

## Politics and Christian Civilization: Politics in the Garden of Eden

We ended the discussion of politics with idea of good men making laws but dilemma of good laws to get good men. We agreed with Rousseau that idea of man in a state of nature like an angelic being and with Aristotle that lawgivers must be godlike. We find Adam to be this type of man.

Even if there were no fall man, human beings in the Garden of Eden would have needed government and laws to regulate life in community

1. For Order large number for common purposes because agree on principal but not application.
2. To plan and organize life of developing community

Unfortunately, no historic evidence of this period in human history, so in absence of historical records, we must reconstruct history based on records that do exist; in this case, Sacred Scripture and testimony of holy men and women and use of our reason to try to understand the fall of man and the politics of redemption.

Want to start story at the beginning and trace the conflict to the end of time.

In God all things exist as an idea or form and as one unity. In God there is no division; He is "simple" and one. Three Persons but One Essence, distinguished by relations of origin. Other than that distinction they are the same. Distinctions of relation do not effect the essence which remains one such that whatever is in God is alive and true and good and beautiful all at once; everything is one in Him, there is no distinction other than the persons such that the Father and Son are one but the Father is not the Son nor the Son the Father.

Father is "inascible" or has His origin in no one; Son differs in that he is from the Father, and Spirit differs in that He is from both Father and Son, but all have same essence.

Important distinction, this is the Divine Economy "*Ad Intra*" we are more concerned with creation "*Ad Extra*" or outside of God.

Outside of God the unity inside is expressed as a multiplicity; it is ordered according to its likeness to God but in a separate way each thing having its own separate existence but part of one united whole which is one essence in God but multiplied outside of him

The first manifestation *ad extra* is light. This is a challenge because according to Genesis God made light twice: on days one and then again on four.

It is likely that God first created light or angelic beings on first day, before He created man but **Scripture makes no explicit mention of their creation**. Symbolically mentioned in first chapter of Genesis. St. Augustine believes when Scripture speaks of Lights in the heavens it is speaking of angels:

*"In the beginning God created heaven, and earth. And the earth was void and empty, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God moved over the waters. And God said: **Be light made. And light was made.**" And God saw the light that it was good; and he divided the light from the darkness. And he called the light Day, and the darkness Night; **and there was evening and morning one day.** (Genesis 1:1-3)*

He creates light a second time.

*"And God said: Let there be lights made in the firmament of heaven, to divide the day and the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years: To shine in the firmament of heaven, and to give light upon the earth. And it was so done. And God made two great lights: a greater light to rule the day; and a lesser light to rule the night: and the stars. And God saw that it was good. And the evening and morning were the **fourth day.** (Gen 1:14)*

I am inclined to believe one of these refers to the angels probably the first day. On the fourth day just before He creates man on the sixth angels are placed in the heavens above the earth to minister to man. Scripture indicates angelic spirits are synonymous with stars: Revelation 12:4:

*"And there was seen another sign in heaven: and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads, and ten horns: and on his head seven diadems: And his tail drew **the third part of the stars of heaven,** and cast them to the earth"*

**Stars stand for angels. Angels, like human beings after them, were not created with the Beatific Vision,** but unlike man, angels do not have sentient bodies and thus no need to extract knowledge from sense data and no procreation at least as we know it = millions made at once to minister to God with intuitive knowledge. They had to be tested before being beatified.

They were blest with angelic intuitive knowledge but not omniscient Divine Knowledge. Such as knowledge of the mystery of the Trinity and of Divine Love or Agape which makes higher things subordinate to lower in order of service, "**Noblese Oblige.**" Like man, they knew about justice and laws of intellect grasped by thinking. They did not have infused divine knowledge, only quicker and more powerful minds.

They had intuitive knowledge of natural things or what could be attained by intuition through created things and whatever God might have graced them with, things which human beings know by reason. They knew everything may can potentially know but they knew it all in an instant and without effort.

They knew the ETERNAL LAW = Law by which each all things are properly moved to their end; the law of God operating diversely in all things to move them to their proper end.

In man the eternal law is known as natural law; it is rational intellect that is natural to man. In an angel the eternal law is manifest as intuitive intellect and in animals it is instinct.

Same law that operates differently in different things to move them to their proper end. In God it is all one but in creation it is hierarchically diversified.

Dilemma if God made angels and men to be perfect (man was made to share in His divinity in a unique way) so that they could behold the Glory of God, they had to become like God and to know the good and freely choose it in preference to all other things.

To be like God, they had to have both a mind and a free will to know and chose the good. But because their intellects are not divine or omniscient, neither angels or men could know the fullness of God's essence and of God's corresponding Divine Law, unless God revealed it.

DIVINE LAW exceeds Natural Law known by reason or intuition.

Divine Law is divided into two parts, the **Old** and the **New** both of which are revealed. God's first revelation is in nature known by angels and men but knowledge attained this way is natural and outside of God. Divine Law is supernatural and infused or given by God to man outside of the order of nature.

Neither man nor angles had this knowledge. It would not be given until Moses and then fully until Christ.

*" Jesus saith to them: But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: because **flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven.** And I say to thee: That **thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church,** and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it..."*

*From that time Jesus began to shew to his disciples, that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the ancients and scribes and chief priests, and be put to death, and the third day rise again. And Peter taking him, began to rebuke him, saying: Lord, be it far from thee, this shall not be unto thee. Who turning, said to Peter: **Go behind me, Satan, thou art a scandal unto me:** because thou savourest not the things that are of God, but the things that are of men" (Matt 16: 13-21).*

Peter thinking like a man not like God.

On one hand Jesus, calls Simon "Blessed", a minute later He refers to him as "Satan". There are two orders of Knowledge that form a unity but are very different, "**human**" and "**divine**".

Both men and angels blessed with natural knowledge (rational and intuitive) and only later with divine or revealed. Thus, they both had knowledge and understanding of justice but not of Agape or Divine Love; it would have to be revealed.

This idea of justice and obedience to a superior can be tested in them. Will their intellect lead them to obedience or to disobedience will its greatness blind them or will it lead them to submit to a higher authority whom they cannot fully understand?

Prior to creation of man, angels were supreme. We do not know what life they lived but certain there was a hierarchy and that Lucifer was the light bearer with highest intelligence symbolized by light as it is today - flame stands for education

9 choirs of angels; Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Virtues, Principalities, Archangels and Angels

7 archangels: Michael, Raphael, Gabriel, Raguel, Remiel, Seeriel, Uriel,

Angels are greater in strength and power than man (intuitive), "**Whereas angels who are greater in strength and power**" (II Peter 2:11)

But, because they wanted more (esoteric knowledge - to be like God-Genesis 3:4)

*"And the serpent said to the woman: No, you shall not die the death. For God doth know that in what day soever you shall eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened: and you shall be as Gods."*

They did not only want knowledge of what God does, but how he does it so that they can do it themselves and receive the praise due to God.

Thus, they did not accept or keep their place in creation; they wanted more:

"But the angels who kept not their principality, but forsook their own habitation, he hath reserved under darkness in everlasting chains, unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6)

From this we can deduce Lucifer's high position in the heavenly host and his sin.

Like Adam, THERE HAD TO BE SOME LAW, COMMAND OR PROHIBITION BY WHICH HE COULD BE TESTED.

That law had to challenge his nature which is intellectual intuition which intuited the natural law and the eternal law manifest in creation that moved all things to their end, but not the Divine Law known only "ad intra" to the Holy Trinity.

Man unlike all other things had an inferior mind, sort of brutish in comparison to the angels and the angels mind brutish in comparison to God's, but it was in comparison to God's that they had to be tested for it is His wisdom and love which govern the universe of which they are a created a part.

The idea of divine love or the love that binds the Divine Persons was unknown to either reason or intuition; it would have to be revealed to both angels and men.

Thus, when God revealed His plan of love and service of lower by higher and moreover, that man who is lower was to be elevated above the angels and incorporated into the Divinity (not the Trinity) as the Body of the Second Person thus giving them preference over the angels who were commanded to ministered to and served them, Lucifer rebelled.

His super natural intuitive mind could not grasp the idea of Divine Love; it was far beyond anything known by Lucifer as it was far beyond anything known by man.

It became known only when revealed and God most likely revealed it to angels before man and caused a rebellion among them as it has caused rebellion among many men who cannot grasp it by reason alone or refuse to follow it because it seems to limit them. The only difference is man has a mind which must prod to grasp the meaning of things before he can make a decision where as angels can make a decision in an instant.

They saw it meant service of the lower by the higher, while they thought they should be served by the lower. Because an angelic mind can intuit the end immediately , it could grasp nature of man and his dignity which was less than the angle's, but by God's design, man would be elevated from his lower principality and habitation to the highest place in universe even above the angels.

Moreover, a woman would be given his place as the brightest light in the sky. Mary means "Bright Light" her's is the moon, but Lucifer's, the morning star:

*"A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet" (Rev 12).*

At which knowledge, Lucifer habituated to the highest position rebelled by questioning the plan of God. Human nature did not deserve that dignity.

But Michael perhaps not understanding the Divine Will dared not question or rebel against it and declared, "Who is like unto God." Who are you to question the Almighty. In an angel it is not just a question, it is a rebellion because they grasp its full import in an instant.

Like Peter was tested over the Eucharist in John 6, but responded when asked if he would leave to, "Lord, to whom shall go?" We do not grasp it but since it is you who said it Lord, no matter how difficult, we believe. Lucifer said the opposite, We do not get it and we do not care that it is you the Almighty who have said it and they rebelled:

*"And there was war in the heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon fought, and his angels; and he prevailed not, nor was their place found any more in the heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent, he who is called Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole habitable world, he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Rev. 12"7).*

After he is cast to earth he is found opposed to the Woman giving birth to the Messiah. She is symbolized as sovereign ruler of the night = standing of moon = highest of lights (stars) are submissive to her, She has dominion over the lesser nights which bow before Her.

Crowned with stars = symbols of pure essence, spirit, holiness. Dragon crowned with 7 diadems = symbols of power, earthly of the flesh. Something that adorns like a crown.

Aware that Messiah would be born of a woman or at least that God would assume a human nature he immediately begins to attack her trying to get her to join him in rebellion by tempting her same way he tempted other angels with power and desire to be like God to be served.

Pride that seeks to be served rather than Jesus who came to serve as Angels were intended to do. Further evidence of Lucifer's pride and desire to be God is his temptation of Jesus = Bow down and worship me and I will give you riches and power. Follow me, I am the way.

But, God's will is not to be served, but to serve. Jesus did not deem equality with God as something to be grasped at and plainly told us that He came to serve and not to be served. He left that teaching to be forever ingrained within His apostles by washing the feet at the last supper. (John 13:5) and again when he tells them that the greatest among them must serve the least (Luke 22:26) and most succinctly when he plainly tells them that, "I did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matt 20:28).

This is something Lucifer refused to do. It does not make natural sense; it seems unjust. He wants to treat equals equally and unequals unequally. He thought he deserved the adoration of the lower and thus sought the homage of unequal judgment. He refused like Joseph's brothers to serve that which was lower even if this was commanded by will of God. And in this he is unlike Jesus and Mary and violates the mystery of love that bonds Father and Son and Mother: "Not my will but..." & "I am the handmaid of the Lord..."

He wanted justice known by the intellect but refused to give charity in the will; knowledge of Divine Love was foreign to his intellect. Divine Law not yet revealed except only partially, enough to test him. God's plan not revealed in NL or EL but fully in DL which is yet to be revealed. Lucifer cannot understand plan to humble oneself and serve; he would rather be served.



But this violates most fundamental law of universe, God is humble. “In my kingdom you will sit at my table and I will serve you.”

Lucifer will not bow down to an inferior creature and will not serve. Instead, as soon as he is cast to earth he attacks Eve believing her to be the prophesized woman of Gen 3:15.

Lucifer attempting to bring all creation into rebellion with him by offering secret knowledge.

God realized this before creation of man, but the possibility for man of the gift of an immortal soul, of divine wisdom, and divinization is so ineffably great that adorning him with free will and reason were undertaken aided by assistance of divine grace, prophecy, Scripture, Church and Sacraments etc. If not given, no one could ever be united to the Trinity in the Body of Jesus

No heaven possible for us if no creation.

We see this drama of rebellion and the apparent incongruence between the natural law and divine law played out leading to a test of the angels on the first day and of human beings in Garden of Eden.