



THE TRUE ORIGIN OF HUMAN EVIL

GENESIS 3:1-7



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

**Four characterizations of sin as evil
completely corrupting human beings**

I. Sin's **Constitution** (its nature; Genesis 3:1-6a)

In Genesis 3:1, **Source** = Serpent (*nahas*) = limbless reptile.

This creature talks, reasons, and is “*more crafty*” than any animal God made, but God didn't make this serpent this way.

“Crafty” (*arum*) = shrewd, sensible, cunning; can be used positively or negatively. Here it's negative; the idea is to be “**marked by skill in deception**.” (Logos)

But in Genesis 2:25, Adam and Eve are *arumim*, the plural form of the word crafty. Moses is using a word play to make his point.

Adam and Eve are in **innocence**; Satan is **scheming** to ruin them.

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“Deceived” (exapatao) = to deceive, cheat, beguile, seduce

“His” (masculine) + “craftiness” (panourgia)

= cunning, skillful at trickery

= deceitfulness characterizing an especially wicked character

I. Sin's **Constitution** (its nature; Genesis 3:1-6a)

*“**Indeed**, has God said, ‘you shall not eat from **any** tree of the garden?’”*

*“**Indeed**”* is used here as a marker of emphasis to strengthen the force of Satan’s question as a **device of doubt**.

Satan wants to **muddle** her **mind**, so he’s attacking what we call the **perspicuity** of God’s Word — its clarity, its **clear, understandable** teaching/meaning.

I. Sin's **Constitution** (its nature; Genesis 3:1-6a)

*"...**dying** you shall surely **die**"*

You will **begin** to die, and then you will **surely** die.

This speaks to the **process** of dying, but the **emphasis** is placed on the **certainty** of death, not on the type or timing of death.

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1. How did Eve know what God said?

*"...and you surely shall not **touch** it, lest you die."*

2. Did she sin by adding to what God said?

3. Did she die when she touched it?

Satan is using what Eve **doesn't** know to **obscure** and **deemphasize** what she **does** know.

I. Sin's **Constitution** (its nature; Genesis 3:1-6a)

“...evil is not a ‘thing’ in itself, even though it is real. Rather, evil is the **privation** [depriving] of some good that something ought to have....

Murder is a removal of a human life, i.e., **removal** of an intrinsic good. Adultery is a privation of a marriage, another intrinsic good.

Good is fundamental and can exist in itself; evil cannot exist in itself. It is always a **parasite** on good....

Now, since evil is not a thing, God did not create evil.”

(Jonathan Sarfati)

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What, then, is the evil God calls sin as it is expressed here?

- **Lawlessness** (1 John 3:4)
- **Deceptive/lie** (John 8:44)
- **Captiv**ating
- **Con**suming

Ephesians 4:21-24

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