

Adam and Eve were very much alive, and God gave them a freedom wherewith they could prove to Him the quality of their love for Him. Freedom was (and is) an essential ingredient, for only in freedom could man, or can man, give any proof of love. Therefore – FREE WILL. Adam and Eve were God’s most excellent creation – they were His children, and their excellence was so marvelous that they (and mankind of future generations) could be looked upon as the vesture best suited for the Divinity. This has not changed. The tragedy of it all was that man was not totally satisfied with the degree of his excellence – he wanted more. Man wanted to be like God and to know what God knew. The answer was (apparently) to be found in the Tree that was located in the center of the Garden, and through the coaching of the serpent, man went and ate of the fruit of that Tree. The instant man touched the fruit, he placed his sonship with God in serious peril, and the entire human race has had to suffer the consequences.

As it has turned out, man continues to make his own decisions, and his will is supreme in all things that pertain to himself. The result of all this is that man’s will is in direct opposition to the Will of God. When Adam refused to accept God’s mastery over him, he resolved to be master over his own destiny. Adam loved God very much, but he disliked being under the dominion of God, and he worked to become an “equal” – knowing both good and evil. Therefore Adam dethroned God and enthroned himself. Adam turned away from reality and went in the direction of unreality, and the gulf between Reality and Unreality has widened more and more ever since.

There remains but one thing that must be done, and that is a solid and sincere return to God’s original plan, but this can be done only if **self – ego** – is completely dethroned and God returned to His rightful Throne. In this we find great difficulty, especially today, as we turn more and more to the development of the personality, upon which **ego** thrives! Saint John of the Cross said: “God exercises more power in the sanctifying of a single soul than He did in creating the world, for in creating the world He met with no opposition!” In order to be sanctified, not only must man permit the power of God to work in him, he must actively cooperate with it. Only then will the strife between good and evil, between love and hatred, between war and peace, between rich and poor, and all the rest, come to an end, and the battle between Michael and Lucifer will be over. Lucifer is winning the battles, but Michael will win the war – this we know! Man must tear down the “tinsel town of unrealities” so that, with serious determination he can – in truth – become the kind of man God would have him be, grown to all of the fullness and stature of a **MAN OF GOD!** □