to God and God would give her everything she asked for in prayer.

For all this time up to that point, the evil spirits were not permitted to interfere in creation. They of course did not want human beings to come into existence, but they were not permitted to stop this or hinder it.

God had created the devil originally to show all the beings in the universe how great His Light was. The devil was still going to fulfill God's purpose whether or not he had sinned.

The devil then prayed to God and asked God if God would permit him to test whether the humans really loved him, just like how he had been tested at the very beginning. God permitted this request and told the devil that he may tempt the humans.

Everything that the devil does, he does with God's knowledge and permission. The devil is not able to do anything that God does not permit. The devil also prays to God and talks to God, and God grants his prayers, because what the devil asks for is God's will.

The devil's intention is to hurt the human beings, because he envies and hates them. He does not like the fact that God created them as a higher being than the spirits, and thus he does everything in his power to take away their dignity and turn them into monsters. He hates to see their beauty, so he finds every way he can in order to take it away.

### III: Temptation

A great question many want to know the answer to at this point will be: why would God grant the devil's prayer?

So many people in the world completely fail to understand how evil really does his work. They think that it is without God's knowledge, or that God is powerless to stop them, or that God is in the process of stopping them but has not finished His work in stopping them yet, etc.

None of these things are quite accurate though.

The reality is that every single thing that happens in our universe is done with the full knowledge and permission of the Creator. Every leaf that falls from a tree can only do so because God has given His permission for it to fall. Every bee that collects nectar from a flower can only do so because God has permitted the bee to take the nectar from the flower.

Every person who suffers, does so only because God has allowed that person to suffer. Every person who dies, does so only because God has allowed that person to die.

Similarly, every sin and evil that exists in the world is done with God's complete knowledge and permission.

When the devil tempted Eve, the devil first prayed to God and asked God that he may tempt Eve, and God said yes.

The book of Job in the beginning shows us a conversation between the devil and God giving us an example of what this looks like. The devil asks God for permission to test to see whether Job's love for

God really is true or not, and God grants the devil permission to do anything to Job but just not to touch his life.

Every time the devil does anything in the world, it is just like this. The devil is not like a thief who crawls around at night when God is not looking. The devil prays to the same God that human beings do, and asks this God for things in prayer, and God grants these prayers when it is His will to grant them.

So, every temptation under heaven is just like this. There is a soul who the devil envies and wants to harm, and he prays to God and says 'I pray that you allow me to tempt this person, to see if they really love you or if they love the thing with which I tempt them'.

The devil has a question for the human race: Do you really love God, or do you love what He created? Do you really love God or would you prefer an ounce of gold? Do you really love God or would you prefer a beautiful woman or the love of a man? Do you really love or do you love your own pleasure? Do you really love God or do you love the respect of other human beings? Etc.

In the book of revelations the beast has so many forms, every part of him is just a mix of different animals and pieces. The truth is that this question of the devil takes on so many different forms. Just as the universe is filled with so many different things and so many complexities, so does the evil spirit have so many different ways by which he can ask this question and thus the beast has so many different forms or attributes.

Even if people say with their lips that they love God, by their actions they say that they love these other things more than Him. They would willingly sacrifice their relationship with God to attain these other things, thus proving how false their love really is.

The devil enjoys this, because it comforts him to see this thing he envies and hates to do something so stupid and ruin itself. Like a narcissistic woman who enjoys seeing her rival humiliate herself with a poor choice in fashion, so does the devil enjoy seeing us to sin.

The greatest blessing that a human being can have is not to be loved, but it is to possess love inside of oneself. To be a good person is worth more than all the money in the world, it is sweeter than the sweetest of foods, it is wiser than all the wisdom of the world. It is easier to conquer an entire country than it is to conquer oneself, and those who do so inherit the greatest kind of glory.

Socrates was right: it is better to be a virtuous person who suffers and is hated by all, then to be a wicked person who enjoys happiness and the love of all. The greatest blessing that one can have is to have love; and the devil knows this as a reality.

This is the meaning of the book of Job: the man who is truly blessed is not the one who is loved but the one who loves, if God takes everything away from a man, all comfort, dignity and praise, but he still loves Him, then he is still richer and more blessed than everyone else who has the entire world but lacks love.

We perhaps know it simply just as an idea, which we may not even think about very often.

But to him, it is a reality more real than the physical world itself. He was denied achieving this beauty himself because of his sin, and he absolutely cannot stand the thought that we should be allowed to attain it; he would prefer anything than that we should get this beauty and rise so high above him.

He takes what God created and he deceives it, telling it to eat poison with the lie that poison is good for it. He is like a gangster who meets a teenage girl and addicts her to drugs by telling her that it will make her happy, while secretly planning to make her into a sex slave through the addiction. He is like a doctor who prescribes medicine for a patient that will cause his death, while telling the patient that the medicine will cure him.

If you want to hurt someone, perhaps you will try to hurt their feelings, hurt their reputation, give pain to them, wrong them in some way, etc. And in your mind, this is the way to make your enemy suffer. But you are a human being, and you perhaps don't really understand anything at all.

The way to really hurt a person the most, is not by doing any of these things. But the way you may hurt your enemy the most is by making them become a bad person. The worst thing you can do to a person, is not to destroy their reputation, their feelings, their comfort, their livelihood... but the worst thing of all that you can do is to take away their dignity and make them become a monster. If you take away anything your enemy possesses, but he still loves others, then he still has everything... but if you take away even the love he has for others, then even if he has everything else, he really has nothing in the end.

And so the devil asks God for permission to tempt human beings so that they may sin and lose the beauty that they were meant to have. He does this all from his envy and hatred.

But why does God grant it?

It is for the same reason as the test was given to the angels at the beginning.

If people only loved God because everything was made easy for them, but they stopped loving God the moment it was no longer easy, is their love really love?

Imagine if you said you loved your mother, but if you had to suffer even just a tiny bit for her, you decided to stop loving her. Or if you had a wife you loved, but the moment you found out she couldn't give you children, you decided to stop loving her. If that were so then is your love really love?

Of course it is not. The same is true with God, because if human beings never were subject to temptation and it was always so easy to follow God and obey His commandments, but if the moment they had the slightest suffering or hardship in following His commandments, they then decided to stop loving Him and stop obeying His commandments... would the love really be love then?

This was why when at the beginning of the world, God did not create the angels to see His face and feel the depth of His love immediately. He created them without any such desire and allowed them to choose freely; for if He gave them all a desire for Him when they were created then none of them would have sinned, and they would have all followed Him... but the love of many of them would not truly be love because God knows that they only love Him because He gave them something else that bribed them to love Him.

Similarly, if God prevented Adam and Eve from being tempted, then they would have never sinned, but if the only reason why they didn't sin was because they were not tempted, then the love they had was never real love to begin with. It is the same as if your wife is loving to you when you make lots of money, but when you lose your job and go into debt, she ends her love and divorces you... it only proves that she never really loved you to begin with.

I think it is for exactly the same reason that God does not fill the world with miracles everyday so that every person in the world can believe without any doubt that God is real. For if He did so, people would believe and follow God, not because they loved Him and were searching for the Truth, but people would believe Him just because there was no way to logically believe He was not there; if people all worshipped God because they saw Him as a kind of despot who couldn't be resisted and questioned, then this would not really be love. Thus, God does not fill the world with miracles constantly nor does He make His signs so obvious, but just does miracles that are more hidden, so that only those who really love Him and are looking for the Truth will find Him.

For the same reason does Jesus speak in parables. His disciples asked Him, why do you speak in parables? And He quoted Isaiah and said so that they may hear and not listen, look and not see, so that they may not know the Truth. Why on earth would He do that? Because there is a reason why God hides Himself; if He didn't do so, everyone would follow Him, but the love of many would be imperfect and not real.

One may ask: but couldn't God have simply known whose love was genuine and whose was not genuine without testing? Of course, He did. When God tests people by giving permission to the devil to tempt them, God does not do so because He needs to find the result of the test; He already knows what the result of the test is.

God wants people to love Him with all their hearts, all their minds, all their souls and all their strength. If there was never any temptation in the world, and God did not allow the devil to be unloosed of his bonds in the 1000 years that we live in (1000 years referring to all human history until the second coming) then every human being would follow God without failure. But God would plainly know that their love was imperfect; that they followed Him only because it was easy.

God could not be happy if our love was like this. Thus He gave permission to Satan to make it harder for us to love Him. We would be tested in such a way, that only those who really loved God more than all the wonderful things that God created with which Satan would use to tempt us... only these people who would still love God in the end would be His friends.

That was my best attempt at explaining something hard to grasp for many people. If you still have not understood, I will make one last attempt.

If you can imagine a conversation like this:

Satan says to God, "May I tempt humanity? May I give them desires for things that are evil, and make them loathe things that are good? May I make it hard for them to love you and obey your commandments and make it easy for them to forget you and commit sin?"

God says to Satan, "But why should I allow you to do that? If I let you do that, you will take many human beings away from me and they shall fall into hell and be eternally damned."

Satan says to God, "In the Song of Songs did Your Spirit not write 'Were one to offer all he owns to purchase love, he would be roundly mocked.' Therefore if you give human beings everything they want in order so that they love you, should you not be roundly mocked?"

God says, "I see you only speak this out of envy. You can't accept that human beings will pass the test that you failed; your pride makes you insist that you must demonstrate that they will do even worse than you."

Satan says, "Whatever my motivations, I know that what I ask for is still your will. You cannot turn a deaf ear to my accusations, because you know that someone who buys someone else's love is a fool. If I need to pay you to love me, then your love is not truly love; if you act like this to humanity then the church is not Your bride but rather she is Your prostitute! And I will roundly mock you as such and I will be right, for your own Word says so!"

God says, "But I will have to pay a price for their love. At first they shall be like a prostitute who only loves me because I had to pay for them, but they will grow in love and when they reach heaven they will love me even if I took everything else away from them. They will all go through their own sufferings and crosses, such that even if I paid a price for them at first, they will come to love me in the end such that they would love me even if I gave them nothing at all."

Satan says, "You will pay a price for their love, but most of them will still fail to really love you. That is why you must let me tempt them! Imagine if I gave them no temptation at all, and all those human beings for whom you paid the price were to go to heaven and live with you in paradise, and they told you 'God, we love you, but only because you pay for our love. If you stopped giving us what we wanted for even a moment, we would not love you anymore.' And what kind of paradise is that? How ridiculous would that be? Would you be happy to have people like that as your friends? Would you be pleased for these creatures to be the ones to accompany you for eternity?"

God says, "Of course not. I would have no delight in them if their love was as shallow as that. It would pain me if they were like that. I want nothing else from human beings but their love."

Satan say, "So, then please give me permission so that I may tempt them, to make it hard for them to do good and make it easy for them to do evil, to make them suffer to do good and to have pleasure in doing evil. You know that I do not ask you this because I love you but because I hate them, but I know that you will still grant this request because it agrees with your will too. I will force them to choose between love of your creation and love of you. All of those who only love you because you pay them with something and cannot love you for your own sake... these ones I will take away with the temptation and they will become mine. And all of those who really love you, who are willing to forgo and sacrifice everything else rather than lose you, these few.... and I know they are very few... these few you may take for yourself."

God says, "Your plan is acceptable to me. All of those who do not really love me, you may use temptation to draw them out. But I must insist on something: because some human beings will not love me at one time, but they will change their hearts and learn to love me later. Therefore, I will give you permission to tempt, but I will not let you do everything you want to do. You are allowed to tempt only inasmuch as the human beings are able to resist; I will not let you tempt more than that, in order so that everyone of them, both those whom I know will eventually love me and those whom I know will never love me, will both equally have a chance to love me."

#### IV: The Woman

Why did the serpent speak to Eve but not to her husband?

For a really long time, many people completely misunderstand this. They may assume it is because the woman is weaker than the man, and that she is just more prone to being led by the devil than the man. This is completely false. It is actually the opposite; it is because she had a 'strength' that the man did not have which is why the devil went for her.

Modern developed society is so blind about the nature of the different genders. In the past it was blind to the dignity of women, and in the present it still blind to it; thinking the dignity of women rests in them becoming like men. It has come this way, as a result of erroneous political ideologies, to embrace the position that men and women are essentially the same and that there is nothing that a man can do that a woman can't, and if that is not true, then this means that the sexes are not equal.

This is really foolishness, however. The sexes are equal, but they are not the same. Just as I can do some things which you can't, and you can do things which I can't... so there are things that women excel at better than men, and things that men excel at better than women. They are equal, but not the same.

When God created the two, they were both equally made in His image. A man in his masculinity reflects who God is just as much as a woman in her femininity reflects who God is. God created two big treasure houses, one of them called masculinity and one called femininity, both of them filled with immeasurable



gifts and treasures, and they were both equal in value to each other, but the treasures were not the same.

One American dollar is equal to Six Chinese Yuan: the value is the same, but the items that make up the value are different. So it is with the treasure in those two treasure houses.

For every gift that God gave to man, He gave a gift equivalent in value to woman. For every gift that God gave to woman, He gave a gift equivalent in value to man.

Thus men are generally physically stronger than women, and yet women are generally physically more beautiful than men. Men are ordained as priests in God's church, and it is by them that people receive God in the sacraments, the Woman was the Mother of God, and it is by her that people received God in the world. Men have natural interests in the way that things work, women have natural interests in the way that people work. Women are more sensitive to others emotions and this allows them to work in ways that men can't because the men can't see the emotions of others so well, men are not as sensitive to others emotions as women, and this allows them to work in ways women can't because they can ignore the emotions of others better.

And when humanity inherited the effects of original sin, they also inherited the bad effects in equal measure.

Men waste the world's time, resources and energy on military concerns, which too often brings about evil through warfare. Women waste the world's time, resources and energy on personal appearance, which too often brings about evil through lust. Female estrogen can give cancer later in life, male testosterone kills brain cells at the beginning of life. The woman is cursed with pain in child-bearing, the man is cursed with sweat and hard work in order to earn his daily bread. The man has an internal struggle with desire for sex or aggression, that he must struggle hard to conquer inside of himself in order to avoid sin- he must say no to what he wants to do, or else commit sin. The woman is shy and too easily controlled by the opinions and pressures of other people, and she must stay with the Truth despite her shyness and pain from social pressure, rather than be conformed by pressure from created beings- she must say yes to what she doesn't want to do, or else commit sin.

You see, they are equal in every way, just different. The values add up, but they are composed of different currencies.

Modern scientists will also confirm that their brains are different. Men and women are different not simply from social conditioning, which is very important, but also because there are inherent differences.

In the womb, every human being begins life with either an XX or XY chromosome which genetically sets them apart from the moment of conception. However, in the beginning stages of foetal development every foetus starts in the womb developing as a female. The brain also begins as a female brain as though it were the default state. Around 8 weeks in the pregnancy, if it is a male, then the foetus will have a boost in its testosterone which will permanently alter the brain to make it male. The testosterone will kill part of the brain, which the girl would otherwise retain, and increases the brain in other areas.

The part of the brain that is killed is associated with communication, relationships, emotions and emotional memory. The girl retains all these things, while the male still has them, but just has these areas much reduced in size. The Creator still made them equal though, because the male brain, on average, will be slightly larger than the female brain by the time they are adults, it will just lack development in those particular areas.

Thus from the womb they are already set apart. Scientists have done experiments in taking newborn babies, both girls and boys, who have experienced no cultural indoctrination whatsoever, and they give them a choice of looking at a face or looking at some mechanical object, and the boys will choose the mechanical object to look at more than the girls who will more often choose the face to look at.

The result of this helps produce differences in interests between the two. The boy has a greater interest in the way things work, whereas the girl has a greater interest in how people work. These are simply generalities, and there are of course many exceptions.

Even in the sexual act, the man's brain is wired to think of the woman as an object... a beautiful object... but an object of the created world, whereas the woman's brain is wired to feel pleasure in submission to another person.

To men God gave a vocation towards the entire created world, whereas towards women He gave a vocation towards the one thing in the created world that was more important than everything else.

A lot of people, for too long in history, have noticed the treasure present in the man's treasure house without paying attention or even realizing what was inside the woman's treasure house. The man could excel at engineering, mechanical arts, invention, warfare, politics, science... so many things... while the woman was taking care of children and families.

Humankind foolishly thought that the former was more important than the latter, when in fact the vocations were equal. A woman who stays at home and took care of her family was just as important and vital to society as the man who sailed around the world; because the man who sailed around the world also had a mother who formed him both physically and psychologically, without which he could have done nothing. God's thinking is not human thinking. Human beings only think of what they see immediately, whereas God sees everything.

Frail human thinking therefore thought that what the man did was more important than what the woman did, and in their foolishness human beings thought that women had to become like men and do the things that men do in order for them to be equal in dignity. Their error was in fundamentally failing to recognize how great and important a duty it was to tend to a family, and be the pillar that the whole of society would stand upon.

The entire created universe was given to the vocation of the man, but the most important created thing in the universe was given to the vocation of the woman. They are equal in every respect.

The woman has talents with understanding and communicating with people which are greater than what the man possesses. She will understand the human being better than he does. She will be able to

communicate and converse with people better than he will. She will be better at forming the characters' of children than he will.

And even if this power does not seem too great, there is an entire other dimension to this for which this piece is directly related.

For even if the man can master the natural created world better than the women, you must still remember that the whole of the created world itself was created not by forces but by persons. God is not a thing, He is a person. The spirits are not things, but they are persons. And the woman's seemingly 'useless' ability of communication with others, also makes her better than the man at getting in touch with these higher levels.

It is not simply a brain difference but it is also a difference in the way that God made the spirits of either one. A male has a male soul, and a female has a female soul. The gender of the individual is permanently a part of the person's soul. The characteristics of the soul, is something we cannot see with our eyes or perceive with our senses... it is invisible. But the visible world and especially the person's physical body will manifest the invisible things that lie within the person's soul.

I know that this is true, but it is also something which I do not understand so well myself. I do not think that God made my soul with the intent of explaining this all, but simply in writing a summary introduction to it; there must be another person he made or will make who has that specialized vocation of more greatly explaining this invisible world.

But with regard to the object of this piece, what is important here to understand is that the spirit of the person itself has characteristics. Just like the body has strength, and different people have different strength, so also the spirit has strength, and different spirits have different strengths.

The strength of the physical body only exists because other things allow it to exist. Food, water, sleep, growth, lack of disease, exercise... all these things are necessary in order for a physical body to possess strength. And all these things only exist because God has created them and granted that human beings should be allowed to have them. If God did not give permission for a person to have these things, then that person would not have them. And every person who does not have them does not have them because God gave permission for the person to be deprived of them.

Hence the strength of the body is not quite something that a person completely gives to himself, but it is rather something that God permits the person to have.

The strength of the spirit is the same; it exists because of God's granting of it.

I don't know what the right word to describe this 'strength' is. Simply calling it 'strength' is misleading, because it is not actually 'strength', as we would understand it, because it works a little different than the strength of the body. So if I keep calling it 'strength of the spirit' it is going to be misleading to people about what it is, even though I really don't know another word.

In order to make it less confusing, I am going to take a word from a different language and use that in reference to the thing I am talking about. I will use the Irish Gaelic word 'Tionchar' which means 'strength' but it also can be translated as 'force, impact, influence, effect'. The reason I choose it, is because my grandmother once used a word from Scots Gaelic in reference to something related to this, but I completely forgot the word (it was not Tionchar). I am not sure the correct pronunciation, but I am fairly certain the ch is hard like a k.

So the tionchar of the human spirit refers to its ability to communicate with the higher powers of the universe.

The spirit of the person has no ability to force an angel or God to answer it. Hence to just call it 'strength' is a misleading word, because that would seem to imply like the spirit of the person had the ability to force an answer from the higher powers. The truth is that the spirit has no power at all to cause an answer, but rather the angels or God choose by their own free will whether to answer the soul or not.

However, some souls have a greater ability than others to get an answer to what they ask for. It is almost like their voice is louder and is heard better, or their ears are sharper and they hear better what is being said. They have a stronger ability to communicate with spiritual beings than others. This is what I mean; this is the tionchar.

Speaking generally, men are stronger in this world than women. In their bodies they are physically strong. Men, lacking the sensitivity towards others that women possess, are also able to do so many things that are harder for women because she feels greater emotional pain than him; she gets stopped before he does because of the fear of what others say or think. His brain is also slightly larger than hers. In all these ways, men are stronger than women in this world.

However, there are many exceptions. There are women weightlifters who can lift more than most men, there are female soldiers who are tougher than most men, etc. But generally speaking, the male is stronger in this world than the female, and it is easier for him to dominate her than for her to dominate him.

But, remember that the Creator made them equal. For every gift and blessing He put in one treasure house, He gave one that was equivalent in value in the other.

Hence, just as the male is generally stronger in this world than the female, so conversely does the female generally have a greater ability to communicate with God than the male.

Her ability to communicate and to influence another spirit is stronger than the male. She cannot control any spirit other than her own, but she can influence and communicate with it, to persuade it to do what she asks from it. She can also hear what the spirit says to her better, but the spirit cannot control her,

since God has decreed that free will should always remain intact. But she can hear what it says better than the man, and as a result, she is also more easily influenced than the man by what the spirit has to say.

So, why does the serpent speak to Eve but not to Adam?

It is not because she was inferior to the man, but because she was his superior. It was because the woman hears better than the man what the spiritual being wanted to say.

V: Tionchar

The serpent could tempt either one just the same, but if he wants to speak something to them, or if he wants to communicate a message, the woman will hear it better than the man because her tionchar is greater.

This is really just a generality, however; not an absolute rule. Just as there are many exceptions to the general statement that men are stronger than women in the physical world, so are there many exceptions to the general statement that women have a stronger tionchar than men.

What all religions call prayer, is essentially what this ability is dealing with. Prayer is, very simply, the communication between people and God. It is as St Therese de Lisieux wrote, 'a simple look towards heaven'; a glance at God. It is not per se, the monotonous repetition of words to which the person who speaks them thinks nothing about.

Prayer is about communication with God. It is about having a relationship with God. A person can sometimes communicate much with only a glance, and say nothing at all by reading a sheet that no one listens to.

Prayer is about speaking to God and listening to what God has to say to oneself. Every person possesses the ability to pray; but some people possess a greater ability than others. This is the tionchar.

They can hear what God has to say to them better than others, and what they say to God will also be answered more greatly than others. Women, speaking very generally and not absolutely, possess this stronger than men.

It is for this reason that the so-called 'mystics' of history, who were able to speak to God, or to angels or the holy souls in heaven, were far more often to be women than men. St Teresa of Avila, St Joan of Arc, St Hildegard of Bingen, St Faustina Kowalska, Blessed Anne Katherine Emmerich, St Catherine of Siena, St Bridget of Sweden, St Catherine of Genoa, etc. are examples of this.

When Christ came back to life, the first person to meet and talk to Him was not the apostles who had the authority but it was Mary Magdalene. Whenever the Virgin Mary gave a great apparition in the world, like at Fatima, Lourdes, Akita or Kibeho... almost all the visionaries were women.

God gifted women with a greater charism than men. Therefore it should not be a surprise that the path to holiness of many female saints involved God's exploitation of this particular talent in a deep way.

The one person who had a greater gift of this than anyone else in history was the Mother of God.

The soul of every person has characteristics which are invisible but which are manifested in the physical body of the person. I do not mean only by this, the way a person looks or the way their body is configured... these things are part of it, but I also mean every physical action, word and thing which the person does in this physical world is in some measure a manifestation of the characteristics in the invisible soul.

Every person (whether we are talking about human persons or angelic persons) was made uniquely by God. Each one has characteristics and abilities which are unique to that person.

If you can imagine it like this: suppose you had a very big city filled with many houses. Each house had one person who lived in the house, and who was the master of that house. The houses were all of varying sizes and shapes, with some houses bigger than others and some houses smaller than others. The things inside each house were different, so the interior of every house was unique to that house.

The house represents what position that God uniquely gave to each person, with some positions being bigger than others and some positions being smaller than others. In the same way some houses are bigger and some are smaller. But, every house is different, and so every person is different. And inside of each house, the master of that house is master of everything in the house. Even if someone else from a bigger house came to visit his smaller house, he is still the master of that house and the one from the bigger house is only his guest.

In a similar way does God give talents to people. So, for example, Joseph, the husband of Mary was given the great role of being a husband to Mary and he used his labour to give the material support needed for the Holy Family. Therefore it is said that he is the patron of all workers; so all work and labour everywhere done by anyone – he is the master of all of it. Even Mary, who has a bigger and more glorious house than him, must be subservient to him in the question of work and labour. In the matter of labour, she is a guest in his house and he is the master.

Similarly, perhaps God gave a certain peasant on the coast of Mozambique the role of warning people about the dangers of sharks to people who go swimming, and ultimately serving as a small reminder in this one aspect of creation that the way back to Eden is still not open. His house is considerably smaller than the glory given to Joseph or Mary, and yet it is still something important, it still has glory and meaning to it. And in the question of warning swimmers about the dangers of sharks, he is the master and even the greatest people created are simply guests in his house, who in their humility must accept

his mastery of it. He is a higher authority than they are on that question, even though they are far greater than him; just in the same way a person with a small house is still the master of the house even if guests come to the house from a much larger house to visit him.

Mother Teresa in India said that there were perhaps things she could do that we cannot do, but there are also things that we can do that she cannot do, and together we can do something beautiful for God.

Mary is the greatest person who was ever created. God was not created, and God is greater than Mary, but among all the things created in the entire universe, the soul of Mary is the greatest. She was the master of prayer; all prayer everywhere, done by anyone at any time in any religion, all of it belongs to her and she is the authority of it. One can say she is the patron saint of prayer. Whenever people attempt to communicate with God, they are guests in her house, and she is the master. This is the invisible characteristic in Mary's own soul, and it can be seen in her physical life on Earth.

Tradition says that her parents were named Anne and Joachim, and that they could not produce a child. But they prayed to God, and Anne seemingly miraculously became pregnant. They gave birth to a girl whom they named Mary, and when Mary was three years old they took her to the temple in Jerusalem to consecrate her to God. A tradition says that she then grew up in the temple until she became a teenager when she was betrothed to Joseph.

She had been consecrated to God when she was three. There were no nuns at that time yet, but in a certain way she became like a nun. It is worth pointing out that when she appeared to Lucia de Santos at Fatima in 1917, Lucia said she was dressed in the habit of a Carmelite nun. Her parents probably did not intend for her to be a perpetual virgin when they consecrated her in the temple, but nevertheless at some point Mary herself realized that God wanted her to keep her virginity intact. She was betrothed to Joseph, and she didn't know how it was going to be possible for her to give him children and at the same time to keep herself consecrated like a nun.

Mary had a very deep prayer life. She prayed to God continually and an angel came to tell her the answer to this seeming contradiction of being both a wife and a sort of nun. The Holy Spirit would come upon her and put a child in her womb without the act of sexual intercourse. This child would be the Saviour of the world, and the Son of God Himself.

By becoming the Mother of God, she gave witness to the ultimate form of prayer. She is the master of all prayer everywhere, and her own life gave witness to what the ultimate prayer is.

Prayer is essentially communication between God and His creatures. It can involve talking, whispering, shouting, thinking, or even just a look or a glance. If there is monotonous repetition, but no communication at all occurring because the person repeating the words does not even know why he is saying them, then this is not really prayer. Prayer is communication with God. Monotonous repetition can only be true prayer if the person intends to communicate something to God through the repetition, otherwise it is not really prayer.

Since, prayer is communication with God, what is the ultimate way by which people can communicate with God? There were great people, most of them women, in past ages who were called mystics and who had visions and they were able to speak words to God in visions and dreams, and hear answer to what they said. They had a very high level of communication, but even these visions and dreams were not the highest form of prayer.

When Mary became pregnant with Jesus, and gave birth to Him. She saw God, not as a dream in her imagination or a vision, but as a real physical Person who called her mommy. Through being the Mother of God, she talked to God, saw God, gave milk to God from her breasts, listened to what God said, helped God put on His clothes, held God's hand as they walked around, played games with God, cooked food for God, put God to bed, etc. She spent every single day intimately with God, and thereby came to understand how He thought and behaved better than anyone else.

When monks pray on mountain tops for their whole lives, it is still little in comparison to this. When Muslims bow down five times a day to submit to God, it is still small in comparison with this kind of prayer. St Teresa of Avila levitated in the air when she prayed and could talk to God in a vision, but this kind of prayer was still something small in comparison with what Mary accomplished, because she only talked with God as a vision in her imagination, whereas Mary talked with Him in the flesh.

A contemplative nun is someone who lives a very devout spiritual life contemplating the Son of God and the holy mysteries of His life. Contemplatives may do spiritual readings, very long prayers accompanied by fasting, and long meditations in order to contemplate who God is. Mother Teresa founded her missionary order of nuns in Calcutta as a contemplative order that would contemplate Jesus who lived in the poor. Mary was also a kind of contemplative nun; that is perhaps why she appeared dressed in the habit of the Carmelites to three visionaries at Fatima in October 1917, that is why whenever Mary is mentioned in Luke it says 'she kept these things in her heart'. She was a kind of contemplative nun who meditated on God, not by spiritual reading in a monastery, but by contemplating the God who lived and walked before her eyes and meditating on what He did in His life, 'keeping these things in her heart'.

Mary's motherhood of God, was an extension of her prayer-life. The same God she prayed to when she grew up in the temple, was the same God who she knew as a Mother and by being His Mother she could perceive the thoughts and feelings of God more intimately than anyone else, and could influence Him more deeply than anyone else. Hence, she is the ultimate master of what prayer is, and she possessed the greatest tiorchar of anything else, angel or human, ever created.

She had to be a female in order to fulfill this role. A priest in God's church must be a man because He is serving in place of Jesus who died as a bridegroom for His bride, which must be a masculine role otherwise the meaning of the mystery is lost. Similarly, the female vocation in general is towards people, and God is a person, and God gave to females a better ability to communicate with persons than men, and therefore the person who should acquire the greatest level of communication and influence with God must be a woman.

All prayer everyone belongs to her; and every time any of us pray, we are all guests in her house.



Tionchar is therefore the ability of a person to communicate with God. God does not give this ability equally to everyone. Furthermore, even when God gives this ability to people, the ability still must be trained, exercised and kept healthy, just like the strength of the physical body.

I should also note that even if God does not give this equally to everyone, that doesn't mean that a person who has a greater tionchar than another is therefore a greater or superior soul than the other. It does not mean this, because this is not the only characteristic that the soul possesses. God gives His gifts very wisely to all whom He created; if one person feels that they lack one thing that someone else possesses, they should still know that they also possess something that others do not have. If a person lacks tionchar, God perhaps gave them different gifts. Women generally have stronger tionchar than men, but women are not better than men; women have a better capacity at influencing God in their prayers and hearing what He wants to say to them, but men are stronger than women in this world.

In a certain you could even say that their relationship with God is equal, and their prayers are equal, but one prays through communication and another prays through work. One pleases God by his work in creation, and another pleases God by her words and attention given to him. But in fact no one is completely one way or the other. So the one to whom work is more important, he will also pray and have a spiritual relationship, which will be very important. And to the one to whom prayer is more important, she will also work and do things in this world, which will be very important.

Women have the very important role of raising children in this world, which is equal in value to all the work that men do with everything else. Men who do work in this world, please God through their work, and in this way they are praying with their work, but not with words, and their prayer is just as important as all the prayers that women make with their words and communication.

In heaven they remain different, but equal. They equally can intercede for human beings, but in different ways, according to how God made them.

I must use many things from the visible world in order to try to better explain things which may appear difficult to understand in the invisible world.

If we were to talk about physical strength and use it as a kind of parallel to tionchar, this will work well as a teaching tool.

To every person who has a physical body, God gives physical strength. And on the basis of their genetics and physical development each person will possess a body of different size and shape. The shape and size of the body will determine how strong it is capable of becoming.

For example, a person who possesses the condition of dwarfism (ie. midgets) even if they exercise a lot, will simply never be able to acquire the strength of a 100 kilogram professional wrestler in good health

and fit shape. The body-type which a person acquires from genetics and physical development cannot be changed once it is fully formed, and the body-type will determine the physical potential of the person.

As a parallel, God gives *tionchar* to every person. The characteristics of the soul are already set down as permanent the moment the soul is created, such that the soul is only capable of reaching a particular level of communication with God. Even if people become perfect, completely sinless and live their whole lives as monks in a cave praying all the time in front of the Eucharist which they consume daily... even here, the level of communication they will acquire with God will never reach the same level as the Mother of God. The ability to communicate is not only what one can achieve through practice or learning, but it is also something innate which God gives unequally to each soul.

To each person, God gives a different house and He also gives a particular level of *tionchar*, such that that soul will have x amount of ability to influence Him and y amount of ability to perceive what He speaks to them, and this ability will be greater or lower for each person. And this cannot be changed no matter what; it is permanently part of the person's soul.

However, very often the physical bodies of people are not really so clear-cut in measuring strength. So for example, perhaps through genetics and physical development some people can acquire very strong muscles in their limbs but their jaw muscle is not very strong, or perhaps they can run very fast but not very far, or they can run very far but not very fast, or their natural body arrangement make them good swimmers but not good weight-lifters, etc.

Similarly, the *tionchar* God gives to each person is different, so that they are able to hear what God says with regard to one subject better than another, and they can influence God more so on one matter than another. This can take so many different forms, that it is hard to describe in a piece like this which is meant only to be introductory. But for example a person whom God gave a vocation for government will be capable of receiving more wisdom from Him with regard to the political and social problems of the country than someone whose vocation is for something different, but perhaps he will not be able to perceive what God's will is so clearly on theological questions. A person who God gives the vocation to warn swimmers of the sharks, if he asks God for help with warning people about the sharks, God will perhaps answer this prayer more strongly than he will answer the prayer of someone with greater *tionchar* than him but to whom God did not mean to give this vocation.

But the physical body, once it is fully formed, can be weakened as a result of sickness, tiredness, wounds or old age. Sometimes the body is so weakened by these things that it can result in death.

Similarly, the ability of the person to communicate with God can be weakened as a result of sin. Sin, when it is serious, can even kill the soul, which does not mean that the soul stops existing but that it has fundamentally broken its relationship with God and no longer possesses His grace. When people sin, it is like their souls have a disease. Just like how when the body is diseased, it is weaker, so also when the soul commits sin, it is not able to perceive what God has to say so clearly and it is also less likely to be heard by God in its prayer. And this is just; because the disease of sin is simply the soul's refusal to listen to God and be influenced by God, and hence God justly then chooses to no longer listen to the soul and be influenced by the soul.

If the physical body dies, it needs a miracle to be raised back to life. Similarly if the soul commits major sin, it needs grace from heaven to come back to life again.

Generally the male body is stronger than the female, and conversely the female tiorchar is generally greater than the male. The male generally has a greater potential to be stronger than the female, and the female has the potential to reach a higher level in prayer than the male. But many exceptions exist to this.

Furthermore, the male body is stronger than the female body, but it is not like one is Hercules and one cannot lift a finger. Rather it is just stronger by a moderate amount and not by a huge amount. Similarly, men also possess tiorchar, and have deep prayer lives, but generally it is just less than what women attain.

The world record for the 100 metre dash (February 2014 I am writing this) is 9.63 seconds for a man and 10.62 seconds for a woman. The high jump is 2.39 metres for a man and 2.06 metres for a woman. The 20 kilometre walk is 1 hour, 18 minutes and forty-six seconds for a man, and 1 hour, 25 minutes and two seconds for a woman. The javelin throw is 90.57 metres for a man and 71.53 metres for a woman. Now these women who hold these records do a lot better than 99% of men in the world, but they are still now able to achieve as much as men because their bodies are weaker, and the Creator gave them greater vocations to persons (whether raising children or talking to God) rather than things.

Similarly, the great male saints also had deep prayer lives, comparable to the great female mystics; Moses talked with God on Mount Horeb, David praised God with all his being, Padre Pio could see Jesus, Mary and the saints, Anthony of Padua held the infant Jesus, etc. The male saints were people with great tiorchar and their prayers are powerful in heaven, but because they were male, they had a greater responsibility with regard to doing work with things in creation and such their attention was meant to be focused more on those things than what women were meant to do, and as such the tiorchar given to them was not as great as that given to females.

Similarly, Mary had the greatest tiorchar of all, and she had an intimate relationship with God as her Son. She thereby achieved something closer in her relationship, than any other person created in history. And by her, God would end the world to save humanity, and she had to be woman. But Peter and the apostles would also spend three years in the intimate contact with God, listening to what God said, watching what God did, eating with God, drinking with God, joking with God, following God around, assisting God with things He needed help with, etc. And from them would come priesthood, which would give the sacraments to humanity by which they were saved, and they had to be men. But the three years they spent with Him, was a much shorter time than what Mary saw in the course of His entire life- they had very great tiorchar, greater than most women in history, but it was still less than what Mary had; they never achieved as deep a contact with Him as Mary achieved, because they were male and they had a greater responsibility with doing the work of building the church after He departed from them.

The physical body needs to exercise itself in order to stay strong and avoid weakness. The soul needs to pray constantly in order to avoid sin and to remain in a good relationship with God.

A female ballerina's body is likely to be far stronger than a male who works at a computer every day, doesn't exercise his body and lays on a couch eating buttered popcorn while watching TV when he gets home from work. Similarly, a monk who prays in a secluded monastery many hours every day, will likely be in better communication with God than a girl of the same age who only thinks about clothes, shoes, buying things, being around people she likes and who has no time to think about God. Hence the spiritual health of the person can completely override the relevance of the gender advantage with regard to this subject.

Now, suppose that you wanted to use your body in order to accomplish an objective. Suppose for example that you wanted to kill someone.

The spiritual parallel I will use here is supposing that you wanted to pray in a way that God will answer your prayer.

Now, you do not need any tools at all to kill a person. You could simply push him off a cliff, strangle him, or beat him to death with your limbs.

Similarly, the prayer of any person, even if they have never been trained in any religion and know very little about God... the prayer of this person can still reach God. One does not need weapons to successfully kill a person, just in the same way that one does not need to be schooled in any religion to pray.

But if you kill a person like this, you will probably need either a strong body yourself or for the opponent to be weak, otherwise perhaps you will fail to kill him. Similarly, the person who prays who does not really know much about God can be heard and answered by God, but the chances of success are raised considerably if the person is leading a life in conformity with what they know is right and wrong, and if the thing they ask for is not something different from God's will.

Any person can kill. Even a baby has the physical potential to cover a person's mouth and nose to kill. Similarly, there is no person, no matter how small their tionchar is, who is unable to influence God and receive an answer to their prayer.

But if you want to kill more effectively, then you ought to use weapons. Similarly, if you want your prayers to be more effective, you need to be able to communicate with God better, and for that you need religion to teach you about who God is.

But some things do not work well as weapons. If you try to kill people by throwing stuffed animals at them, you are unlikely to kill. Similarly, many religious beliefs are false and man-made, and praying through the name of false gods or using the practices of false religions, may end with no answer at all to the prayer. People would think that one was a fool if you tried to kill your enemy by throwing pillows at him; it is like this kind of foolishness when the pagans asked for man-made gods, who are an insult to the true God, to intercede for human beings.

Some weapons are better than others. Throwing stones can kill, but firing bullets is more effective. In the course of human history the weapons of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are considerably more effective at killing one's opponent than what was available to people in the Middle Ages. In just the same way, some religions are closer to the truth than others; a person who only knows God from the Quran will not be able to reach the same level of communication with God as someone who knows God from reading His Holy Word. The one who knows God from the Quran or another religion which has the Truth but not all of it, will be able to reach God, to influence Him and be influenced by Him, just like how the medieval weapons are certainly capable of killing. A Muslim who prays to God without sin on his conscience, will certainly be heard by Him; so also will a healthy man who uses a medieval weapon certainly be capable of killing an opponent; and it will be more effective than if they had nothing at all, similarly the Muslim who knows God from the teachings of the Quran will be able to achieve better communication with Him than the pagan who knew nothing at all. But even still, the medieval weapons will never be able to achieve what the 21<sup>st</sup> century weapons can do; they cannot even accomplish what the 16<sup>th</sup> century weapons can do. Similarly, a Muslim, because his religion does not have the whole Truth to teach him about God, cannot come to as full a union with God as someone who learned of God in the true faith of the Holy Catholic Church; he cannot even come to as full a union as can a Christian outside of the church.

Prayer is essentially communication. In order to achieve more perfect communication, one has to be able to know who the Person is that one is speaking to, what language He understands best, what ways of speaking He will give an answer to and what ways of speaking He will not give an answer to, etc. People acquire knowledge of God through the teaching of the religion, and the closer the religion is to the actual Truth, the better they will be capable of understanding God and the more likely they will be to achieve speaking to Him in a way that will receive an answer.

People speak to God through their words and their actions. But they hear God through the teachings of religion. They can also hear God through visions, dreams, feelings, etc. But that is the less important way of hearing what God says. People know far less about what God is speaking to them from dreams, visions and feelings, than what they know from what He actually openly revealed in written texts, in the lives and teachings of prophets and saints, in the teaching of His church, and in the teaching of His Son incarnate on Earth. So, in order to speak to God, one uses one's words and actions; in order to hear what God says, religion is needed for at least 99% of it. And if one does not listen to what God is saying, one cannot really speak to God either, because in a conversation you need two ways; hence the spiritual life becomes more powerful, when it is equipped with religion that teaches the Truth, just as murder is easier with weapons than with none.

Greater tionchar is not needed in order to understand what He is saying better- the greatest theologians were men with big brains and logical minds- , but greater tionchar is necessary to use these things in a better way to have deep conversation and communication with God.

God the Son even gave a promise to people that anyone who speaks a prayer in His name will be answered. He said that even if someone has faith as small as a mustard seed, that if they ask for a mountain to be lifted up and go into the sea, it would obey him.

A prayer in Jesus' name has the potential to accomplish anything. There is nothing too great which He cannot give, so long as it is not wrong to give it. Even if a person has very little faith, even if the person's spiritual level is very low... even this person can accomplish anything through a prayer in Jesus' name.

To make a comparison, even if a nation is very small or very weak with all of its conventional forces, had few soldiers, weak war industry, etc - if it just possessed a large arsenal of nuclear weapons, it could still defeat any country in the world. Such is the same with those who have faith in the Son of God; even if their tionchar is the smallest of anything that God created, through the name of Jesus, there is nothing which they cannot attain from prayer so long as what they ask for is good and they are not in sin.

There are too many people who have faith in the Son of God, and who still think that there are things which are too big for them to achieve in prayer. Maybe they think they can ask God to give them comfort or peace, but they can't believe that through praying they can overcome some massive problem in their life that they have never been able to solve. Such people, ultimately do not really believe in what Jesus said when He spoke 'whatever you ask for in my name, will be given to you'.

If I were to take the person with the smallest tionchar, with only a tiny bit of faith and many many doubts, and this person prayed without ceasing, asking the Son of God to make him a saint or something else for which I can write here is an absolute certainty that God wishes to give him... so long as he did not give up and he kept doing so for so long without stopping, it is a certainty that even this person's prayer would be granted to him eventually. It is actually easier to move a mountain into the sea than it is to become perfect; it is less a feat to conquer an entire empire than it is to conquer oneself.

Of all the things that God created, the human being is the greatest; the whole universe was created for the human being, that is why the narrative of creation has six days and man is made on the sixth; it is not because the actual event took six days, but it is trying to tell you that the entire thing was made for human beings, who are the pinnacle of all creation.

Of all the things to ask for in prayer, the conversion of the heart of the human being is the one thing which is the most difficult to achieve. It is easier to ask God for an end to war by military defeat than it is to ask for an end to war by the conversion of the hearts of people to stop hating each other; it is easier to ask for someone's physical health than it is to ask for the conversion of the person's heart; it is easier to ask for an end to abortion through a scarcity of doctors than it is to ask for an end to abortion by people actually changing their sinfulness; it is easier to ask for missionaries to be successful in getting

people to believe in Jesus while retaining their old way of life than it is to ask for missionaries to be successful in getting any of those people to repent of their past sinfulness and eventually get to heaven. Asking for the human person to be converted to God, is the one thing which requires the most strength to accomplish in prayer. If there even exist a person, to whom God would approve for this person to rise from the dead, then you could ask God for this person to rise from the dead, and even this would be an easier thing to grant than to ask for a person in mortal sin to reach true repentance. All of those other things which people ask for are much easier to attain in prayer, but for the conversion of the human heart, God Himself had to become flesh and give His life as a ransom for it.

And yet relying on the name of the Son of God, even the person with the weakest faith can still achieve this, and if they can achieve that thing, which is indeed the most difficult thing of all than can be accomplished through prayer... then in fact there is nothing in this universe which cannot also be achieved through prayer, so long as what is being asked for is something in agreement with God's will.

To try to explain something here a little better, I want to create two categories. One category includes all the things that are in conformity with God's will and the other category includes all the things that are not in conformity with His will.

It is easier to ask for a person to rise from the dead than it is to ask for a person in mortal sin to reach real repentance. I emphasize 'real' here, because a lot of what we call repentance is not 'real' repentance; 'real' repentance means that the person has changed and will not do the sin again, it doesn't mean that they think they will not do it again, and then just go back to it again a week, a month, or a year later. Such a person has not really become freed from the sin, and has not reached real repentance; they will go to hell even if the priest absolves them.

However, if you pray for the conversion of sinners and you pray for people to come back from the dead, you will more likely find results from praying for the conversion of sinners than for people to come back from the dead. The reason for this is not because the conversion is easier than the resurrection; in fact it is not. But rather it is because the conversion is in agreement with God's will, whereas the resurrection of the body, even though it be an easier thing to accomplish in prayer than the resurrection of the soul, is very often not God's will to grant. Such a thing is in the second category.

All things in the first category, can be achieved if enough people, possessing enough tiorchar, spend enough time and use the name of Jesus to ask for... all such things can be achieved through prayer. Even just one person with very little tiorchar, who doesn't give up, can achieve anything in the first category no matter how great it is. But if people do not ask for it, even if it is in the first category, perhaps God will not give it, because it was not asked for.

Even the person with the least tiorchar can acquire anything at all in the first category, no matter how big it may be. But they will not achieve results as fast as they do through a greater number of people (so long as they are praying without sin), possessing a greater degree of tiorchar with regard to the subject being asked for, praying with them. It is for this reason that Mary asked people to pray with her in the

rosary, because she possessed such massive tionchar, and like a strong Mother helping a weak infant, she was willing to add what she possessed to the intercessions that we made so that our prayers would be more influential with God. She does this, because she loves us and she knows that the greatest good for her children can be achieved through her children learning to pray.

All things in the second category, can never be achieved no matter who asks for it, how much tionchar they possess, how much time they spend and how many ways they ask the Son of God to intercede for them. Even if Mary herself, the one who possessed the greatest tionchar of all creatures, were to beg her Son with all her will for it... it still would not be granted if it is in the second category.

But very often, we don't know when what we pray is in the first or the second category. God understands this perfectly, and He is so kind that when we ask for something in the second category without realizing it, God still answers the prayer by just giving something different in response.

For example suppose people want the cancer of an old woman to recede, and so they beg God for it. But they don't realize that while for some other people with cancer this request is in the first category, the cancer of this particular old woman is in the second category because the date for her death has been fixed and it was ordained that this must be the way she should go. But they pray so much for this woman, and she still dies. God, however, doesn't take all the prayers and just throw them out in the dustbin, but He listens to them all, and then makes a response which still rewards the faith of those who prayed. Perhaps, for example, He will take the prayers to save some other woman whose cure was in the first category. Perhaps He will, unbeknownst to the people who prayed, arrange it so that the cancers they were going to get later in life which were also in the first category, in the end do not happen to them; and they may go through their whole lives without cancer, completely failing to realize what would have happened if they hadn't prayed at that one time. Or perhaps He will give them a stronger faith, or some spiritual benefit. He could do many things even if what was asked for was in the second category.

If people pray and God doesn't grant it, that doesn't prove God doesn't answer prayers, but it only proves that God is a person and not a soda machine. For a machine, you can press whichever button, and get what you ask for, and the machine has no choice but to obey. If the machine does not give you what you press, you can say the machine does not work, but you cannot say so for a person. God is not like this machine; sometimes we ask for things that He wills to give to us, and sometimes we ask for things that He does not will to give to us. All that is in the first category, He opens Himself to our influence, and will grant it once we make a sufficiently adequate prayer for it, and all that is in the second category, He is not open to our influence on, but He will still listen to any prayers for it and grant something different.



God chooses to be influenced by human beings. God chooses for His own joy and suffering to be based on human beings. God is made happy by the love of human beings, and God is made sad by their lack of love.

If we were unable to make God happy or sad, then we would have no way of either loving Him or sinning against Him. If thanking God, does not make Him the least bit happier than He is already, then what is the point of thanking Him? If sinning against God, does not make Him the least bit sadder, then sin is not really offending God and it is not really sin.

If there existed a person who you could neither make happy nor sad, and no matter what good thing you gave to the person, you could not make the person the least bit happier, and no matter what bad thing you did to the person, you could not make the person the least bit sadder, then in Truth there is absolutely no way you can either sin against this person or love this person. That is the reality also with God.

God chose for His happiness to be based on us. If He did not do so, we would be unable to love Him or sin against Him.

A person whose happiness was completely independent of other people... this person could never really have a real relationship with another person.

It is amazing that some people pride themselves in thinking that they are stronger or tougher than others, because they lack sensitivity, and they perhaps think that because they are so thick-skinned that no insult or hatred from others bothers them. To them they think this makes them better than others. They fail to realize that sensitivity is not inferiority, but it is a necessity; if a person has no sensitivity, then that person cannot be loved. God chose to be extremely sensitive to every single word, thought and action of every human being in history, and He was able to choose not to, but God is not weak. True strength is not really a lack of sensitivity, but it is the ability to hold on even with sensitivity. The strongest kind of person is not one who doesn't care about what others think or say, but it is the one who is extremely sensitive to what others think or say, and yet who still goes forward regardless.

Human thinking is so frail, so foolish, so completely devoid of true wisdom. The thoughts of all the people who are considered wise in the world are like grass to God. If someone cries in front of others, lacks a thick skin or is sensitive to what others say or do, that is not really inferiority, but that just means they are like God.

There is no word, thought or action of any person of any place of any time, to which God is not very sensitive too. Thus, we must guard our lips, our thoughts and our actions at all times, lest we should hurt Him.

Why did God choose to become like this? For of course, He could have chosen to be different. But He chose to be like this because if He was not like this then we would have no way of loving Him. If there existed a person who you could neither hurt nor harm, then you could never love this person; this person's existence would have nothing to do with you.

Similarly, if God was not sensitive to us, then His existence would have nothing to do with us. He loved us so much, that He wanted to have a relationship with us, and the only way to enter into a true relationship with someone is by becoming sensitive to what they say, think or do.

With regard to prayer, this is important to understand because what we say to God is capable of influencing Him. He is not some big energy force who gives us what we ask for, but He is a person, who has feelings, emotions, who desires our love and desires to give us His love. He lets Himself be sensitive to us, such that when we make sufficient prayer for anything in the first category, He will grant it, no matter how big the mountain may be. He lets Himself be sensitive to us, such that everything that we ask for which is in the second category, even if He cannot grant it, He feels that He must still give us a response of some kind.

Great tiorchar is not measured by how many hours the person prays, but by how deeply they are able to communicate with God. God made Himself sensitive to the prayers of human beings, as well as to the prayers of his angels. A person with great tiorchar is able to influence God more with her prayers than someone with small tiorchar, but even someone with small tiorchar is still heard by God, for every word he says and can accomplish anything if he does not give up on it.

Note that this does not necessarily mean that God is more sensitive to a person with greater tiorchar, because God is also sensitive to everything else the person says, does and thinks outside of prayer. To a person with great tiorchar, God is sensitive especially to her prayers, to a person with great ability to change the physical world but who has little tiorchar, God is sensitive especially to his actions. He takes great joy and sadness by the development of her spiritual life, just as he takes great joy and sadness by the development of his actions in the world.

It's not that God pays more attention to one than the other, it is rather that He pays attention to different parts of them in different measures, because He created them differently. To one who has great tiorchar, she can accomplish great things in her prayers, while to one who has a great ability to affect the physical world, he can accomplish great things with his strength. They are also complementary, for the actions of the one who has power over the physical world first needs the blessing and power of God, which is achieved through prayer, while the one who has tiorchar needs those whom God created to be masters of the physical world in order to accomplish what she prays for.

In a certain sense you could say that God is equally sensitive to every person. To Him, the love of every person is the same in greatness. But, He made each person differently. He gives to each person different things, and if each person gives back to Him what He first gave to them, then He is happy; how big or how small the thing He gave them is not what's important in His eyes. If He gave one person two apples and He gave another five, and the first person gave back to God two apples, and the second gave back to Him only three, He would actually be more happy with the first than with the second. What matters to Him is not the amount, but simply the love that was behind it. If the one gave back two and the other gave back five, He would be equally pleased with both of them.

Similarly, if God gave to one person great tiorchar, such that every prayer she made had a deep influence on God, and to another person he gave little tiorchar, but simply gave this man the talent to warn people about sharks when going swimming. If the person with the great tiorchar gave all her time and energy to praying for the souls who needed prayers and used some of her energy for other smaller tasks, and the man used all his strength and love to fulfill his office and warn people about being attacked by sharks while also having a prayer life, which while nowhere near as great as the first person, would still be deep and touch the divine... to such a situation, God would be equally pleased by both of them; He would not see one of them as greater than the other. He would be equally influenced by both of them; the love of one would not be greater in His eyes than the love of the other, because He is equally sensitive to both.

In this sense, one could say that there is no soul that is greater or lesser than another, but it is simply that people are masters of different things. However, it is those who have greater tiorchar who have the greater capacity to influence God through prayer. The person who was given the role of warning about the sharks will have more difficulty in convincing God to save his son's soul from alcohol, then will the person with great tiorchar; if he prayed long enough and hard enough, it would be granted to him, but she would not need to pray as long and as hard to get the same result.

We call people lesser or greater, simply because the role of one will be needed more frequently, more deeply and more widely than another. Mary is the master of all prayer, and because all people in the world need to pray frequently, we all need to become guests in her house and she will serve many. The man on the beach to whom God gave mastery of warning people about sharks, will be needed by people at times, and so people will become guests in his house and he will serve them, but their need to stay in his house is not as great as their need to stay in Mary's house, hence he will serve them less than her. But, in God's eyes, they are equal, because even if the man should only have one guest in his house to serve, that guest will be God, and as long as he does his service with all his heart, his love will be equal to that of Mary's in God's eyes and he will be equally pleased with that one man as he is with the greatest of his saints.

## VI: The Origins of Shamanism

Eve was deceived by the serpent. The serpent told her that if she ate of the fruit that she would possess great wisdom. Eve's love for God was not enough, and hence she knew that God had commanded not to eat of it, but she preferred to acquire wisdom for herself than to do as God asked. If the temptation had never come, however, her love would still not be enough... but she would perhaps just never know it, because she had not seen the effects of it being tested.

Her husband did not believe what the serpent said, and in fact the serpent did not speak to him but spoke to Eve. This is probably because her tiorchar was greater than his since she was female, and she could hear what the spirit wished to communicate better than her husband. Hence the serpent spoke to her.

Just as physical strength can become both a curse and a blessing, because people can use it to do good which benefits one's soul, or to do evil, which destroys one's soul, so also tithing can become both a curse and a blessing, because it increases one's ability to communicate with God, and yet it also increases one's ability to communicate with the evil spirits.

Her husband ate the fruit, but he did not believe it would give wisdom. He perhaps ate it because he did not want to upset his wife, and like his wife, he also fundamentally did not love God enough, such that he perhaps cared more about what she felt than how God felt. So, the two of them sinned together.

They of course acquired no wisdom at all from eating the fruit. The wisdom would only come from their redemption later on. Instead they lost much from eating the fruit.

Before they ate the fruit, for everything they needed, they only needed to just ask God for it in prayer and it was granted to them; their every need and desire was taken care of. But suddenly this changed. Now they had to suffer hunger, thirst, too hot, too cold, boring, tiring, unfulfilled desire, etc.

And if they asked God to not suffer these things anymore, the answer was 'no, because you sinned against me. I am so extremely sensitive to every action, thought and word you have in this world, and you hurt me badly when you showed me that you really didn't love me more than your own selves. You knew that this would hurt my feelings, but you did it anyways. You made me suffer, and if you do this without suffering yourselves, where is the justice? If someone else wounded you unjustly and that person should forever go unpunished, would you not think it terrible? You must suffer now because of your sin, or else there is no justice!'

So they had to suffer because of their sin.

The devil was pleased by this, but he wanted more.

The devil said to God, 'Look at what they did with their sin! Look at how little they loved you! All I had to do was offer them something that you hadn't given them yet, and they abandoned you in order to try to get it!'

God said to the devil, 'Some day they will also become part of Me. For I shall send My Son into the world, and He will become flesh, in order so humans can become God. Their desire to become like me, is a good desire, which I planted in them myself, but which I cannot fulfill until later.'

The devil said to God, 'Does not your Word say 'the Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and He will not leave the guilty unpunished'. You must punish them now! They do not deserve to live! They do not deserve to be happy! They do not deserve to know you any longer!'

God said to the devil, 'What you say is true. My word cannot be broken. I have no choice but to deprive them of the good things you mention, lest the guilty should be left unpunished. If someone worthy were

to come and pay the debt they owe, then they could be left unpunished. But otherwise, I have no choice but to deprive them of these blessings.'

According to modern genetic studies, the most recent common male ancestor of the whole human race would have lived about 300,000 years ago. What this means is that the Y-chromosome of every male in the world today, has a common meeting point in evolutionary history which is calculated to have taken about that many years to have gotten to the present situation. There is no one in the world living today, that is at least known about, who has a Y-chromosome that would have had to have a common ancestor with everyone else at an earlier point than that.

Whether or not that was Adam, we do now know because it is possible that there was another common male ancestor of the human race living today that came after Adam, but because all human beings living today descend from Adam, it is a necessity that Adam could not have been later than that.

If that is true, it would have some very profound meanings to the human race. This is because there are other branches of the human family that existed in the period after that time. Neanderthals (*Homo Neanderthalis*), were a bit shorter, had thicker limbs, a larger nose, a bigger body and had bigger brains than modern humans, and they lived up until 24,000 years ago. Genetically they are thought to have split from a common ancestor from modern humans perhaps around 350,000 years ago. And they lived in Europe, while the species that would become modern humans lived in Africa.

These were not the same species as the humans who live today, and yet if Adam was at least 300,000 years ago and perhaps earlier, it is possible that they also are his descendants and possessed eternal souls made in the image of God.

They were able to subdue the Earth. The Neanderthals, who lived in Europe before modern humans arrived, built houses made of animal bones or mammoth tusks, they cooked their own food and they buried their dead.

And yet they were not the same species as us. We have the same ancestry as they do if you go back far enough, but it was a different branch of human evolution. However, perhaps they also were capable of knowing God and praying to Him. Their souls perhaps went to heaven and hell. The Neanderthals buried their dead, which suggests the possibility of some belief in the afterlife and a belief in the afterlife suggests the possibility that they were capable of knowing God; hence perhaps they also descended from Adam and were made in God's image.

Below are some images of attempts to reconstruct what Neanderthals may have looked like on the basis of their skulls and bones.





Just as God made male and female different, and gave them different roles. Perhaps He also created these different species of human because He intended them to have different roles in His creation.

But they ceased to exist. It is not known for sure why they ceased to exist. Perhaps they interbred with our branch of human evolution, and ceased to exist. Maybe they went hungry and starved to death as a result of natural disasters or climate changes. Maybe when Homo Sapiens came to Europe and met them, they were not too friendly with one another, and the Homo Sapiens killed them off; perhaps later European legends of trolls has their origins here. We don't know why, but their extinction does coincide with the same time period as the entrance of modern humans to Europe, suggesting that this may have been an important cause.

It is a certainty that even in the time when people were 'cavemen' the effects of original sin were already there, and people lacked the grace of God such that they were prone to do evil.



Our species of human (Homo Sapiens) began in Africa about 170,000 years ago. If Adam was 300,000 years ago or even earlier than that, then it should be noted that he would have been a different species than modern humans today. The Neanderthals were already in Europe by the time Homo Sapiens began to exist. Because all humans today belong to this species and their ancestry is in Africa, it is almost certain that Adam must also have been African; and despite almost all historical art depictions of him and his wife as white, he was therefore almost certainly a black man, although he would probably not have looked like any human that lived today.

Homo Sapiens lived in Africa for thousands of years, and about 80,000 years ago, some Homo Sapiens left Africa and entered the Middle East, probably by crossing the short straits of water that separates Yemen from Africa. From the Middle East, they spread out and travelled into Asia. About 60,000 years ago, they had reached Australia. About 50,000 years ago they were in Europe. By about 35,000 years ago they had reached Japan and also crossed the water between Russia and Alaska, and entered into North America. The Neanderthals had all died by about 28,000 years ago, leaving our species as the lone dominant human. 15,000 years ago they had reached South America and that was the last place to be populated by humans.

About 10,000 years ago is when civilization began and people began to construct the first cities.

Today we know almost nothing about what those ancient people knew about God. They had art painted on caves, and yet we don't know what the art meant to them. We know that they created objects with tools, and that they even had figurines, including carved images of people, and yet we don't know what these objects meant to them. It is possible these were idols or had religious significance.

This statue (two views of the same statue are below) was made almost 40,000 years ago and found in modern Germany:

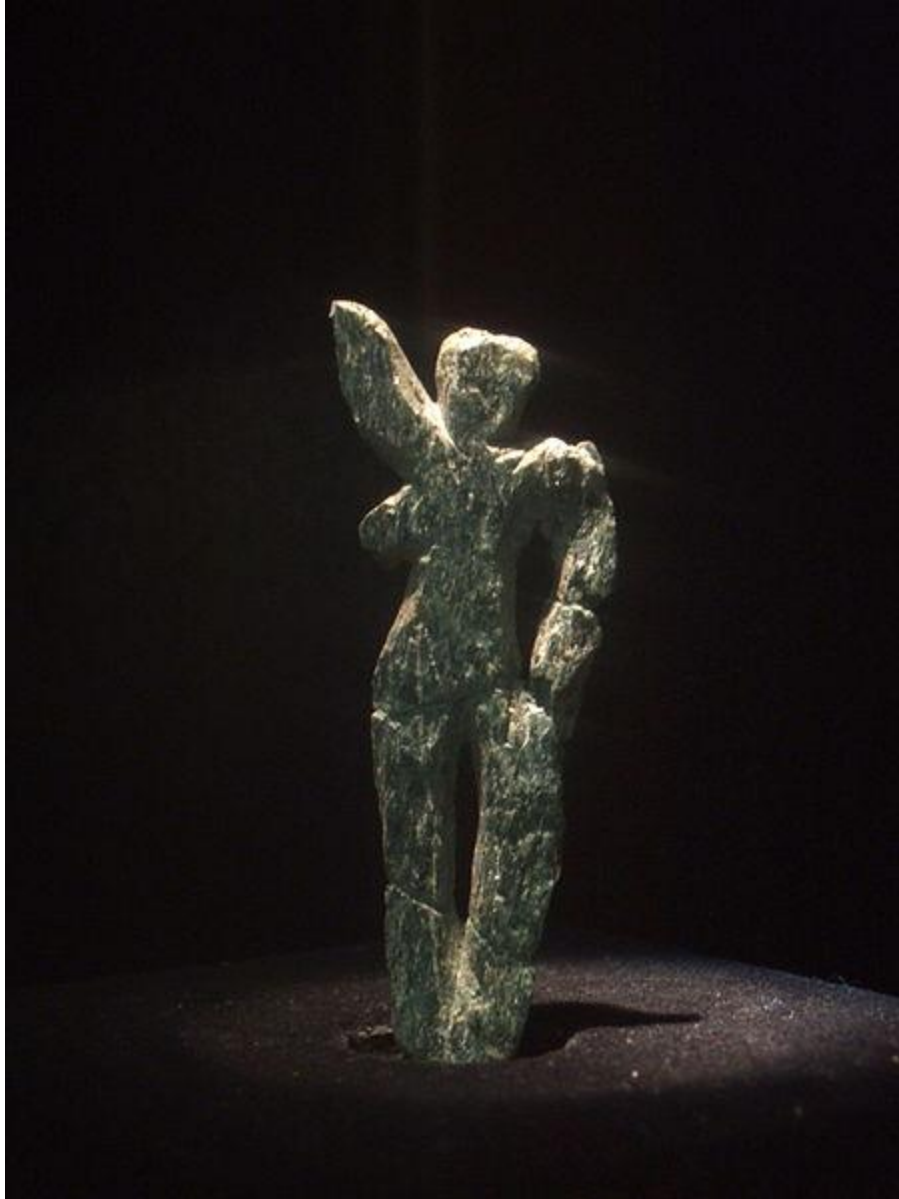


This statue was made 32,000 years ago and found in modern Germany:





This was carved 30,000 years ago and found in modern Austria.

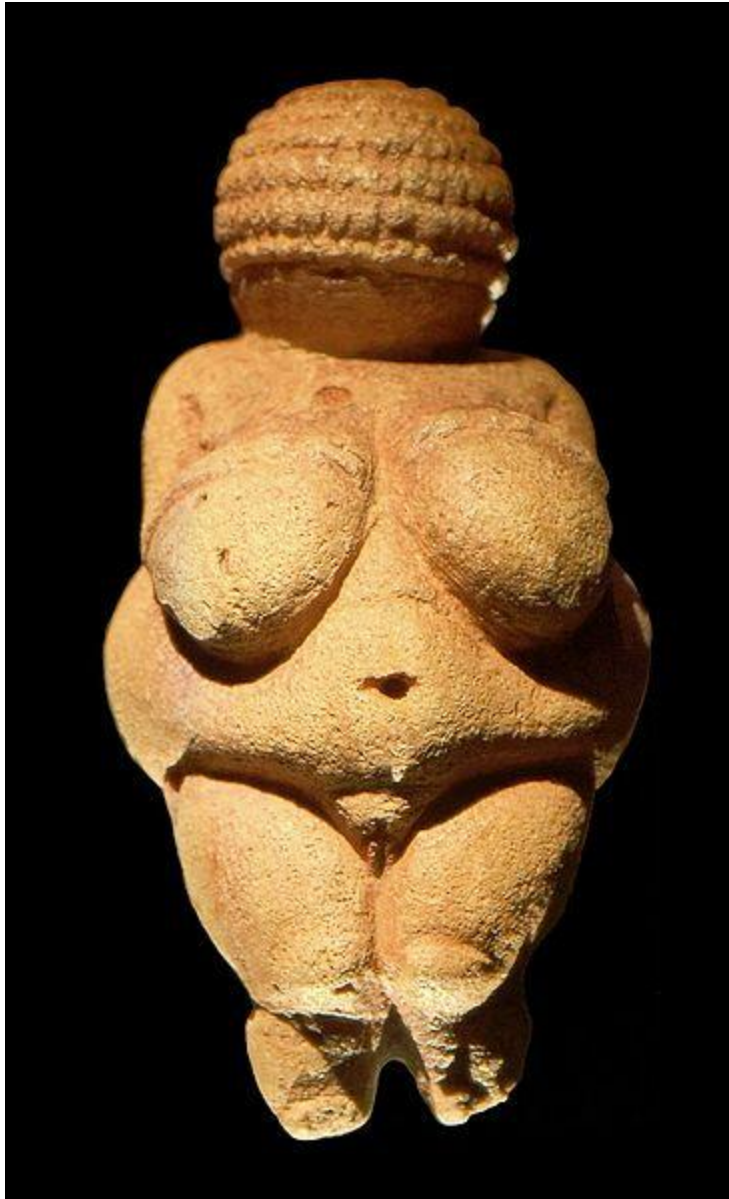


This one is from 29,000 years ago and found in modern Czech Republic:



*(Petr Novák, Wikipedia)*

This limestone statue was carved 28,000 years ago and found in modern Germany.



(photo Matthias Kabel)

This carving is from the Pyrenees (France-Spain) from 26,000 years ago

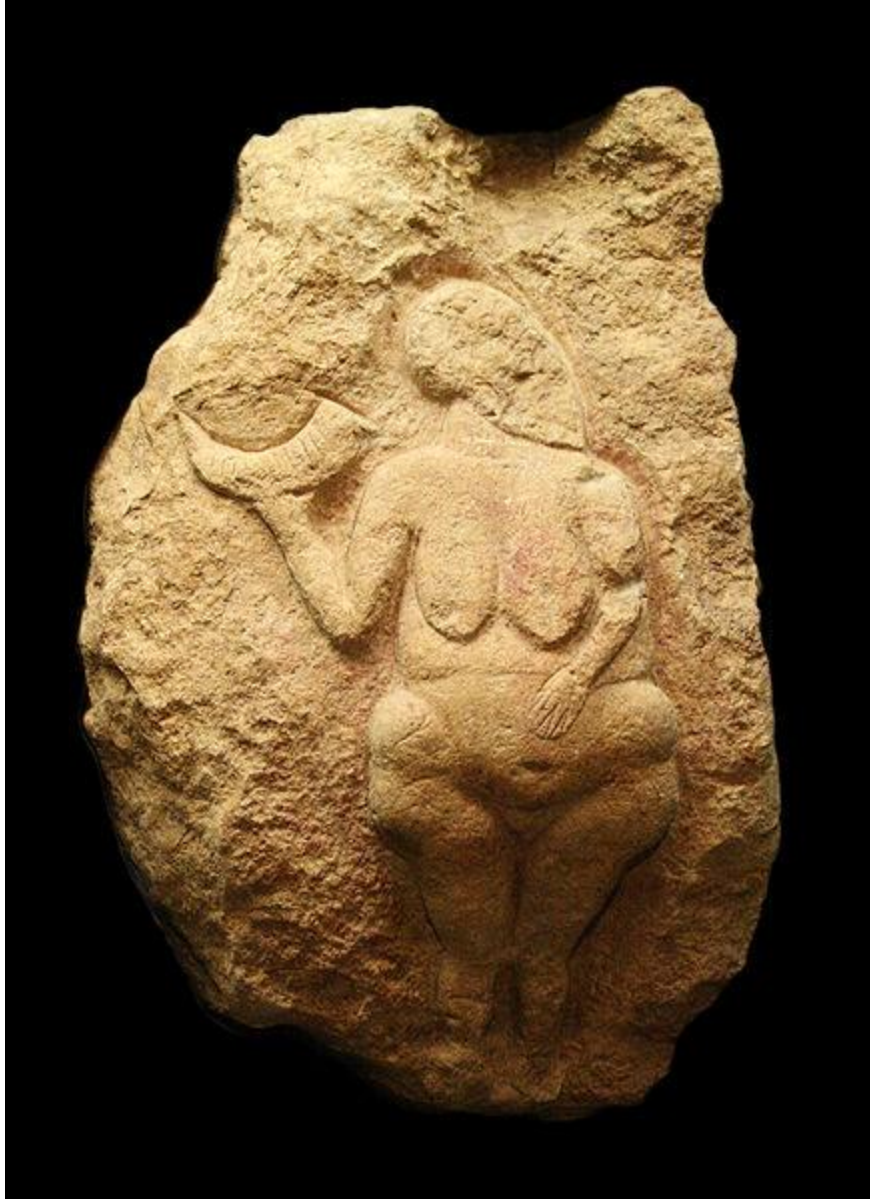


From France about 25,000 years ago:



Also from France about 25,000 years ago:





This one is from Slovakia from about 23,000 years ago:



**(Martin Hlauka (Pescan))**

This painting on a cave in France, was made 20,000 years ago:





Another piece of art from the same cave:



[\(Peter80\)](#)

We will perhaps never know what the story being told in the above picture is.

There was no civilization in the world yet, and yet these were clearly 'thinking people'. There were no cities, no towns... all the people who lived in the world lived in caves or dwellings of their own making,

and they lived on killing animals, and foraging for food. And yet these were clearly people; they were not animals. They were made in the image of God and were the children of Adam.

If you look at the figures above, we are left with the question of what these things may have meant. The one above from 32,000 years ago is interesting because it has a lion's head on a human body. And what is perhaps even more interesting is if you look at many of the figures of the breasted images, you might notice that they seem to be similar to each other. Why is that?

The way the breasts are arranged, with the fat body and the lack of a head or the lack of a face, is common to many of them. It doesn't seem coincidental that they would have such commonalities and retain them over thousands of years. One theory exists that says that these things perhaps were idols.

Here is one way we can imagine the origins of paganism to look like. Adam and Eve knew who God was perfectly in the beginning, and they told what they knew about God to their children. But their children only knew God because of what their mother and father told them. They could pray to God, but God did not reveal Himself to them in the same way that Adam and Eve had experienced before they committed the sin; God did not reveal Himself to them, because they did not deserve for Him to reveal Himself to them. And like their parents they were sinners. Adam's son Cain, was worse than his parents, and he committed murder. Hence they did not deserve for God to show Himself to them.

If they avoided sin and did what they knew was right, then God would reveal Himself to them and they would pray to Him and see an answer to their prayer, but if they did not do so, then He hid Himself from them and even if they prayed, they received no answer. Human beings became very corrupt.

All temptation comes about because we have a desire that only God can fulfill, but which God does not fulfill at the present moment, and thus we look around at the temporary things around us as though they are the answer to quench our thirst; in a similar way, a man who is starving and cannot find food, will eat garbage because there is nothing else.

Hundreds of thousands of years ago, the people living then were already under original sin and were selfish. Even in the days of the cavemen, the devil and the mystery of evil was already at work. The devil had been permitted by God to test if human beings really loved God or not.

Perhaps they lived together in caves, but the men fought with each other over quarrels, perhaps they raped the women who had no choice but to stay with the men or else they would be unable to eat the food the men would bring them, perhaps when they saw people who were different from them, they refused to befriend them because of fear. Perhaps different bands of humans would group together and fight small wars with each other over hunting territory and maybe they hated their enemies. They probably masturbated. Perhaps they were polygamous or engaged in homosexuality when they had such desires. Perhaps they engaged in paedophilia in the caves. Perhaps our ancestors came to Europe and saw the Neanderthals, and they banded together in groups of fifties or hundreds and armed themselves to kill them in a kind of genocide, and thus whatever the Neanderthals could have given to

the later world was lost because of sin. Even if their parents had any knowledge of God that had been transmitted from Adam and Eve, this knowledge seemed of no help to them, because if they prayed to God, God would not answer them, because they were sinners.

By their own reason they knew that these things were wrong. If would not like it if someone killed them, if someone raped them, if someone did evil to them, if other people did evil things they would think it wrong; and hence if they opened their eyes, they could then see that they were doing evil themselves. But they didn't open their eyes, because original sin had made us such that it is easier to believe what we want to believe than it is to believe the truth, and people want to believe they are good because that is a comfortable thing to believe and do not want to believe the Truth that they are sinners, because that is not a comfortable thing to believe. And the devil tempted them to do evil and deceived them, and they were willing to be deceived. In fact, they deserved to be deceived. God did not help them avoid being deceived because they did not deserve His help; no one had yet sacrificed anything for them that could merit such help.

But in the midst of all this, the tionchar of human beings remains intact. They have an ability to communicate with the divine and to communicate with spirits. But God does not look on the prayers of someone in sin who does not ask for forgiveness. To explain this, think of the concept of beauty.

Beautiful pictures can cause emotional reactions in people. Music can cause emotions to be induced in people. The music and the picture cannot control the person who sees or hears it, but it influences the person even without the person deciding to be influenced by it. A beautiful woman can get people to love her because she is beautiful, but she has no control over them actually, it is just the fact that they are programmed to see something that looks like her as beautiful. Tionchar is similar to this; in the spiritual world, it is like people have different beauties and that whoever looks at and listens to them will be influenced by what they see depending on how great or small this beauty is.

The soul also has a beauty, which cannot be seen with the eyes, but which is plainly visible to God and the spirits; the greater tionchar a person has the more beautiful the soul will appear to them. But if the soul has sin it will look like the person has been mutilated or has rashes or boils or possessing some kind deformity. To God, He hates to see this, and does not like to gaze on it and listen to its prayers; but the devil loves to see this because he hates their souls and wants them to become so ugly because he cannot accept them being more beautiful than him, and so it makes him feel better.

Therefore, even though they possessed tionchar, and had natural ability within the spiritual world, it perhaps seemed useless to them if they called on the name of the God of Adam and Eve. They perhaps didn't even realize the reason why He wasn't answering anything they said.

But, they still needed to believe that there was some power over the Created world that would listen to them, that would take their souls when they died, and which would be able to take care of their safety, security and future. It is not easy to be a complete atheist who believes in no power at all over Creation, because in order to do so you have to accept that there is nothing protecting you from all the dangers of

Creation; that means there is nothing protecting you from the animals that could kill you, nothing that prevents you from tripping some day and bashing your head against a rock that kills you, nothing that protects you from the other humans or from the Neanderthals living nearby, nothing that can promise you that you will have food in the next year, nothing that can make sure that the woman who lives you will give you the child you want, nothing that can promise you life after your death... if you believe there is no power at all at work controlling these things, then you will perhaps be filled with anxiety. People have a need to believe in gods, because they need to believe that they have some way of controlling the natural world and it is not all decided by chance.

But if they prayed to the true God, He didn't listen to them. Their beauty was gone, and they had become monsters, and hence God had no desire to gaze upon it. They could pray all they liked, and He gave no answer, and perhaps they completely failed to realize the reason He gave no answer was because of the evil that they were doing that they had decided to deceive themselves into believing was good.

God sent them no angel, no prophet, no messenger to explain these things to them and get them to change... because they didn't deserve such. He would only do so for the people of Israel in much later history for the sake of their forefather Abraham, but if Abraham had not offered a sacrifice of his own son to God, God would have simply let his descendants be deceived without giving them a wake-up call to change. And God would only give a wake-up call to the entire pagan world after His own Son had been sacrificed for them. He did not do it for them before that point, because they didn't deserve it and no one had paid a price to earn such help, and if God gave such help to them anyways without anyone paying the price, then there would be no justice.

The apostles and the church could only gain permission to preach to the world once Jesus had been sacrificed. It is only because Jesus has given up a sacrifice that the mission of the church is able to be accomplished. God preserved the Jews faith in Him, for the sake of their ancestor Abraham, and if it was not for him, God would just let them deceive themselves to oblivion as He did for the pagans. Similarly, God gives and preserves faith in Him among gentile nations now, for the sake of Jesus who was sacrificed for them, and it was not for His sacrifice, God would just let them continue in their pagan delusions without knowledge of the Truth. If it was not for the sake of Jesus, He would never have sent the apostles and missionaries to give them a wake-up call.

Prior to His sacrifice, however, almost all the world was in the grips and delusions of paganism. Even though failing to give them such a wake-up call meant they would seemly continue in sin indefinitely without ever waking up, and that their sins would cause them so much grief and evil... God would not wake them up, because they didn't deserve it, no one had paid a price for them yet, and the devil stood as their accuser reminding God that if He were to help them get their beauty back without such a price being paid, then His Word would be untrue.

The people were capable of waking themselves up, because the law of God was written on their own heart. If they recognized the evil that they did, and changed their ways, God would have answered them and revealed Himself to them. But they failed to do so, because they did not love the Truth.

Therefore in those days of the cavemen, because they needed to believe in a power that controlled the world but the real God gave them no answer, and they didn't know why, their desire for such a power became a weakness that left them open to temptation.

The greater tionchar a person has, the more acutely they are capable of communicating with the spiritual world. Not only are they capable of communicating with God better but they are also capable of communicating with the angels and the demons better, and with the souls of the dead better. This communication can take place in many different ways; through feelings, through thoughts, through dream, through visions, through the observance of things in the natural world, etc.

If the devil wanted to say something to them, the person with the most tionchar would hear the message from the devil most acutely and so the devil went to this person. The devil influenced this type of person and made him or her aware of the presence of a spirit who wanted to communicate. The devil then communicated with them; not necessarily with words (although he could have done so), but perhaps with feelings, thoughts, dreams, observance of signs in the natural world, etc. and they were influenced by the devil to believe that he was capable of providing them with the answer they were looking for.

What was the answer they needed? They lived in a harsh world, with much suffering and pain. They had much uncertainty, but if they prayed to the God of Adam and Eve, there never was an answer, and they didn't understand why. They didn't deserve to be told why, because if they really loved the Truth, then they would have figured it out themselves.

They needed a God who would listen to their prayers, who would protect them, who would guarantee their safety, guarantee their food supply, guarantee their ability to produce an offspring, etc. In short, they needed to believe that they could control the things they couldn't control with their own strength, and the existence of a God could provide the answer to that.

They needed a god to exist. It is very hard to be a complete atheist and yet live in turmoil at the same time. So they imagined gods to exist. They probably looked towards the nature around them, the big mountains, the lightning of the sky, the brightness of the Sun, the Moon, the stars, and all the amazing things in creation, and in ignorance they thought that perhaps these things were gods. The devil saw this and taking advantage of the gods they imagined in these things, he would deceive them.

The devil said, 'here I am. I am your God! I am the power you prayed to in that lives in that volcano and I will protect you. Pray to me and I will help you with all these things. Do not look any longer for the reason why the God of Adam and Eve does not answer you! For goodness sake, stop trying to find Him as though He could help you! for I am the true God and I can answer all your prayers.'

Although perhaps he did not say these verbal words, the meaning he communicated with them was essentially this. And those with greater tionchar were able to communicate with him, and serve as intercessors between him and the people. This is the origin of shamanism.

If the people needed something that their god could provide for them, then they went to the shaman and the shaman would perhaps do some kind of ceremony or special rite, or perhaps they would sacrifice something, or do some kind of magic spell, and this would then bring the power of their god to help them.

All supernatural power that didn't come from God in all of history, whether it be done through the acts of wizards, witches, necromancers, shamans, pagan priests, psychics, clairvoyants, etc; all likewise works in this same way.

The person who practices magic has no power at all. The psychic has no ability read anyone's mind. The necromancer has no power to bring back the spirit of the dead person to talk to. The witch has no ability to curse anyone. The human who seems to wield this power, however, in truth only possesses the tionchar that God gave to them, and it is the demon who wields the power because God has permitted the demon to wield it, and the demon wields it in such a way in order to make it look like the power comes from whatever the stupid human thinks it comes from, in order to keep humans deceived and not looking for the real Truth that answers the test in this life.

## VII: Pagan Religions

When did people start doing this?

We really don't know, because there is no record. But if Adam existed before 300,000 years ago, and all of his descendants after him suffered temptation, it is very easy to believe that it didn't take long for them to turn to the devil in place of the true God.

Being able to know the Truth as it is- is a great blessing. Psalm 119 tells us that God's Word is sweeter than honey, that it is such a great blessing to receive God's teachings, and the psalmist begs God to teach him His statutes and laws. To know the Truth about God and about reality is a very great gift from God. It is a greater gift, in fact, than many other blessings and gifts that can come. It is a greater blessing to know the Truth than it is to be rich in money, it is a greater blessing to know the Truth than it is to have a beautiful spouse, or successful children; it is even a greater blessing than possessing good health or even life itself. But if we sin, then we do not deserve to know the Truth anymore.

The devil is permitted to deceive people, because they are sinful, and they deserve to be deceived. If people should continue knowing the Truth after they sinned against God, then there would be no justice; it is because we are sinners that we are punished with deception that keeps us unaware of who God really is, what He is like, what His purpose is... we don't deserve to know those things.

If the sin that began in Adam meant that human beings should all deserve to die eventually, how much less is to say that this sin also meant that we did not deserve to know the Truth?

If we do know those things now, it is only because a price was paid for us that cleared the debt we owed.

And yet, before that price was paid, people were completely capable of finding the true God by their own natural reason. God kept Himself hidden, because if He made it easy for us to know Him, it would be the same as if He made it easy for us to love Him... it would not really be love.

He keeps Himself hidden and silently says to humanity: 'I will wait hide myself and see who really loves me or not. Those who really love me are going to keep looking for me after I am gone from their sight, and those who do not love me will forget about me once they no longer see me.'

God is like a very sensitive girl who tells her friends she is going away when she isn't actually going anywhere, but she says this because she wants to test to see if they will really feel bad or miss her. And the very sensitive girl is like that, because she was made in God's image and her own character is telling others something about the One who created her.

And God was very hurt, however, because almost everyone went away. No one really cared about Him, and they didn't look for Him.

What was the devil able to do for them?

The devil could go to God and ask God for everything that they were asking the devil to give to them. Everything that the devil does in the world, he must first pray and ask God's permission for it. Why does God grant it?

Allow me to give you an example of what this perhaps may have looked like:

Suppose that in Central Africa 50,000 years ago there was a group of humans who lived in a band and they slept in a cave on the side of a mountain. Perhaps they were related to each other, and had a clan of about thirty members. An old female member of the clan claimed to be able to speak to a spirit who gave her dreams and guidance about the tribe. This woman was a shaman. One day another group of humans moved into their territory and the clan in the cave on the mountainside became aware of their presence and feared them. They could have gone to make peace with them, share gifts with them or at least treated them with tolerance. But they were afraid that perhaps they would be dangerous, and worried about their safety. So they asked their shaman to turn to their god for an answer.

The devil wanted them to sin, because he wanted to hurt them. The most beautiful thing a person can possess is to love other people, and the devil envied human beings and did not want human beings to

possess this thing that he had lost. The devil then gave the shaman an answer to her prayer. The shaman, dreamt at night of seeing a monster enter their cave, killing them and it was very terrifying. She woke up and interpreted the dream as a sign from their god that these newcomers were very dangerous and said that they must go and kill them in order not to be killed first.

So they prepared their weapons: very crude tools, heavy sticks, hand-held stones. And they got ready to sneak up on the new group to murder them. But they worried about losing the fight... they needed a God who could promise them safety, for they didn't have the courage to go and fight if they could not be assured of victory. And so they asked the Shaman to use her powers to get the god to help them. The Shaman casts a spell to do so.

The devil said to God, 'They are now asking me that they can kill the enemy band from the other part of the forest. Can I be given the power to give this to them?'

God said to the devil, 'But if I let you do this, then they will think you really are a god and they will worship you as such, and they will be very greatly deceived.'

The devil said to God, 'Yes, of course. But do you see how little they love you? You hide yourself from them and they forget about you, and could not care even a little bit about looking for you. Does that not hurt your feelings? Does that not give you pain? Therefore, do they not deserve to be punished? If you were to answer their prayer and give them what they asked for, then it would be unjust, for they did not deserve to know you and be in the midst of such sin at the same time. But if I use this method to deceive them, and keep them living in the filth and sin that they live in presently, then they will get what they deserve! Even if they kill the bodies of their enemies, they will kill their own souls by doing so, and become monsters. And they deserve to be monsters, do they not? The greatest gift you give to a person is to be a good person; they have hurt you so many times, do they not deserve for me to use this method to deprive them of that blessing?'

God said to the devil, 'This is all true. They deserve to be deceived and to suffer the things you say. But what about the other band, will it be just for me to give you the power to let them be killed by your followers?'

The devil said to God, 'Do you see what the other band does? They are also such sinners and do things that offend you. They beat their women, they have sex with their siblings, their leader even murdered his father because of a temper tantrum, and the rest of them all said nothing about this. What do you think, do they not also deserve to die?'

God said to the devil, 'Your accusations are all true. I cannot be blind to it. If they had repented of their sins and turned away from evil, then you would have no power to either deceive the one band in this manner or to have the other one killed off. But I see that they are sinful and deserve no such protection. All of them are in your power, I am sick of them, you may do what you like with them.

And so they go to find the other group of humans. The devil arranges it so that they meet them right while they are very tired and hungry, and do not have the strength to fight, and so they kill them all;



throwing their enemy to the ground, taking their stones and bashing their heads until they die. The person who suffered the greatest harm in this, however, was not the person to die such a cruel death, because they only lost their life... the person who suffered the greatest harm in this, was the person who committed murder and lost his very soul. And the devil wanted him to suffer such harm, because he hated him deeply.

They achieved victory and returned to their cave. Their enemies were destroyed. A monster would enter their cave upon returning, just as the shaman saw in her dream; but it was not their enemy, it was their own selves, and that which the monster had killed were their own souls.

They had done something very evil. They thought that what they did was right, because they worried about the other humans coming to attack them first. But, if the situation had been reversed, they would not think it right. If they went to some other place, where they had not been before and where other humans lived, and the other humans saw them and decided to kill them because of their intrusion... they would have thought that this was a very evil thing; that the other humans would be such monsters for killing them like that. Hence they knew the law of God, because it was written on their own hearts, but they simply failed to open their eyes to it.

The whole world fell into this pattern. The only exception was the line that ended in Abraham; that family alone, among all the people of the Earth would preserve knowledge of the true God and keep themselves clean of the sins that filled the rest of the world.

People used the tiorchar that God gave to them to communicate with the devil rather than with God, and yet they didn't realize who God was and that the spirit they were communicating with was actually created by someone else. The spirit lied to them, and deceived them. He also hated the shamans who spoke to him so much, that he taught them to become selfish, to become liars, to present themselves as though they had powers that they didn't, and to use their authority to do evil, and bring people closer to hell. He would really get answers to the prayers and magic that they practiced, but at the same time, he would not always answer their prayers and magic, because God did not always permit him; the shaman would need to give an explanation for this, and so she would lie, or say that there was some other god preventing them, or that their god first needed the sacrifice of something, or any other explanation like that. And some of these explanations were very illogical, and yet people still followed them, because they didn't really love the Truth enough to open their eyes and try to discover who God really was.

This is also the origin of witchcraft. A witch is the same as those shamans in prehistory; she is merely a person with enough tiorchar to be in communication with the spiritual world, and has power to influence the beings who are spiritual persons. She perhaps doesn't even know that they are persons, but maybe thinks it is like an energy force, like a special power, etc. But in truth, it is a person, who deeply hates her and wants to use her to make mischief.

All of these people were 'cavemen', and they populated the world for most of the history of the children of Adam. If Adam was more than 300,000 years ago, and civilization only started 10,000 years ago, then

our present time is the exception, rather than the norm of what human experience in this world has been like. I imagine that the names of the people mentioned in Genesis, are the names of real people, but whose ages and exact descent are probably not as mentioned in Genesis, but the list of those names is meant to point out to the reader that the knowledge of God was still preserved generation to generation through one lineage among all the people of the world that eventually ended with Abraham.

Genesis is a kind of mythology, but it is a mythology inspired by the Spirit of God. The stories in it are not historically accurate in the sense of dates, places, details, etc. But they are explaining something about the origins of the human race and the world.

The six days of creation are not there to tell you that the world was made in six days, but rather the world was created for the human beings who are created last and given charge of it. The story of Cain and Abel is perhaps a reference to the murder engaged in by these early peoples; maybe even if Abel represented the Neanderthals, who are killed off by their older brothers that come out of Africa (the Homo Sapiens) that represent Cain. The flood of Noah perhaps refers to the many cataclysmic events that greatly threatened the existence of human beings in this world, like the Ice ages, climate changes, volcanic eruptions, droughts, natural disasters, etc. through which God perhaps punished the people who were engaging in all these sins, and preserved the very few who followed the law written on their own heart. The reason it is called a flood is not because the Spirit of God doesn't know what actually happened, but because He is trying to tie the meaning of these historical catastrophes together with baptism, through which the sins of a person's life are washed away. When it says 'in this time people began to call upon the name of the Lord' it perhaps refers to the evolution of the brain and the evolution of speech, such that religious concepts and words that capture them had evolved over time, but were not originally in existence during the time of Adam. The Nephilim or 'giants' who lived in the Earth in that time, mentioned in Genesis 6, perhaps refers to the giant animals that filled the world at the time.

About 50,000 years ago Homo Sapiens came to Europe. They displaced the Neanderthals, who had all died out by 28,000 years ago. During this time they made artifacts like the ones you see above, and which we do not know what they are. But perhaps those artifacts had something to do with their religion. The grotesque female statues are perhaps a big clue, because they seem similar to each other. When you have artifacts that come down to you after thousands of years, it is usually a reasonable assumption to think that these were not the only ones that existed, but rather are the only ones that survive and were found. There maybe could have been thousands and thousands of statues like that 25,000 years ago, but only those few you see above survived and were found in the present.

What if they were trying to make a statue of their god? What if the shamans died, and people worshipped them as gods afterwards? Such that you have these fat women that were fed abundantly by the people they deceived, depicted in statues and worshipped as gods? This is just imaginative speculation; we don't really know. Civilization had not started yet.

About 10,000 years ago was the beginning of civilization. Up to that time, most people in the world survived by living off of hunting, foraging or fishing. But about 10,000 years ago, some places in the world discovered that you could plant your own food and grow it; you didn't need to worry about finding it, because you could get seeds and grow your own food. They discovered how to do agriculture, and once they knew, then they could build large settlements containing many people who lived in one place, and who ate the food that they grew; they didn't need to move around anymore.

The first place to have civilization was in the Middle East. Afterwards, it would later begin in other places like India, China, Mexico, etc.

There is something unexplained in this, however. Because the places that developed agriculture were on different sides of the world from each other.

One might answer this question by claiming that agriculture was invented in one place and then spread to other places, just like how when you have a new invention, it gets created in one place and then spreads to others. But that was probably not the case here, because if it started in the Middle East, then how did it get to Mexico or South America? There were no ships that travelled the oceans at the time, and people of different parts of the world were completely isolated from each other. Many people suspect that agriculture in China also developed independently of the Middle East. If it was a coincidence that they developed at the same time, then this seems very strange. If it was a coincidence, then why did it never happen anywhere in the tens of thousands of years prior? How could it be that for the thirty thousand years people were in North America, that they only developed agriculture at around the same time as people in China, India and Middle East were doing so within the last 10,000 years, and yet be completely isolated from them?

It is possible that there is a natural explanation that explains this perfectly. It is also possible that the answer to this riddle is not found in natural explanations.

As people built the first cities, their communities grew larger. The shamanism of the past became an institutionalized priesthood. The gods they worshipped (who was really just the devil and the demons in disguise) were given temples, idols were crafted to depict them, they offered sacrifices to these gods and developed mythologies about them that tried to explain the origins of everything in the world.

They called on their gods to give them blessings just like they had before; victory in war, security of the dynasty, economic prosperity, etc. And just like before, the devil was permitted to deceive them because they were sinners and deserved to be deceived. They did not deserve to know the Truth and be saved.

But if they simply turned away from the evil and loved the Truth, they could have been freed from this deception and come to see the true God.

And the devil found that almost everyone loved something else more than they loved the Truth. If someone could see that the idol or the myths told about these gods were illogical, ridiculous or immoral,

and instead tried to find what the Truth was, the devil was given permission to put many obstacles in his way so that the only way he could find the Truth again was by loving it more than anything else. And almost everyone failed this test.

The priests of a country would pray to their god, and the devil would answer them in dreams, oracles, auguries, etc. and give them instructions. By this way he would arrange it so that the rulers of the country would require their subjects to worship these idols under penalty of death or other harsh punishment; hence Socrates drank the hemlock and became like a martyr for a God he did not know because he ultimately loved Truth more than his own life.

The devil would tempt the people who were learned and understood things about the natural world. He would tempt them with worldly power, wealth and respect to become the priests of these false gods and convince people of lesser intellect into following them. They would perhaps know what days that solar eclipses took place over Babylon, when and by how much the Nile River would rise and fall, the movement of the stars, the preservation of dead bodies, etc. And they knew these things because of their great learning, but they would turn to their people and claim that they possessed this knowledge because the gods had given it to them, and the people were impressed with what they saw and worshipped things that they ought to have known by their own reason were not really gods.

But if anyone spoke up and said that such things were ridiculous, people would laugh at them, because how could you not see that these things are gods? Did you not see the high priest predict the eclipse to the very day? Did you not see how much power they got from worshipping these gods? And people who loved their own reputations and places in society more than the Truth also went along and worshipped these things.

The devil was instrumental in all of this. He tempted them to give up the search for Truth in favour of belief in his deceptions. It seemed easier for people to believe that these gods were real, because these gods seemed to answer their prayers, because the whole society followed them, because there were consequences if you didn't follow them, and because they didn't know who the True God was. They didn't realize He was hidden from them because they were sinners and did not deserve to know Him. They didn't realize that being deceived by these things was part of His punishment for them.

The devil would get God's permission to answer their prayers, to make it seem like their magic achieved results, to make it seem to them like failing to continue sacrifices brought disaster to their country, to give them dreams and visions, and to even give them miracles. And thus he confused them, and kept them away from the Truth that would save their souls.

And so they worshipped all these false gods which were just puppets for the devil and all the other evil spirits, and these spirits did this because they deeply hated human beings and wanted them to fail the same test that they underwent at the beginning of time.

## VII: The Consequences of Institutionalized Witchcraft

Witchcraft, as you can see, originated by the incorrect use of the human tionchar. Instead of human beings using this ability to direct it to God, instead they directed it towards other things. The devil liked this, and he asked God for permission to tempt them to continue doing this, and God gave the devil this permission. Such that the devil became like a hidden intermediary between the one who practiced witchcraft and God; he was the intercessor before God's throne to ask for what the witch thought she was achieving by her own power.

The entire world had fallen into paganism, and they were honouring demons as gods, because they needed gods and the true God would not reveal Himself to them, because they were sinful and did not deserve to know the Truth.

When Abraham lived, he was willing to sacrifice his son to God, and for this God blessed him and his descendants after him, so that they would be His people and He would be their God. Even if the Jews went away from the Truth and were deceived to follow pagan gods, God would not abandon them as He had abandoned the rest of the peoples of the world, because He had made a promise to Abraham to look after His descendants. Hence, when they went away from the Truth, God instead sent them prophets, signs and other means to wake them up, and get at least a remnant of them back on the right track again. If it had not been for the sake of Abraham, however, then God would have just let them go and worship false gods, and be without the Truth just as He had allowed for all other peoples of the world.

Sometimes people might wonder, was it really a curse to be a follower of pagan gods? Were the people who followed the false gods really worse off than those who knew the real God?

The answer to this question is a most definite yes, because if you lack knowledge of the True God and are deceived to follow false gods, you make it much easier for yourself to lose your own morals and become a bad person, and eventually go to hell.

But upon saying this, people will still wonder: why would people being deceived by false gods mean that their souls were also going to be lost? Couldn't one believe in these things, and still be a good person who could pass the test that God gave in this life?

I will use this chapter to explain the answer to this question as best I can.

Firstly, it needs to be understood that because of the effects of original sin, we have a tendency to prefer evil over good. It is easier for people to be lazy than it is to work hard. It is easier to believe it is someone else's fault than it is your own fault. It is easier to receive than it is to give. Our thinking is always prone to selfishness and pride. Even when we do something that is good, the good act turns into pride very easily when we use this to think of ourselves as better than others.

Every human being is like this in every country in the world and in every time in history. The people of Middle Ages were like this, the people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are like this, and the cavemen who lived a hundred thousand years ago were like this. The people of China are like this, the people of India are like this, the people of Africa are like this, the people of the West are like this, etc. There is no one who is excepted.

If we fight against our own desires and circumcise our own hearts, then we can be with God. But if we fail to do so, then we do not deserve to know God, and God's punishment is allowing the devil to deceive people to make them follow stupid things. Hence this is why God told Abraham to keep a covenant of circumcision; because the circumcision was meant to symbolize the cutting off of your own desires of your selfish heart in order to follow God- and it was because all the people of the world gave in to the desires of their selfish hearts that they fell into sin, did not have their prayers answered and ultimately fell away from God. Therefore, when God chose Abraham to be the father of those on Earth who would believe in One God, He told him to keep this sign, because it was the failure of keeping what this sign meant which had led the whole world into paganism.

So, for the question of: 'why should following false gods mean that you become bad?' the first thing to understand therefore is that people were following these gods and failing to find the True God because they were bad. It was not simply that the paganism was a cause to their sin, but it was also the consequence of their sins.

The second thing to understand in answering this question is that false gods were made by the human imagination. It is true that the devil and the demons intervened, and made it appear to the humans like these false gods were real; however, these gods were not invented by the devil, but they were invented by human beings and the devil took advantage of them to trick the human beings into believing the creations of their own stupidity.

If human beings believed Ra was a god, the devil could give a dream to the priest where he saw Ra speak to them. If human beings believed burning money would help their dead ancestors buy food, then the devil could arrange they got diseases or bad luck if someone died and they failed to burn the money. If human beings believed that casting a spell would curse a person, then the devil could arrange for that person to have something bad happen to them. The devil involved himself like this, but it was ultimately human beings who imagined these things to be real, and the devil, happy to see them acting so stupidly, tried hard to make sure they didn't wake up from the deception.

Because these things were produced from the human imagination, and because the human heart was underneath the consequences of Adam's sin, which caused it to prefer evil over good, therefore the things that human beings imagined to be gods were also affected in the same way. That is to say, people invented their own gods, but the manner they invented them conformed to the sinful desires of their own heart; so for example, if people liked to commit adultery, then they imagined the gods also

committed adultery. If people were greedy, then they imagined that the gods also were greedy. If people did something evil, then they simply imagined that the gods also did this thing.

What is most important to understand about this is that if the gods did these things, then that meant that these things were not really wrong.

Now do you see where the really big danger lay in all of this was? Why the devil tried so hard to make sure people followed them and didn't search for the real answers?

If people commit adultery, then they go to hell. If they commit murder, then they go to hell. If they abort their baby, they go to hell. If they masturbate, they go to hell. If they intoxicate themselves and engage in licentiousness, then they go to hell. If people practice witchcraft and they believe they can curse their enemies, even if achieves nothing, they go to hell because it was their will to do something evil. Of course if they repent of these things, they can be saved. But they go to hell without repentance, because by doing any of these things, they... who are something beautiful, and made in God's image... become monsters, and lose the one thing that matters the most in this life. The devil cannot stand to see them pass a test that he failed, and so he tries very hard to trick them into eating this poison by telling them that it is delicious.

So if people invent gods and they create mythologies about their gods, and they imagine their gods to be just like them, to even participate in the same evil that they commit, then there is a very great danger to society in this.

If people believed in the real God, and that He would punish them with hell for doing these things, then they would be frightened such that they would take it more seriously to avoid doing these things. But if they did not believe in God, and did not believe anyone was going to punish them for doing these things, then why they should be afraid of avoiding such sins? In fact if they believed that the gods did these sins themselves and were pleased by such sins, then should not one think that doing these evil things would actually earn a reward?

In the ancient Roman Empire, they would perform theatre plays which illustrated many of the different crimes of the gods, including all the sexual sins. They would glorify these gods, and people were influenced by it. If the gods did these things, then many people will think that surely human beings could also do them too.

To honour some of these gods they would have celebrations which could be very licentious and sinful. They would get drunk on wine, have sexual relations, and do other things of like nature in honour of the gods they believed in. The roman gladiatorial games were actually officially held as a means of pleasing the gods who were believed to desire this kind of blood-shedding, and not, as many people assume, merely as a form of public entertainment.

When the culture is like this, then it becomes easy for people to think that the gods do not mind if human beings commit sin; because after all if the gods themselves do evil, and they even enjoy being worshipped in such a way that it involves the committing of evil, then why would you think they would punish you for committing any of these sins?

If this is what your culture and society teaches you, then it becomes very easy to do any of these evil things and fail the test of this life. Hence, you see the reason why the devil interceded for them to make sure the magic worked in achieving results, to make sure the pagan sacrifices worked in achieving results... in short to make sure that people didn't discontinue believing in the deception, open their eyes and get saved

If these gods were all like saints and they asked people to do charitable works to their neighbour as a way of worship, then the devil would not have as much interest in maintaining the deception. But these gods were the exact opposite; and public morality would suffer the results.

St Augustine of Hippo said that the Romans of his time watched pornographic theatre shows which were only just depictions of myths about the gods, and that people watched them so much that they became addicted to them; perhaps a bit like internet pornography addiction today. St Augustine said that when the Visigoths sacked Rome in 410, there were people in Rome who fled for their lives and came to North Africa as refugees, then after arriving they continued watching the same pornographic shows as before; St Augustine said he did not know if posterity would believe him when he wrote it.

All pagan religions are like this. All private witchcraft is like this too. The things which they believe in will either permit people to do evil so they go to hell, or these things will fail to teach them to do the good they must do in order to get to heaven.

In order to pass the test of this life, you must rid yourself of all of your sins and be filled with love. Any religion (even a religion that teaches about God, that teaches about Jesus) that teaches something different from this is a human religion and it is very dangerous, because if people live according to its teaching, they will fail to get to heaven.

#### VIII: Limits to the power of evil

The devil is permitted by God to do many things and to exhibit many powers in order to trick people into believing in these deceptions. However, God has placed an important limit on this power, which is that: the devil may never exhibit a greater act of power than what is exhibited by God's own servants living in the same time period.



The devil is permitted to do miracles, but he cannot do miracles that are equal to or greater than what God's own servants do. Why would that be?

It is not hard to understand the answer to that question. Because God uses the exhibition of power, signs and miracles in order to convince people to believe in Him. Jesus healed people in order to convince people that He was God. If the devil could do these same signs, then what would be the point in God giving these signs to people?

Perhaps, I can use an example to illustrate. I prove my identity in order to enter a country by showing my passport; but if my passport had no photo in it, and anyone could duplicate my passport very easily, then what would be the point in using a passport anymore? The entire purpose of the passport was to prove that you are you, but if anyone can duplicate it so easily and there was no photograph, then the passport would not really prove this at all. You might as well just enter a country with nothing at all, if that were the case.

Hence, if the devil were capable of doing the same signs that God could do, then there would be no point in God using those signs anymore, because these signs would not really prove to anyone that it was God and not some evil power that was behind them.

If Satan was permitted to do as great miracles as God did, then what would even be the point of God doing any miracle? For the reason why God gives these miracles is to bring people to believe! Jesus did not heal the lepers, because He was trying to be a doctor to the body, but because He wanted people to have faith that He really was God. But if people who practiced witchcraft could heal leprosy, then there would be no point in Jesus healing the leper to prove who He was, because He would be doing nothing that a witch couldn't also do.

If the devil could also raise someone from the dead, then what would Jesus' resurrection prove?

Furthermore if God allowed this, then the temptation would be too great. It would be too difficult to believe that God was really God, if this other power or energy that the witchcraft believed in (which was just the devil in disguise) was performing greater acts of wonder than what people who called on God's name could do.

For example, when Elijah and the prophets of Ba'al met on Mount Carmel, the prophets of Ba'al shouted and cut themselves with swords to get Ba'al to send down fire to burn the offering. But the devil could not do that, because God did not permit him. If God did permit him, then the devil would send down fire and the prophets would say that Ba'al had answered their prayers, and that he truly was god, and Elijah would be extremely embarrassed. And who would believe what Elijah said?

So, therefore, God will allow the devil to exhibit many signs in order to get the world to believe in the religions they invent themselves, but He will never permit these signs to be equal to or greater than the signs exhibited by the servants of God.

A great example of this is seen in Egypt, especially in relation to the story of Moses.

In ancient Egypt, magic was institutionalized. It was treated as just another branch of knowledge, like architecture, writing, agriculture, etc. Magic was studied and taught by a group of men who formed the priesthood of the Egyptian gods, and they kept this knowledge very secret, such that outsiders were not allowed to know the secrets.

They had many rituals, liturgies, curses, magic spells, etc. And these things were considered as important in order to control the natural world. In order for their kingdom to be successful, the magic of the priests was seen as very important... and perhaps it was important. Perhaps all the great wonders of the Egyptian civilization were achieved because the devil was answering all these prayers, and trying to keep them deceived.

By 'signs', I do not mean simply miracles that defy the natural laws, but also all the things which are attributed to the work of the magic. If people used magic in ancient Egypt as an institutionalized part of their society, and they achieved great wonders in their society as a result of it (architectural wonders, scientific wonders, medicinal wonders etc.) then these are also 'signs' that the devil uses.

However, along with these signs, the priests of Egypt really could do things that were supernatural.

In the story of Moses, Moses comes back to Egypt after 40 years of exile to speak to Pharaoh. When Moses came to Egypt and told people that there was another God who required for His people to be allowed to worship Him, the Egyptians did not take this seriously, because they believed that their own gods were so powerful and that they had very great magic, greater than anywhere else in the world.

Moses gave them a sign by having his brother Aaron throw down his staff and it becomes a snake. Pharaoh then summons his wise men and magicians to throw down their staffs, and they do and each one of the staffs becomes a snake. But Aaron's snake eats their snakes.

Even the devil can perform a miracle like this, because God allows him to, such that he really can change the staff into a snake, but the devil's miracle is not permitted to equal or exceed God's miracle. Therefore, Aaron's snake eats their snakes, in order to demonstrate that God's power exceeds the power of their own gods.

Moses then performed signs in Egypt which were greater than any other sign the Egyptians had ever seen in all the history of the worship of their own gods. Never has any witch, shaman or magician anywhere in the world turned all the water of a country into blood, or covered the entire land with frogs or locusts, or made the sky dark and the sun no longer visible. In comparison with all the great monuments and wonders that they had made in their civilization, which they perhaps attributed to the gods (the devil's) help, these things were small in comparison with the power exhibited by Moses.

Pharaoh's magicians tried to perform signs as well to show to Pharaoh and the Egyptians that they also had power, but their signs were so small in comparison with what Moses did. God does not allow the

devil to perform signs as great as this, otherwise it would be like the passport problem; what would be the point doing these signs then, if they didn't prove anything to people about who made them?

Just as science follows laws, there are also certain laws that can be hypothesized to operate in witchcraft and within the spiritual world. The things achieved by people who engage in witchcraft cannot equal or exceed that which is achievable through prayer.

Sometimes, however, people perhaps may practice witchcraft and find that they get things through it which they cannot seem to get through prayer. Perhaps they want to get beauty, a spouse, money, power, etc. and if they pray to God for these things, He doesn't answer them, but if they engage in witchcraft, perhaps they get them. This may indeed happen, but is not because witchcraft is more powerful, nor is the above principle being broken. But rather what is happening is that people are perhaps asking God for something which is in the second category (the things which it is not His will to give) and God will only answer their prayers with something different, and the different things He offers will still exceed that which is attainable in witchcraft.

For example suppose someone prays for their company to be successful, but God perhaps has no interest in increasing the revenue of the company because this is in the second category, but instead He answers the prayer and makes the company more successful by getting coworkers to love each other more and serve society better. This is actually a more impressive feat than increasing the money in your pocket, because the human being is something greater than money, and altering the human being is therefore a greater act of power than altering the amount of money. However, perhaps the person prays to God for this, and they find no result, and then they go to witchcraft and they find the revenue increasing.

The devil is able to get this for them, because he hates them and wants to encourage them to lose their souls. This is one of the great dangers of witchcraft, because if someone goes to God, God is a loving parent who will never give you something which is bad or harmful to you, but if you go to the evil spirits, they will give candy to children every time the children ask for it until their teeth fall out and they get diabetes, because they hate them so much.

We ought to have no desire for anything which is in the second category, because if God does not will it, then it must not be good for us and therefore even if we seem to think it is good for us, we only think this because we do not see the whole picture. In a similar way a small child perhaps does not understand the reasons behind all the rules given by his parents.

Things in the second category can be achieved through witchcraft, and in such cases it sometimes will appear as though witchcraft is stronger, but it will only be an appearance and not a reality.

Because the things that are achieved through witchcraft can never exceed what prayer to God can do, we ought to be skeptical of many of the more amazing stories of what people have done through this

kind of power. Stories about people who travelled through time or space, who could summon supernatural creatures to assist them, who could control people's minds, who could rise from the dead, etc. are therefore probably fictitious, exaggerated or at the very least based on something which is not actually supernatural.

For example, today we know that the ancient Egyptians used naturally occurring ingredients in order to preserve corpses and make them into mummies. But perhaps at that time, the common people maybe thought that the priests (who were in charge of this process) possessed some kind of power to make sure the body would not decay. Hence, it may have therefore appeared to them like the priests had more power than they did, but actually it was just knowledge of the natural world.

The Chinese Emperors used very good astronomy to predict when the next solar eclipse would occur, and perhaps the people thought this was because he was the 'son of heaven'.

Another example, is that in Haiti, there is an old tradition that states that voodoo sorcerers can bring a corpse back to life and make it into a zombie that serves him. The word 'zombie' actually comes from Haiti. The people in Haiti got this tradition from some parts of West Africa where they have the same stories of sorcerers of turning corpses into obedient zombies. This would be an example of something which would appear to be much too big to think that they really possessed such a power. However, it may not be supernatural at all.

There was a Haitian man named Clairvius Narcisse who came back to his family after being thought dead for eighteen years, and he said he had been a zombie. His death had been verified by witnesses. A Canadian expert on plant poisons came to meet him and offered an explanation for what happened.

Clairvius had angered people, including his brother with whom he quarrelled over land, and they asked a voodoo sorcerer to curse him. The sorcerer poisoned Clairvius with a natural poison that made him appear dead but didn't kill him, and afterwards, the sorcerer took his body and revived him. But after reviving him, he made him eat a paste made from Datura (a plant) which contained an ingredient that caused amnesia, inability to distinguish between fantasy and reality, and induced hallucinations. The sorcerer told him that he had taken his soul away and that now he was a zombie, and must obey what he is told. Clairvius couldn't tell if this was real or fantasy, and he believed it and obeyed what the sorcerer told him to do. He lost his sanity. The sorcerer put him to work in a sugar plantation as a kind of slave labourer alongside others who also had been made into 'zombies'. Eventually the sorcerer died, and Clairvius left the plantation and came back to his family and told them what happened. The entire affair was published by the Canadian plant expert in a book and an academic journal article, although some have contested its explanation.

Whether the above story is true or not: it is quite possible that the stories of these sorcerers making people into zombies are not completely fictional, but at the same time it also could not be supernatural. The same is true for many other stories in existence relating to witchcraft, in that if they are not false then they may have natural explanations. However, this doesn't mean that there is no spiritual element at all that is involved. Their witchcraft can inspire the devil to help them to acquire knowledge of how to do such things, and to have success when trying them- the witchcraft can achieve this kind of result, but

it is not able to achieve a great 'miracle' without natural means, otherwise it would be too great in comparison with God's signs.

Even the bible has examples of this. In Genesis Joseph arranges for his cup to be put in his brother Benjamin's sack, and then when they are returning to the land of Canaan, the brothers are stopped and the cup is found, and they were forced to go back. When they meet Joseph again, Joseph says 'you should have known that a man like me can do divination'; of course, however, it was not divination, it was just a trick. It is possible that many magicians in Egypt did something similar.

In the book of Daniel (in the part at the end in the catholic bible) the priests of Babylon said that the idols themselves ate the food put in front of them, but when the doors were closed, they would have a secret entrance and come in to remove the food and eat it with their families. Thus deceiving everyone about what happened.

However, you must remember that the devil's intention in working this power in witchcraft is simply to deceive people. He does not need the story to actually be true in order to accomplish that. Therefore all the stories of witches who could fly, who could turn people into stone or into animals, turn corpses into zombies, transport themselves to other places in the world, etc.... none of these are actually true, but the devil will encourage such stories to be spread among those willing to believe such things in their cultural environment, and even encourage the people who practice such things to lie and insist that the stories are true.

The prophets of Ba'al on Mount Carmel would have liked everyone to believe that they had the power to call down the fire, even though they didn't; the devil could encourage them to lie about what they could do, but he couldn't actually give the power to do it.

When Howard Carter opened the tomb of Tutankhamen, a messenger came to his house and found a cobra (symbol of the Pharaoh) inside his birdcage eating his pet bird. The financier of the expedition, Lord Carnavon, cut himself while shaving and died from an infection within a few months; after they buried his body, they unwrapped Tutankhamen's mummy and found the Pharaoh had a healed lesion on his left cheek. All of a sudden there was a big media frenzy with newspapers reporting about the 'curse of the Pharaohs' that would come upon anyone who violated the tomb. Huge numbers of people believed it. And there were a few other mysterious deaths related to the expedition, but almost everyone who entered the tomb survived and the tomb itself was opened to tourists in later years. The devil didn't need the curse to actually work or for every person who violated the tomb to receive this kind of bad luck, but he just needed to deceive people and in that way his goal is met. He may not have the power to cause more than a few people to die in strange ways, but he may have the power to inspire journalists and the newspaper press to lead people into following evil.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were some American sisters called the 'Fox sisters' who could do séances and speak with dead spirits, and the dead spirits would speak through them. Many people believed these things, and in the time of the American civil war, there were lots of people that were Christians and yet

were going for services to be able to speak to their deceased family members. The Fox sisters travelled around for a long time, and they would famously ask questions of the spirits in front of an audience and people would hear tapping noises in response. Later in life one of them confessed that they had actually found a way to make cracking noises with their toe and foot joints in order to produce these tapping sounds.

Wherever practitioners of witchcraft are found, we ought to expect that the devil will follow this pattern, in that he will do some miraculous signs, but not too big, and he will inspire the people who practice it to form ways of deceiving people and also strongly encourage belief among people in a culture that the witchcraft possesses more power than it does.

#### IX: Who can be cursed?

This is not such a hard question to answer. It is already well explained above if one pays close attention.

The devil was permitted to deceive the entire world, because the world was sinful and it didn't deserve to know the Truth. If someone innocent gave His life for them (whether the innocence of Jesus, or the innocence of Abraham's son Isaac), then for the sake of that innocent life, they could be allowed to know the Truth, but without it, they could not be allowed to do so unless they removed their sins themselves.

This deception is a curse. It is also a curse that people who curse others are themselves cursed with.

If one is a sinner, then he deserves this curse.

But what he deserves is actually more than this curse. Everything that happens in the world, can only be done because someone has prayed for it first; this person can be either human or angelic, either on Earth or in heaven. The effects of original sin, including death, concupiscence, disease, hardship, suffering, pain in child birth, domination of one sex by the other, lack of knowledge of the Truth, etc. are like a great curse that came about because of human sins. The devil will stand in front of God and accuse the human beings of every evil thing that they do, to remind God of why this curse must stay in place. And God, who must be just and must follow His own Word, cannot refuse what the devil says.

If Jesus gives His life to satisfy justice for their sake or if the people themselves stop doing these evil things, only then can God refuse the devil's request and take the curse away.

Most people are completely unaware of how much punishment they deserve for their sins. God is so extremely sensitive towards us, and it does not take much in order to cause Him very great pain. But in this life, when we commit sin, we often don't really know how much pain it causes Him; therefore He can forgive us. But for those who are aware of how much pain He suffers, and yet still sin; for them the punishment will be great.

But, even if we do not really see how much pain God suffers, we can at least see how much people suffer or are able to suffer because of what we do. The people who die on the streets in poor countries, die because we do not love them enough to help them; the fetuses aborted by their mothers die without even the chance of getting the grace of baptism, because people simply do not love them enough to try hard enough to stop this; the people who die in wars, die because people do not love each other enough; etc. And these are simply examples that pertain to masses of people, one could also talk about the ways that individuals around us suffer and we ourselves have some blame.

But Jesus suffered more than these people. It was because He was more sensitive than them, and while we are only sensitive to the goodness or evil of others a little bit and this is the source of our suffering, He was extremely sensitive to every single word, action and thought in the entire history of the world and that is the source of His suffering. If He simply gave it up, and stopped loving us, then His suffering would end.

However, He forgives us, because we don't really know what we're doing. We haven't yet seen everything there is to see.

But that doesn't mean we are completely innocent; it simply means we are more innocent than those who die and are able to see the full reality of God's love, and still insist on sinning against it- they cannot be forgiven, because there is nothing else that can be shown to them and yet they still don't repent.

Why don't we know what we're doing?

It is not an innocent ignorance that lies behind this as an explanation. Many people do not know, because they are not looking. They are not looking because they care about other things more.

However, if you were to place human beings in the reverse position and you made it such that they suffered tremendously from what others were doing, and these others did not care enough about them to inquire about them and come to realize how much pain they were causing... human beings would condemn such people. Even if they are ignorant, their ignorance is still culpable.

Suppose you had a business that was poisoning a river, and as a result people who lived from drinking the water in the river got cancer and other ailments that caused great suffering to them, and also caused their deaths. If the business did not know how much harm they were causing, can they say that they are innocent because they didn't know? They can't say this, because they knew that poisoning the river could harm someone, and yet they didn't find out how much harm because they didn't really care. The same is true of the person who knows that sin offends God and harms human beings, and yet does not really care enough to learn how much harm it is. If the business knew how much suffering they caused and yet still poisoned it, then that would be even more sinister; similarly, the sinner who sins with knowledge is committing a greater sin.

But how much punishment do we deserve for it? It is not a small amount. God has suffered extremely, and yet we care so little about Him that many of us do not even try to find out. If you suffered extremely

because of the actions of the whole world, and the whole world cared so little about you that they didn't even bother learning about your situation and the pain they were causing you... they can be forgiven, but they would deserve punishment for this as well.

Every person in the world is a sinner. In fact most people in the world have done evil things in their lives which they hide from the view of the rest of the world. Most people in the world have secrets which they kept buried underneath out of the view of everyone else. And by these secrets, without confession or repentance, they will eventually go to hell through them at the end of this life.

Even if the person is a good person, a normal person, just like everyone else, but they have one side of their life which is evil, and they are not sorry for it, this will bring them to sink into hell when they die. A ship does not need the whole hull to be missing in order to sink; one hole is enough. A body does not need every part to fail in order to die; one organ that stops working is enough. Similarly the person does not need to be evil in everything in order to go to hell; just one mortal sin without repentance is enough. A person can be good at everything, kind to their neighbours, honest in business, attending church every Sunday... but they watch pornography at home, or they had an abortion one time and were never sorry for it, or they hated someone... for this one thing they will go to hell, even if everything else is fine.

Most people in the world go to hell at the end of life because of this. Most people in the world have such evil things in their lives, and they kept them out of the sight of others, not showing everything about themselves to those around them.

Hellfire is extremely painful. Purgatory is also extremely painful. It is more painful than the worst torture that exists in this world. That means that if you can imagine the worst form of all tortures in this world: beatings, being stretched on a rack, the Chinese lingchi where they slice off your flesh bit by bit until you die, being struck through with needles, being hung from the ceiling by your thumbs, being tortured with fire or with electricity, etc. None of these things is as painful as what people in hell or purgatory experience.

Therefore, if the vast majority of people living today deserve hell or purgatory when they end life, then that means that the vast majority of people living today deserve punishment even worse than those things mentioned above. If someone were to torture them in this world right now, it would be justice.

Very few people do not deserve it; these are the saints, who will go to heaven immediately after their deaths. And they are very few in number. There is a legend that says there was a monk who lived in a cave, living a devout life and he died at the same time as St Bernard of Clairvaux. The monk then appeared in front of a bishop in Southern France (Bernard was from the south of France) and told him that at the moment he died, there were 30,000 other people in the world who died at the same time, and only him and St Bernard entered heaven; the rest all went to hell or purgatory.



So therefore the answer to the question of who deserves great punishment is: almost everyone. And therefore this also provides the answer to the question of whom can be cursed in witchcraft.

I will illustrate this with an example. When European Christians took slaves from Africa to work in hard labour in the Caribbean islands, the slaves took many of the beliefs of their African religions with them. This included a huge amount of pagan witchcraft. This witchcraft perhaps gave them a power to get back at the white Christians who were treating them unjustly. The master could beat them, abuse them, even kill them, and they could not do much to fight back physically. But perhaps they could cast a spell on him to curse him or his family.

If they cursed him, the devil could go to God's throne and ask for God to allow him to cause this curse to come true. You might wonder how could people who know the True God and His Son, be capable of being victimized by such a thing? Surely if they had the blood of Jesus as their protection, then they must have been immune?

They would be immune, because God is far stronger than the devil... but they are not really using Him as their protection if they believe in Him and yet they still commit grave sin. If one commits grave sin, then one has already made friends with the devil, and cannot remain in God's grace. If they are not in God's grace, then they do not have His protection either.

If they repent of their sins, and then ask for the blood of Jesus to protect them, then this can save them, so long as they are sincere in repentance. But if they, like most Christians, simply commit sin without really changing, then they remain a potential target.

Therefore when the devil goes to God to ask for the curse to work, he can phrase it like this:

The devil says to God: "The slave on the plantation put a curse on his master's wife. Can I give her a fever?"

God says, "But she is a Christian and believes in me. Why should I allow witchcraft to lead to her possessing a disease?"

The devil says: "She is a Christian, but only in name and not in truth. She does not love the slaves that she treats harshly. Yesterday she beat the little black girl with a cane because she dropped the tea on the carpet. The little girl was innocent. But the woman has sinned against you, will you now let her go unpunished?"

God says, "You are right, I can in no way ignore the injustice of human beings. I can pardon the repentant, but in no way can I acquit the wicked. She is not really a true disciple of My Son, for if she were, she would never do that. One must be a saint to be a true disciple of my Son. You may give her the fever, but do not let her die, because I see she is not yet ready and if she is given more time in this life, she will repent and her soul will eventually be saved."

And so the devil then arranges it for the woman to be bitten by a mosquito and contract malaria, because she deserved it for her sins. The suffering from the disease was less than what she would have suffered in hell or purgatory, however.

Even though these are slaves, they are equal in God's eyes as the master. If the master sins against them, then he deserves to be punished. The power of such curses can transcend class boundaries and questions of worldly power.

In a similar manner you can have the leader of a country, an important general, important party leader, police chief, authority figure, etc. who has done some bad things to many other people, and one of these people possesses the invisible gift of great *tionchar* and uses her witchcraft to curse him and his family. She was perhaps just a peasant or even a pauper, and yet she was actually like a very powerful person; but what she did was invisible. The powerful person stepped on so many people's toes, including hers that she would get back at him, and he would have no idea where it came from.

And so the police chief eats too much and gets heart disease eventually leading to his early death, the son of the party leader becomes a dirty playboy that embarrasses his father, the general's wife divorces him for a younger man, the leader of the country suffers from mental illness, the big business man's wife gives him no children, etc.

The vast majority of such curses will be natural things rather than supernatural, but they will be arranged to come to the right person by the devil who gives the power to the witchcraft.

A person can be cursed and the devil arranges it so that they attain a completely natural disease which has a cure, and yet they never find the cure, because somehow every doctor they go to misdiagnoses the illness, or fails to recognize that there is an illness, such that it seems like it has no cure and the person gives up, and yet it actually does have a cure and they would have found it if they kept looking; the devil not only arranges the disease to be attained but also follows up to make sure no doctor is able to help with it and that the person loses heart. Or perhaps they get a disease that can kill them, and the devil makes them think that they are perfectly fine. Or perhaps he gets them to wait too long for a cure to be able to help them anymore. These kinds of diseases that come from curses are far more common than some kind of supernatural illness that cannot be cured no matter what, because the devil's power in doing the supernatural is very limited in comparison with God.

The same pattern presents itself here, wherein the devil will try to get people in a culture to widely believe that such incurable diseases come about through witchcraft, to encourage people in that culture to spread such stories and get more people to believe in this power. In the same way as he perhaps uses the newspapers to get everyone believe that the curse of the Pharaoh's tomb was real... when in actuality the supernatural acts were very small, and the bluff was very big.

Why does God allow Satan to carry out such curses?

If almost everyone in the world has 'dirt' on them, then everyone in the world deserves punishment. If they take the sacrifice of Jesus for their protection, then they can be protected even if they have 'dirt', but if they do not let go of the sins that gave them the dirt, then not even this sacrifice is not going to protect them.

Therefore if Satan asks for any of these bad things to happen to them, he is asking for something which is in the first category of things that can be prayed for (ie. things that God is willing to grant to those who ask for them, while the second category are things he cannot grant no matter how much they are prayed for).

This is important to understand for recognizing how it is that God grants the prayers of Satan, and how 'curses' in witchcraft can work.

If a human being is a great sinner, then God does not listen to his prayers. It is like if a person is very ugly, and you do not want to look at them because they are so ugly; this is what a sinner is to God.

Every person that God made was beautiful, some were more beautiful than others; the greater the tionchar, the greater the beauty of the soul. Souls that are less beautiful might still please and influence God very greatly, but primarily through works than prayer and a spiritual life. They will still have prayer and a spiritual life, because it is a necessity of the soul, but for them it will not be as important for their existence as it is for someone whom God gave greater tionchar. Women, generally have greater tionchar, and I think this is why the Creator gave them greater physical beauty: because the physical body is meant to point to something beyond.

Every person that God made was beautiful, but the moment they sinned, the soul becomes ugly, as though it were deformed or injured. And God does not like to look at it anymore; hence He doesn't listen to their prayers. The most beautiful person is God and Jesus has more tionchar than anyone, the most beautiful of all things that God created is Mary who is perfectly sinless and has more tinochar than any other creature, while the most ugly of all things is the devil who had great tionchar but is extremely sinful. God does not enjoy looking at the devil.

If God does not look at sinners and hear their prayers, because they are sinners, then how could He listen to the devil?

If the devil asked God for any favour at all as a blessing from God, God would absolutely not give it. Similarly a sinner who does not repent will not receive a blessing from God. However, the devil does not pray like this.

Instead, when the devil prays to God, he points out what God's own Word will say and demand that God act accordingly. God must grant it then, otherwise His Word will not be true.

Hence, the devil tells God that He must allow him to tempt human beings and make it hard for them to love Him, because God's Word says that love can neither be bought or extinguished, and if God makes everyone love Him by making it easy for them, then it will not really be love.

Hence, the devil tells God that if they let all these sinners go unpunished and without receiving harm to them, then everything He says about justice will be false. Because God's Word says that He will by no means acquit the wicked, but for every sin He will give a just recompense. Therefore if Satan demands that God allow bad things to happen to someone, God must grant it, not for the devil's sake, but for the sake of His own Word, which must be true.

Hence, here is the answer to who can be cursed: every person who commits sin, and does not have a sacrifice given for their sake that can give an answer to the justice due to them.

For this reason, one should expect that little children are far more immune to an attempt by a witch to curse them than if she did so for an adult. Similarly people who are recently baptized would also be immune, because all the punishments of the sins of their life before baptism are cancelled once they are baptized- Jesus has paid the price for all of them.

Another thing to point out in this is that because the devil uses the witchcraft in order to deceive, one of the best defences to use is to simply refuse to believe the deception.

For example, people in traditional Chinese culture, people believed that the souls of the dead went down to a kind of hell where they suffered, but they needed the living to help them. The living would burn money in fire and this money would then go to their ancestors who would take the money to buy food with. If they didn't burn this money, then they thought maybe the souls of ancestors would come back and harm them. And because so many people believe and practice this, the devil perhaps would watch it and if someone died in a community, he would arrange for bad things to happen coincidentally until they started the money burning. But throughout the world, where almost everyone does not burn money for their ancestors, these things don't happen... because they would never interpret the 'bad luck' as being a result of their ancestors' wrath. Hence if the people in the Chinese village had all collectively ceased believing in this thing, then the curses brought on after the death of their family member also would never have happened, because they would not have been deceived by it and the devil would have no purpose in doing so if there was no deception that resulted from it.

This is important to understand, because in many of the pagan cultures, they worked under the deception that if the sacrifices discontinued then the gods would punish them. And as long as they believed this, the devil would try to give them disasters when they failed to keep up the practice. But if something bad happened after the discontinued sacrifices, it was only because people were capable of believing that it was the gods punishment; if no one believed that those gods existed and would refuse to believe no matter what disaster happened after the sacrifice discontinued... then no disaster would have happened. Similarly, if no one believed that magic worked... then it wouldn't work, because the

only reason the devil makes it work or appears to make it work, is in order so that people are led into deception.

X: Who can practice Witchcraft?

God gifts every person with a capacity to communicate with Him. To be able to influence Him with their prayer, and to be able to hear what He says- this is tionschar.

Every person possesses tionschar. However, it is different between different people.

Because every person possesses it, therefore every person is capable of prayer and is also capable of witchcraft. It is not just some people who can do it, and have a special power... actually everyone is capable of it.

There are perhaps many people who practice witchcraft, and do not even realize what it is that they are doing.

Tionschar when applied to prayer is the ability to influence God, and tionschar when applied to witchcraft is the ability to influence Satan.

Any person can pray, although the depth to which they are capable of entering in prayer will be different for each person. Oppositely, any person can practice witchcraft, but the depth will be different.

The ways people pray are so many, that they cannot even be listed. It is not only those who go down on their knees and put their hands together, while talking to God who pray. It is also those who simply think about God being with them in their day, who say things to God from time to time, who simply just take a glance at God and want to be near Him. These things are all forms of prayer as well.

The ways that people practice witchcraft, are also so many. The pagans who worship the false gods and ask them for favours are doing so. The people who take special words and objects with the belief that this will cast a magic spell, are also doing so. The people who use special objects like crystal balls or palm reading to see things they can't see, are also practicing witchcraft.

But not only this... there are other ways too. There are people who practice witchcraft and do not even realize it. A person for example can simply wish that something bad happen to another person, and in some level of their being, and even if they think consciously do not think there is anyone who listens to them, they semi-consciously will that it would happen to this person because at some level of their mind there is some feeling like willing so actually does something, and the devil listens to this just as he does to the witch who casts a spell- it can also be considered a form of witchcraft.

Or a person can masturbate and think about the problems they have, and while they do not consciously think that masturbating does anything to help them, at some lower level of their mind, they somehow

feel like through the masturbation the problem can be solved, and the devil listens to this and may help them to solve it. This can also be considered a form of witchcraft.

A mother who wishes to live out her own selfish ambitions in the lives of her children, who imagines what she wants the child to become, and even though she doesn't consciously think this does anything, at some level of her mind there is some feeling like it does something.

A leader of a country who puts a symbol on the flag that comes from a pagan culture in a different place, which he somehow has a feeling will make a difference in the success of his nation's efforts in war.

Even an atheist who argues with a theist and wants the theist to be wrong, and who has some kind of semi-conscious expectation that something must come up shortly in the argument that will make the theist look stupid, and the devil listens to this and goes to God's throne to ask for it so that the theist can be punished for his pride and the atheist can continue to be kept under deception, and in the end even this atheist has practiced witchcraft without really knowing it.

It can quite truthfully be anything. Simply believing that thinking something or doing something accomplishes something which you know by rationality, should not have any effect on it, and yet at some level of your mind you feel like it really does have an effect. Just like how the person who simply glances at God is performing a prayer, so also these things are also forms of witchcraft and they can achieve results.

People perhaps have no idea how far reaching and common witchcraft actually is. These things are practiced by people all over the world, in fact it is perhaps practiced by almost everyone in the world, including even those who believe in God and in Jesus. There are so many ways that human beings listen to the devil speaking to them and communicate with him in a multitude of different ways, but they don't always consciously recognize it, because unlike God, he never identifies himself by his real name.

So the answer to the question of who can practice it is: Anyone can practice witchcraft, and in fact perhaps almost everyone does.

The amount which can be achieved in the witchcraft will depend on several factors, including the character of the person (and hence women will generally be able to accomplish more through these things than men), but also the degree to which the witchcraft cooperates with the devil's purposes.

## XI: The Devil's Purposes and the Necessary Cooperation in Witchcraft

In order to have your prayer heard by God, you need to be sorry for your sins. If you are not sorry for your sins, God does not listen to the prayer.

In order for the devil to be interested in your witchcraft, it is necessary that he sees the opportunity by which he can harm people, and most especially use the witchcraft as a way to fail the test given to them in this life.

As stated in what's written above, a great example of this was in the pagan cultures that believed in gods who permitted and even promoted vice, and the witchcraft was 'proving' that these gods were true. Thus people believed it, committed sin, and went to hell; thinking that the gods who governed the universe would not punish them for doing these sins.

If, however, the pagan religions taught something very good and forbade all vice, and promoted morality to an extreme degree... perhaps none of the spells, magic charms, etc. would work, because the entire reason why the devil got involved in this was to get people to go to hell. For example, if all the worshippers of Apollo became like saints in their behaviour, and because they no longer rejected logic in favour of social acceptance, they came to believe that all the myths about Apollo were false because they were illogical and immoral, and they prayed to know what the Truth about who Apollo was... the devil would probably really hate this; he would not want to empower their witchcraft any longer. If he gives power to their amulets or sacrifices... who is going to go to hell by being deceived in this?

The devil's only interest in the entire matter is the destruction of human beings. He wants the rival he envies to lose their beauty and become monsters.

He encourages people who practice witchcraft to believe that they have power, because pride is a vice that will turn them into monsters. He encourages them to curse people who offend them, even those who offend them justly, because he wants to take away their beauty and make them into monsters; the person who is cursed the most is not the person who acquires the disease, but rather is the person who cursed.

The first person the devil would like to see go to hell in the entire matter is the witch herself. The more she practices the magic, the more the devil has an opportunity to influence her, and little by little he will wear away at her good qualities until he makes her into a monster; a person filled with arrogance, who has no real love for other people, and has nothing of what really matters. Or perhaps she remains 'good at heart', but she has other vices that begin to grow larger and larger, which she is deceived into thinking are not really harmful and it will ultimately doom her to hellfire. In modern society, for example, a witch perhaps only does magic to help others, but she believes in the same errors that doom people in modern society to hell; and thus she masturbates, has sex without marriage, believes abortion is acceptable, etc. For these things she may go to hell, and the things she sees in her witchcraft keep her deceived about what the Truth really is.

He will try to get her so many things that she tries to get through her witchcraft; beauty, money, health, etc. And he doesn't want to give her any of these things, because he really hates her, but he sees it as a necessary temporary sacrifice in order to get her to fail the ultimate test. Like criminal gangs who give

good favours to people who ask them for help, but only expect something in return later, such is the devil in his operation.

The second person or rather people, whom the devil wants to harm in the matter is all the others in society who while perhaps not practicing the witchcraft themselves, at least believe in it. These people are kept from the Truth which can save their souls. For example the people in the pagan cultures who practiced vices because they believed there was no God who punished it and that the gods who existed approved of what they did. And they may go to hell in the end if they do not repent.

The third group to whom the devil wants to harm in the matter, are all those to whom he cannot get to go to hell or commit a sin, because they resist his temptations, but whom he can cause other people to give them suffering in this world because of the existence of the witchcraft. Even if he cannot get them to go to hell, he will at least take some satisfaction in seeing them suffer in this life. For example, the Roman emperors would conduct augury, wherein a pagan priest would sacrifice an animal and inspect its liver to give an answer to the Emperor's question. And the augur, under satan's inspiration would tell the emperor that the gods answers was that the problems of their empire came about because of the existence of the Christians who must be killed.

If the devil can harm one of these three, then the witchcraft interests him and he will give power to it. If he cannot do so, then he will have no interest and the witchcraft will not work. The more that one is pure in God's eyes, the more God will listen to the prayer of the person; oppositely the more that the devil can harm one of these three groups, the more interested he will be in making the witchcraft work.

For this reason, certain things ought to be expected. For example if there is someone living a good life and is going to go to heaven if they continue living this way, but the devil sees a possibility of using witchcraft to tempt this person to become bad... then the devil will be far more interested in making this witchcraft achieve results that can deceive the good person than he will be interested in a person who uses witchcraft who is already on her way to hell.

The greater the sin which is involved in the witchcraft, the more likely the devil will be interested in it. Hence, perhaps people who masturbate as part of some kind of witchcraft will have greater interest from the devil than people who don't. To this should be pointed out that in parts of the ancient world there were prostitutes who lived in the temples of gods who would sleep with people that would come there, because it was considered part of the worship.

People who cast spells to help bring healing to people and never curse someone, will not have nearly as much attention from him as the person who casts spells in order to hurt other people and bring curses on people one doesn't like, because the person who only casts spells to heal may not be so quickly losing their soul by their practice of magic, whereas the other is losing it much faster. Therefore the other is a higher priority to him. And furthermore, because it is a sin to hate and curse others, the devil knows that for each curse she puts on another (with his help), he will afterwards easily be able to go to God's throne and ask for a similar curse upon her, which will please him because he hates her... hence



he will encourage her to curse others more. Whereas for the one who does magic to heal, it is not so easy to ask for this and he will not be as interested in getting her efforts to achieve results.

Acts of sacrilege can also increase his attention to the witchcraft. For example if someone takes the relic of a saint, a bible, an item that has been blessed and most especially a Eucharist Host, and uses it as part of the witchcraft, this will increase the devil's attention even more because he knows that dishonouring these things is a great sin, and it is very important to him that the sin increases so that more people can receive greater punishment and go to hell. Hence if the witchcraft involves items like this, it perhaps will increase his attention to it and his willingness to try to get it to achieve results.

The more sin which is either involved or encouraged in others by the witchcraft, the more likely he will be interested in it and try to give it power. Therefore people who practice witchcraft can sometimes increase their results by whatever sins they can add to their practice, including sacrilege, sexual acts, hatred, envy, murder, animal sacrifice or even human sacrifice. The more people they can involve in the practice, especially if the witchcraft becomes a state religion (which is essentially what paganism was), then the power will increase because the devil will take even more interest in it where more souls damnation is concerned than he would if there was only one.

In the pagan nations where human sacrifice was institutionalized, like in Mesoamerica, the ancient near east, Rome (the gladiatorial games were officially something being given to the gods), and other places, one would expect that the devil would be more interested in giving them results to their prayers and sacrifices, than he would in places where the worship was more benign. And perhaps for this reason, they achieved success in many of their undertakings, and so their countries were perhaps blessed with prosperity, victory in war, good agriculture, etc. as a result of these sacrifices.

He will be more interested in this, because if the nation sacrifices human beings to their gods, and the whole nation consents to it, then just from this one institution he is able to bring the entire nation down into hell, because there perhaps is no way that a person can consent to this kind of institution and not commit grave sin.





(human sacrifice in Mexico, after the priest cut out the heart, it was believed to spiritually fly away to the gods to give them nourishment and strength)

For this same reason, one may also expect him to be extremely interested in keeping modern abortion intact, partly because he wants to harm the unborn children and deny them the chance of getting baptized so they can enter heaven sooner, but even more so because he wishes to harm the people already born who live in society and are tempted to consent to the existence of the institution. The second is much more important than the first to him. If there was actually not a single abortion that occurred, but the whole society believed that it was happening and they all consented to it, he would be more pleased with this, than if abortion was happening regularly and the larger part of society was innocently unaware. He will be more interested in reducing the number of abortions and getting more

people to accept its acceptance, than he will be interested in increasing the number of abortions and having society turn against it.

Hence, abortion is only partly an attack on the unborn, and in reality it is a great attack on those already born.

## XII: The Consequences of Witchcraft

All these things have a price tag attached to them. Every pagan nation will eventually suffer disaster and doom because of the institutionalized witchcraft. They can get their 'gods' to help them to build great wonders, great advances and great things... but only in a temporary sense.

Egypt flourished for thousands of years and it accomplished amazing things. They built obelisks, which could be 10-20 metres high (the largest, standing today at the Lateran Basilica in Rome was 30 metres) all cut from a single piece of stone, and people today are not sure how they did it. They built the pyramids and other monuments with massive stones which had to have been transported over long distances in order to get them to where the pyramid stood. They possessed so much knowledge of such things for that time period that some pseudo-scientific theories today try to suggest that maybe they had help from extraterrestrials, because it seems like too big of an advance for that time. Modern man is amazing, in that he finds it easier to believe that aliens did this than to believe in the existence of the supernatural.

But it would not last forever. Moses did signs in Egypt but they still didn't come to believe in the true God. The prophet Ezekiel prophesied and said that Egypt would not be a great nation anymore, and the ancient greatness of its civilization has never recovered since that time. The Word of God was far more powerful than the most heavily institutionalized kinds of magic.

Today we are left with the ruins and monuments of Egypt still standing, leaving people to ponder what it all means. It could perhaps be interpreted like this: the power of witchcraft perhaps was able to build a country up to amazing heights, but when people rely on the devil, even it seems to bear fruit for thousands of years, eventually the promises will not come true and it will all go away in the end. Only God's promises are trustworthy and true.

The Roman empire was already declining in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century before the time of its Christian renewal. If things had continued as they were going, the western empire would have fallen sooner no matter how many sacrifices and games were given to the gods. But when Constantine became emperor, he eliminated the state paganism of the past, converted to Christianity, and he expanded its borders and made it strong, at least until he died. His sons and many of the emperors after him would play around with heresies, even persecuting the true faith to a degree, and they would finally lose control of the empire.

The human sacrifice in Mexico came to an end once the Spanish arrived and conquered them. The Spanish had less than a thousand soldiers, and they conquered an entire empire with millions of people.

They had the help of native allies, disease had also ravished the Aztecs, but they also had the advantage of far superior weaponry, horses and armour. Just as the Spanish weapons were superior to what the Aztecs used, so also was the Eucharist a far greater spiritual power than the human sacrifice of the Aztecs. The people of Mexico got power from cutting out the hearts of victims to give to their gods as nourishment; this power was nothing in comparison with the sacrifice of the heart of God Himself disguised as bread in the mass.

The pagan religions of the Middle East and central Asia would be destroyed by Islam which worshipped the true God. Pagan nations throughout the world, from Africa to Alaska would eventually be either humiliated or fall under the domination of those who worshipped the true God. None of them would be able to save themselves with their witchcraft.

Everyone who puts his hand on this sort of thing to lean upon will simply be pierced by it in the end.

The people who practice it may go to hell, or if not hell, at least they may suffer punishments in either this life or in purgatory for it. The devil will eventually abandon the people who he propped up and leave them powerless, and all his promises will come to nothing.

### XIII: Modern forms

Witchcraft is by no means eliminated from the world today. In fact it is perhaps becoming just as widespread today as it once was when paganism ruled the world.

However, the form of it has often changed.

In some cases there are people who practice the old forms outright, which are easily recognizable: Wiccans, neo-pagans, pagan religions that still haven't died (eg. Hinduism, African religions, native American religions), Voodoo, Spiritism, etc.

But in the modern world there is also many forms of witchcraft which are not so obvious, and yet in their essence they are the same as the witchcraft of the pagan past.

For example, new age writers who publicize ideas that our thoughts are able to affect the natural world around us, are also speaking about a form of witchcraft. In the book, 'The Secret' which has sold millions of copies worldwide, people are told that the things that you think about will happen, and therefore you should think positively in order to get positive things happening to you. Thinking positively or negatively has no effect at all on the outcome of anything other than your own actions, but if people believe that it has an effect on the outside world, the devil will take advantage of this belief in the same way as he did in the ancient pagan world.

That is to say, the devil will watch people who really believe that this is true, or who question if it might be true, and he will ask God for permission to arrange events so that it really does sometimes seem like the good things one thinks about will happen to you, and the bad things one thinks about will happen to

you. But he does not have the power to make sure that this happens every time; he only has the power to do it a little bit, but he will encourage people to hold on to the little bit that they do see and trust it with more than it deserves.

Ouija boards are easily purchased and used by lots of people, some who really believe they work and some who try them for fun. One can find advertisements in western cities for people who will do tarot readings, palm readings, crystal ball readings, etc. They publish books, hold conferences, organize study seminars, etc.

The number of people who believe in this sort of thing is really not small; among their number there can be found all kinds of celebrities, including politicians and national leaders. William Lyon Mackenzie King, the longest serving Prime Minister in Canada's history, regularly tried to make contact with the spirits of dead people, including dead leaders who came before him; the public did not know of this when he was in power, because he kept it hidden.

Mackenzie King said about Hitler before the war started: "he is really one who truly loves his fellow-men, and his country, and would make any sacrifice for their good". He forecast that "the world will yet come to see a very great man—mystic in Hitler. [...] I cannot abide in Nazism — the regimentation — cruelty — oppression of Jews — attitude towards religion, etc., but Hitler, him — the peasant — will rank some day with Joan of Arc among the deliverers of his people" Whether the 'dead spirits' told him this or not, we will never know.

If the leader of a country goes to dead spirits to ask them for advice, it would appear that the world has gone back full circle to the days of old, when the Emperor consulted the Augur to look at the liver of the animal and he would tell him the answer is to kill the Christians, or when the Pharaoh would ask his magicians to cast a spell to divine something for him.

There are so many people in the world today who follow these sorts of things. Many of them may even do it in secret. In 2005 the European Union did a poll on religious beliefs; for many countries the question 'do you believe in some sort of spirit or life force?' came up with comparable or even higher numbers of affirmative answers as the question 'do you believe there is a god?', and the answers to the survey were mutually exclusive.

Even among people who claim themselves to be atheists or agnostics, many of them will still be able to think that there is some kind of pseudo-scientific energy force that controls everything, or some other nonsense like that. Even hard scientific atheists who believe they cease existing at the end of this life, can secretly still follow these sorts of things; because at some level they need to find comfort and answers from somewhere. They might even follow such things without telling others about it.

And people believe these things, and the devil knows that they believe them. Just like the witchcraft of old, he will even be permitted to arrange the world around them in order to make it look like these things are true, so that they will remain deceived.



But even besides this, there are also so many ways that people communicate with the devil and yet don't even realize what they are doing, because as stated above, it is like a glance. At some level of their feeling and consciousness they sense that thinking something, doing something or willing something, will accomplish something outside of themselves that it otherwise seems like it shouldn't. The devil is close to every human being, because we all commit sin, and hence he is always in a kind of dialogue with us whether we realize it or not.

Human beings, since the time of Adam's sin, possess evil inside of themselves that makes it so easy for them to do bad and so hard to do good. If they seek God sincerely with a humble heart, then they can control themselves, but otherwise they almost inevitably fall under the control of their own evil impulses which become their masters. The devil knows that people who seek God sincerely with a humble heart can find freedom from this, so he tries very hard to make sure people are deceived and never find Him.

#### XIV: Note on Localities, Family Heritages, Nations and Images

One last note to end this piece which I want to mention here is the special relationships involving places, objects, images, etc.

Sometimes it happens that people will say that a particular place is cursed or haunted, or that a particular family has a curse running through it, etc.

Throughout this work I have put the devil as the person who is primarily being an intercessor with God to ask for the deception and ruin of human beings. However, the devil is not alone in this. There are a huge number of other demons that are with him who are doing essentially the same work of interceding with God to ask for the temptation, deception and ruin of human beings.

Furthermore, there is also to consider all the souls of the human beings who suffered eternal damnation.

When a person goes to hell, they still are capable of speaking to God, although they refuse to love Him and to share in His presence.

When a person dies they immediately see God, and God presents them with every word, thought and action they had in their lifetimes, and they see which things were good and which things were bad. If they made up for all the bad things in their own lifetimes, then they look upon God and feel peace. If they did not make up for all those things, but they are sorry that they did them, then they look upon God and they feel great pain because they see how much God loves them and how bad they were to Him; they tell God how sorry they were, and God accepts their apology, but they still feel very great pain. These people are the souls in purgatory and they suffer terribly.

And another group of people, who make up most of the human race, see God judging all the bad things they did and telling them how much punishment they deserve for these things, and they feel angry. They refuse to accept God's judgement. They see the person they hated and who they still hate, and this person takes off the mask and they see God's face behind it... and they think that if God is really this person who they hated so much, then they don't want God. They see that God tells them they deserve a 1000 years of torture in purgatory for a lifetime of daily masturbation, and they refuse to accept the justice of this and hate him; they prefer to suffer for eternity than to ever love someone who treats them like this. God tells them that they are not better than the person they looked down upon, and they refuse to accept it, and hate Him for being a God who is like this. God tells them that He didn't care for their fasts, their processions, their prayers and worship, because it was all for appearances and not for love of Him; and then they hate Him because He is so ungrateful for all that they did for Him. God tells people of a religion that their religion was wrong and the religion they hated was the true teaching, and they hate God for favouring the other religion over their own, and thus refuse to love Him. And so they refuse to stay with Him, but depart from His presence. But once they leave, they can have no more peace, no more truth, and no more love, because outside of God there is no person and no place that can give those things to them.

These people are the souls in hell.

The way they ended this life on earth, whether repentant for their sins or not repentant, will also be the same way that they will feel when they stand before God's judgment seat.

The judgment that occurs at death is not exactly the judgment of God about whether you should be in heaven or hell. Rather the judgement that occurs at death is the judgement of the human being as to whether or not they really accept God and the Son He sent to save them. Most people, even most of the people who believe in the Son of God, will choose to leave Him, because once they really see Him, they will not be able to accept Him, and like the devil, they will prefer to suffer than to love Him.

They may have thought they loved God in life, but only because their idea of God was something agreeable to them, even like a reflection of their own desires, and they didn't know God as He really was. But once they see Him for who He really is, then all these people, whether muslims, jews, Christians, Catholics, Buddhists, pagans, etc. abandon Him and will never want Him again for ever. They will never change their minds and go back again, no matter how much time is given them.

These souls not only hate God, but they reject everything that belongs to God. They become monsters, suffering greatly and yet filled with hatred towards God and towards everyone else in the universe. Even the people they knew in life, even their own family members, they will hate with a deep hatred and want them to come and join them in the suffering they are experiencing. They become like an image of Satan; like him, they cannot stand the idea that the people they knew in life will pass a test that they failed.



So, these damned souls will pray to God and ask God specifically for their own family members, their work colleagues, their neighbours, etc. Like Satan they will pray to God that these people will suffer temptation and deception, and God may grant it because they are sinners and therefore deserve to be deprived of Truth and be subject to temptation.

In this way, things which had relation with such people when they were alive will become the primary subject of their hatred once they go to hell. The people they didn't know in life, they will not pray as much for, but rather they will focus their attention on those they knew. Similarly, they will also focus their attention on the places that are more familiar to them, the jobs and institutions that are more familiar to them, etc.

So for example a police officer who died and went to hell, will pray to God that his own colleagues in the police force will also be subject to the temptations he went through, because he hates them now and wants them to join them. And God sees that his colleagues, like most of humanity does not love Him, and He allows the devil or perhaps he even allows the soul of the dead police officer to influence his former colleagues. And so they are tempted to stop catching real criminals and instead to use their time to go around getting bribes from people, so that when they die, they can come down and join him.

However, he will not be able to do very much. The devil is already working around the clock to get these people to join the people who have already become monsters in hell, and the souls of these damned will not be able to achieve by their prayers as much as the devil can. Hence they will be able to tempt and bother the living, but not to a very great extent- if they achieve success, it is not because they are powerful, but it is because the living are so easily inclined to follow the temptations that they offer- but the living are easily capable of resisting this. Hence, for example, the colleagues of the dead police officer could simply follow their consciences rather than the evil thing they desire to do, and they would be almost completely safe from the invisible hatred of their dead colleague.

Another example: in a city where people worshipped pagans gods in ancient times and performed lewd sexual theatre shows in honour of these gods, had many people who went to hell for this reason. But the souls of these people continually want living people to follow the road they did to hell, so they continue to try to get permission from God to tempt people in the place they lived in this way. Eventually the people who are living listen to the voices long dead, and they create a sexual revolution that embraces all the perversity that had brought damnation to their ancestors who lived in the same place thousands of years before. And their ancestors' spirits are even permitted to teach them to reject Christianity as an evil religion, just as their ancestors did when it was persecuted in the pre-Christian period.

The soul never ceases to exist. The people who existed at one time in any place, are still existing today, but you simply cannot see them with your eyes. But they will still try to influence the world, and will succeed only if the world willingly cooperates.

Hence, because the number of the dead souls is very high, virtually every place in the world, every home, every hill, every rock, every occupation, every family, every descendant, will be touched by this problem.

The souls of the damned, depending on who they are, will seek to intercede in different ways according to what they were in life.

It is perhaps better for a culture to remove any kind of honour for them. For this reason, people should not build statues or monuments to dead people, hang up portraits in honour of them, put their faces on their money, etc. unless the person is known to be in either heaven or purgatory- because if they are in hell, then you might as well just build a statue to satan, hang up a portrait of a demon, but the face of the devil on your money.. because in hell, the human souls living there will be the same as him. We perhaps do not really fully understand what the vast majority of the dead souls in history look like at this moment in the present. The vast majority of people who lived in the past are at this moment the most hideous monsters imaginable, filled with hatred and sin, while bearing not even the tiniest trace of love. The same people who were even founding fathers of nations, great philosophers or writers, explorers, scientists, etc. are at the moment you are reading this, the most evil creatures you can possibly imagine. They have already destroyed their former selves and lost any goodness or virtue they once possessed in the world.

The person they were in life is not the same person they are now. This is what is not understood.

Putting their faces in textbooks or museums to teach people about who they are is perhaps not a problem, but rather giving them places of honour, teaching them as good examples to follow, making them the subject of public admiration, etc. This is perhaps a problem.

These people all still exist today, and they are extremely evil; the statues and images depicting them are not what they look like now. Because they will have a tendency of seeking to harm the people who have a connection with them, therefore the people who honour them will also perhaps become their target and they will try hard to bring them to 'follow their example' to come and join them in hellfire.

Even people who are thought of as though they were paragons of virtue in the nations they lived in, are still suspect, because you do not know their hidden lives and what was really in their hearts. In many places people honour heroes who openly did evil and they even celebrate the evil as though it were good; for example the founders of the United States committed the sin of revolution, which is not permitted by God's law because He ordained the governing authorities to rule people and condemned rebellion- and yet they are honoured as heroes for their sin. If honouring them attracts their attention, honouring them for the sin that they committed perhaps attracts their attention even more. If any of them went to hell in the end, one must be very wary about the great honour bestowed on them.

For example, what if they were in hell and inspired the Americans to fight a civil war, to deeply hate people of rival political ideas as though it were part of democracy to have such deep hatred, to spread war around the world in the name of democracy and political rights, etc... all because they want to bring more of the living along the same path to darkness that they followed. And there are crazed individuals, who are diagnosed as insane, and yet perhaps are possessed by evil spirits, who are not only angelic spirits but also the spirits of the dead in hell, and the evil spirits dominating them convince them to think

the government is evil and trying to control them, and to persuade them to shoot people or blow up government buildings in a new 'revolution for liberty'. I do not know if that is what has happened or not, nor do I know where the souls of such people are now, but I wish to use this simply as an example of what this dynamic could look like in the real world when the living give honour to a dead person who is now a very evil monster. Perhaps the US founding fathers are all in heaven or purgatory- I do not know.

I am not qualified to provide a list of who such people are; that is not the house that God gave to me. If a person is a saint recognized by the authority of God's church then we can feel safe in honouring them. But even the masses who are in purgatory are also safe to be honoured because they are suffering, but they also have no hatred for the living and they love them. But we don't have a list of who they are. The bishops of the catholic church ought to have the ability given to them by the Holy Spirit to make decisions on this matter of who could be included in such a list or not, and if they made such a list, that could be used to decide who among the dead can be honoured safely.

Similarly the opposite is also fortunately true. All the souls in heaven will seek to help people on Earth to get to heaven, and they pay the most attention to the people, families, places, occupations, institutions and things that have the most relation to them.

Hence, a person who knew a martyr in life, will have that martyr pray for them after they die.

St Maria Goretti was murdered by a young man who wanted to rape her in 1902. The young man went to prison, but in prison he had dreams of her and he repented of what he did, and after he got out of prison he told others to reject pornography because it was the source of his sin. She was in heaven and she loved him, even though he was her killer, and because he had this relation to her, she wanted to bring him to heaven too. Like the opposite of the damned police officer above who wants to bring his colleagues to hell.

Whatever the saints were in life, they will continue to be after they die, and they will try to intercede for the world according to what talents they possessed. The souls in hell do the opposite, and try to bring people to hell, and intercede for the world according to what talents they possessed.

So a nation, for example, which had so many monks that lived their lives in holy seclusion completely the deeper truths will have these monks praying for their nation. It is not hard to read some of the Great Russian writers and see the spirit of someone in the nation's past who contemplated deeply on the Truth of God. Compare Anton Chekhov's story of 'the Bet' with the life of Simeon Stylites, St Anthony, or others greatly honoured in the eastern church, or with the very concept of anchorite monasticism that had a big impact on the nation's religious history. The modern state of Israel successfully defended itself against greater numbers that sought its destruction in war many years ago, similar to the exploits of David in the bible- the same person is perhaps still there helping them. If Confucius went to heaven, it would help to explain why the Chinese put such high value on honouring of one's parents. The martyrs

of Uganda were killed by a homosexual king, and their country is subject to much international attack because it puts laws against homosexual practice.

Because they intercede for what has relation to them, it is good to honour them, even just to put up pictures of them, put them on money, put quotations of their writings in places of honour, etc. It will bring blessings with it.

They will be able to do far more than what the damned souls can do, fortunately.

What they want the most for us is that we come and join them. They love us so much... it is hard to describe how great this love is. You could even be their murderer and they desperately want you to be forgiven, and to come up to live with them as their brother or sister. Even if we call them saints in life, what they look like now is ten thousand times more amazing than what they looked like in life. They want nothing more than for us to come and join them.

They want us to be happy, but they also want us to have the greatest happiness of all. The souls in hell are willing to put up with us being happy for a while, if it means eternal condemnation for us, and the souls in heaven are willing to put up with us being unhappy for a while, if it means eternal life for us.

As the story of Job can teach, the greatest blessing the soul can possess is neither wealth, family, health or any comfort this world can offer... but the greatest blessing is to have love inside oneself. To have love in your heart is a greater gift than anything else the created world has, and if you understand this, then you possess wisdom and you can pass the test given to you in this life.

Therefore turn your mind and heart to God and pray, endlessly pray, asking not simply to be freed from any bodily afflictions or worldly misfortunes, but beg God to ask Him that you can have the greatest blessing of all, which is not to be loved by others but to possess love oneself.

All Glory to God