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Box 07, Folder 36 - "The Hidden Enemy" (E.M.S.) (photocopy)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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THE HIDDEN ENEMY

"There are more things in heaven and earth, good Horatio
than are dreamt of in your philosophy"

The Nicene creed - formulated by the Ecumenical Council
at Nicea in begins with the sentence . "I believe
in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heavne and earth, and
of all things visible -- and invisible". When we think of
God as the creator it is ^{more} most commonly the visible creation which
comes to our mind .As the Psalmist says "The heavens th ^{declare} declare
glory the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork "

Wonderful as is the visible creation ~~it is quite possible that~~
the things INvisible which God has made are even more wonderful.

The researches of science have opened up a ^{an amazing} wonderful realm of
the hitherto ^{invisible} unknown .The mysterious attraction of matter to matt
er which we call the law of Gravity , the valencies of the
atoms - such as the mysterious affinity ^{which makes} for of hydrogen
atoms to join with Oxygen atoms for from water H_2O - the unseen
though in ~~our civilisation~~ ever present force of electricity ,
-the ~~whole~~ world of germs and viruses unseen by the naked eye
--- these are but a few examples of the marvels of the
things invisible "brought ^{brought into an ~~view~~ by the researches of} into an ~~view~~ by the researches of
~~the~~ ^{Scene} ~~Scene~~ .

But by far the most important of the "invisible" creation
is the world of Spirits . There are many persons w- including
not a few scientists -who deny the ^{existence} sistance of spirits ^a -~~world~~ .
because ~~that~~ their existence cannot be proved in the same
way as the invisible marvels of science .All the sciences
such as chmistry , physics , biology , depend in their last
analysis on ~~certain ~~known~~ facts~~ observed by the senses.

It is easier to understand what a spirit is not

because they aver that it cannot be scientifically proved.

to discover *or* The trouble about such people is that they have never *really* *tried* *(X)* understood what a spirit is. The first thing to be realised

about a spirit being is that it has no matter. *consequent* ~~It has no~~ extension, ^{no} weight, ~~has~~ no parts, cannot be measured by any instrument, and occupies no space. Many people think it is a

(X)

waste of time to draw a distinction between mind and matter

They are like the man in Punch who said (What is mind? --it is no matter! What is matter? never mind!)

The question about ourselves and us If a spirit being (like an angel) does not possess any of the pro

perties just mentioned such as extension, weight, and so on — *then*

what HAS it got? *a spirit person* And the answer is intelligence and will.

and self-consciousness. Even in ourselves the really

essential part of our being — the soul — is an immaterial being,

unharmed though as long as we are alive, it is linked to a material

body. If you were to examine the brain of a human being with

the most up-to-date means you would see electric vibrations in

the brain cells, and running along the nerves, but no microscope

in the world has ever shown us a thought, ~~like~~ an abstract

idea like hope or justice — and never will. They belong to

two completely different orders of *being*.

~~It is just because we~~ *that* are so immersed in a world of

matter ~~and~~ *force out* (as Aristotle showed 25 centuries ago) *to act as a foundation*

are ~~even dependent on things material~~ *immaterial* around us for the

building up of our ~~spiritual~~ ideas. *^* It is just because of this

?

that it is not easy for us to "see" with our minds the existence

of purely spiritual entities like the angels. The difficulty

is in ourselves, is the result of our own natural limitations

and is in no way fundamental or of necessity. There is no

reason whatever why God in the plenitude of his creative power *a whole world* should not have created a multitude of spiritual beings.

that it cannot function without it .It is almost an axiom in human physiology and psycholgy that our thinking and cerebral activity are linked up together .Everyone knows how even a cup of coffee at coffee to the right moment can make a world of difference to our thinging ; and how when we are physcially exhaustetes our consciousness seems to dwindle ,and how ^{at all} some times we feel metally on the top of our form and oth~~er~~ and at other times unable ^{scarecly} aße to folow a line of argument . It is the same with the will --how often if we have an important decision to make we say to ourselves : I will leave it till tomoorow and will "sellp over it "and make the decsion when I am fresh and thoroughly awake un the monring . And of fourse we cll know tha if you hit a person hard enough on the head he stops thinkingaltogether .All which goes to show that the spiritual and immaterial part of us is condytioed by its inseparable partnership with a material body . (Cause)

Now just for a momwnt try and imagine the ~~state~~ ~~xxxx~~ functioning oa a mind that is entirely independent on any material -nothing to clog down and act as a break on swiftness and perfection of thought. It makes one think of that phrase in Shelleys Skylar where he ~~xxxxxxx~~ says "like an unbodies joy whose race has just begun ".

When we think and argue we go laboriously from point to point -what is known as discursive reasoning -^uwhich is because we are clogges with matter ; on the other hand the mind of the angel works with instantaenous swiftness and a completenss that it ~~sees the conclusionxxxxxxxthe~~ ^{we cannot} ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^u that is implied by any truth to its last conclusion . Sombody asked St Thomas Aquinas the great medieval phiolosper what he reagared as the greates natural gift that Gos had given hi

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act of judgement by the intellect . With us human beings our knowledge of God - like all our knowledge - comes gradually Furthermore if we make the wrong choice , choosing to do our own will rather than God's , we can - so long as we are alive and tied to our material bodies - repent of our sin (for it is that by definition - for sin is by its nature and offence against God) But with pure spirits like the angels it is different . When an angel makes a decision he never goes back on it . This is because the act on knowledge which preceds his decision is so complete and his decision so absolute that he ~~puts~~ PUTS HIS WHOE BEING INTO THE DECISION THAT THERE IS NOTHING LEFT OVER . He knew everything there was to know about the situation before he made the decision -so there was nothing left to reconsider . Hence that decision was irrevocable . That is why - as Shakespeare tells us that when Lucifer ~~fell~~ the prince of the angels fell " he fell never to rise again /".

We do not know for certain what the particular situation was in which the angels were placed when they rebelled against God - but we know for certain what was the sin by which they fell . It was pride

"By that sin fell the angels

The traditional teaching of the Church is that when the angels learned that God in the second person of the Holy Trinity was going to take human flesh from the Blessed Virgin Mary - and because of this She would become "the Mother of God " and as such the highest creature in the Universe ~~This was the~~ higher even than Lucifer and the other mighty spirits ;;; this was too much for them . They thought that they

would have to bow down to young girl on a tiny planet
down there in space was insupportable to their proud spirits .
Any way whatever was the particular reason they refused to
accept the will of God .Incidentally the angels - by their very
nature could not commit many of the sins we humans do - they
could not commit the sin of gluttony or sins of lust ~~xxxxx~~they
~~xxxxx~~ or any of the sins of the flesh - because they have
no flesh .But the sin of pride is a sin of the spirit- and
therefore possible to them .

It is difficult for us to get any idea of the superb
nature of these pure spirits - the force and intensity of their
intelligence and will . The prophet ~~Ezekiel~~ who had a glimpse
of heaven says "they - came and went like living flashes of
~~light~~ 2 If you could imagine the energy of a flash of lightning
or of a tornado ,or of an atom bomb turned into a self conscious
personality one could get some idea of the power and grandeur of
these mighty beings .Christ said on one occasion I saw Satan fall
like lightning from heaven .and on several occasions spoke of
him as The prince of this world .with whom he had nothing in
common .(who has nothing in me)and one of his main tasks was
to break the power of Satan setting up the Kingdom of God .
We know too that Satan knew very well that in Christ was to
found the greatest danger to His influence ; and how He tempted
Christ and even offered him all the Kingdoms of the World if
he would only fall down and worship him .

It is difficult for us to get any just idea of the superb nature and strength of these pure spirits - of the force and intensity of their intelligence and will. The prophet Ezekeile was vouchsafed a vision of Heaven and tried to depict the wonder of these celestial beings "They spaired with a gleam like burnished brass : Each went straight forwards - whither the spirit wished to go thither they went and they returned not as they went And the living creatures came and went like living flashes of light ."

THE FALL OF THE ANGELS

We read in the last book in the Bible (Revelations) Fierce war broke out in Heaven , where Michael (whose name means "Who is on God's side ?) and his angels fought against the dragon . The dragon and his angels fought on their part , but could not win the day, nor stand their ground in heaven any longer The great dragon , serpent of the primeval age , was flung down to earth - he whom we call the devil of Satan , the whole world's seducer , flung down to earth and his angels with him "

We cannot even begin to picture to ourselves the true nature of that terrible primeval contest between the rebel angels and Michael and the good angels . These latter had also on their part made a final and absolute and irrevocable decisions to serve God and were now forever confirmed in grace as the fallen angels the hatred of God . I must have been on a scale so vast that a nuclear war on this tiny planet would only be compared to a striking of a watch. Milton as we know made a valiant attempt to portray ~~the story of the fallen angels~~ the ^{story} of the fallen angels led by lucifer "whose pride Had cast him out from heaven, with all his sot

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of rebel Angels , by whose aid , aspiring
To set himself in glory above his peers .
He trusted to have equalled the most High

Him the Almighty Power
Hurled headlong down from the ethereal sky
To bottomless perdition , there to dwell
In adamantine chains and penal fire ..

It is all a great mystery this story of the fall of
the angles , not it is not a remote and mythological story
like the fall of the Titans in Greek tradition . It is one which
had and still has a great and terrible significance of the children
of man . By the inscrutable will of the All mighty and Allknowing
the fallen angels - or devils as they became through their fall
are given power to tempt human beings . This is not the place to
relate the story how the devil tempted Eve - and through her Adam
so that together they committed the great "original sin" which
led to what is known as the Fall of Man . *State*

It It might be asked how a devil - who has no body
and does not occupy space could be said to be in this or that
place on earth . The answer is that a spirit - whether angel or
devil - is said to be in that place on earth where - through
the force of his spirit - he is able to exercise his power *on faculties*
as for instance lifting a piano at a spiritualist seance
or *any* *is a to influence of a thing* ~~operating~~ on the brain of a human being . But again you may say
if an angel is a pure spirit how could it appear - as did the
angel Gabriel - to Mary to announce to her that she was to be
the mother of the Messiah . The angels are given the power to
assume the appearance of a body through which they convey
a specific message -- but such a body does not belong to them by
nature - they just put it on pro tem .

To some people the notion that there are evil spirits
around us - though unseen is not only distasteful but terrifying .
But actually there is no need for alarm whatever . *Though St*
any caution

your adversary

Paul tells us that the Devil goes around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, but he adds cheerfully

strong in faith ^{through the} Yet it is well to be on our guard.

Even the most sceptical is bound to admit that given the existence of such malignant beings - whose aim is to bring about our moral ruin - our ignorance or disbelief in their existence would form their best ambush for attack.

^{Walter} Not should this rebellion in High Heaven with the

result of self-creation of the devils lose its place in the general perspective of things. As Skakespeare says "Angels are bright still - though the brightest fell". to-day happens to be the Feast of St Michael and all the Angels and we remember the words Blessed Michael prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits that wander through the world for the ruin of souls.

~~Bless the Lord all thou his Angels - you mighty ones that do his bidding.~~ As Francis Thompson says

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because of this would become "The Mother of God " and as such the highest creature in the Universe --higher even thanLucifer and the other mighty spirits . This was too much for some of them : the thought that tye would have to take second place to a young girl " down there " on a tiny planet was too much for their proud proud spirits. Incidentlly angels by their very nature could not commit many of the sins we human are prone to : they could not commit the sin of gluttonyor lust or any of the sins of the flesh forthe simple reason that they have no flesh .But the sin of pride is a sin of the spirit and that they could and did commit .