

Battles

Good VS. Evil

This Thanksgiving, I reflected on my good fortune. Luckily, this year's bounty was quite substantial.

As a "recovering Catholic" my first inkling was to thank God for my blessings.

Just as I was about to tele-zap a big dose of appreciation to the Holy Father, a list of nasty mishaps crept into mind. Is the Big Guy responsible for these too? Hell no! We have "the devil" to blame for that.

I can see why so many people are drawn to this "blame" philosophy. We are no longer accountable for anything that happens to us. God and Satan are in a never-ending

battle, and plotting our every move. When God tugs a puppet-string one way, Satan counter-attacks with a nasty dose of acne or genital warts.

As much as I'd love to pass the buck for all my foibles, the idea of being a pawn for good or evil is a

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little unnerving. I'd find it more empowering to steer my own destiny, thank-you kindly.

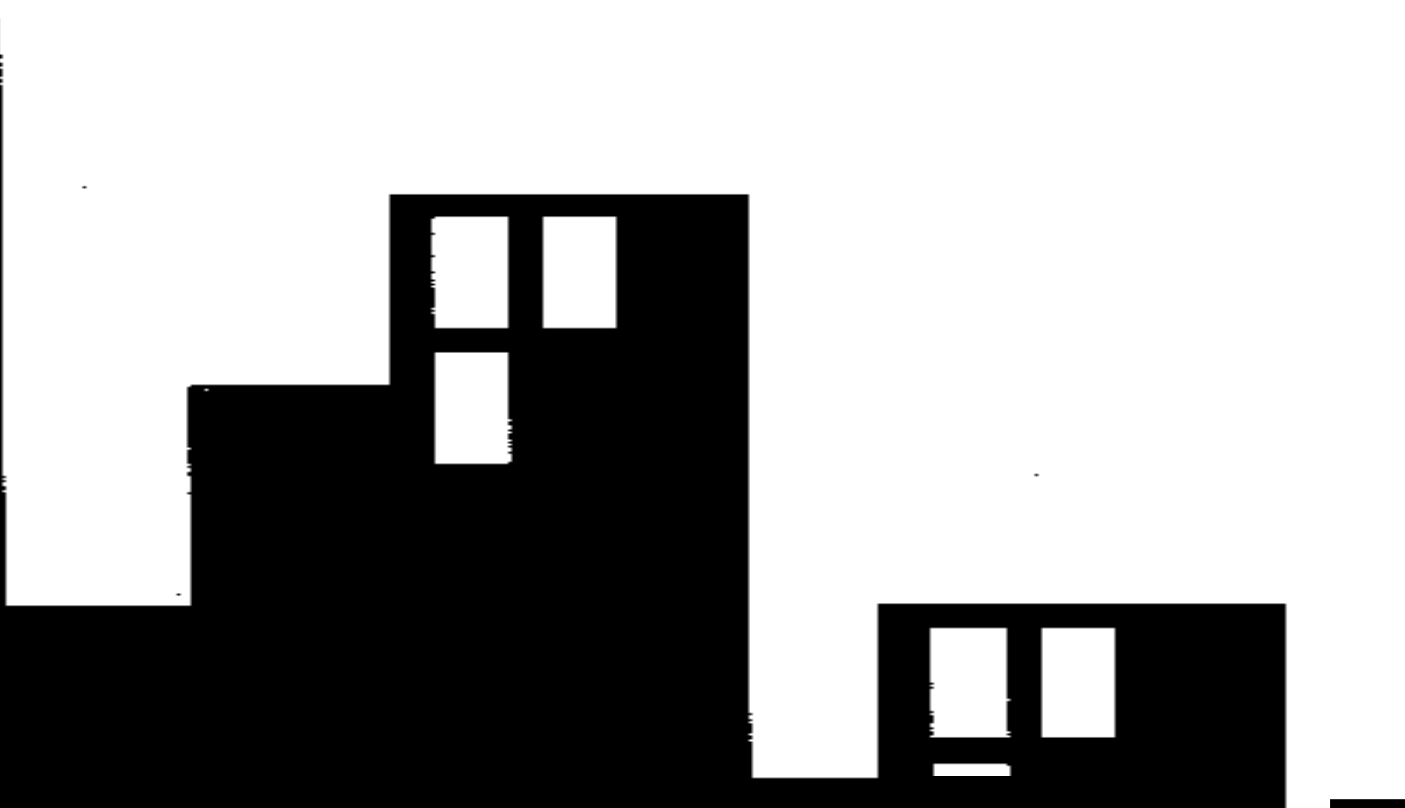
When America was attacked on September 11, I was profoundly saddened. Never before had I

witnessed a mass execution on live television.

In response, President Bush has called this a battle "between good and evil" and launched a military attack. Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, Muslim extremists are plotting their own "holy war" against American forces.

While each party believes they have God's backing, what's ironic here is that both sides worship the same God, derived from Judaism. Is God fighting himself?

I find all this talk about good and evil very reminiscent of Nazi Germany. Hitler was also perceived as the anti-Christ. His acts of



aggression and extermination of the Jews made him worthy of this title.

But was he a devil?

When historians analyze Hitler's rise to power, it's revealed that draconian measures in the Treaty of Versailles completely depleted a once-proud nation. Out of desperation, the Germans turned to a drastic leader, and the rest is history. That said, if Hitler was indeed the devil, the forces of "good" definitely played a big part in his conception.

Similarly, the Americans need to understand what role they played in

birthing the "devil" that attacked them on September 11. If they truly want to be accountable and steer their own destiny, this kind of awareness is essential.

It seems impossible to comprehend what motivates terrorists. If Americans want to win a war against terrorism, however, they need to understand why they were attacked and leave God and the devil out of the equation. After all, the first key in defeating an enemy is understanding it.

Carl Jung would probably consider this a classic opportunity for Americans to meet their collective

"shadow". An enlightening and often painful process.

In the meantime, I pray that the lessons for both America and Afghanistan will be learned swiftly, and with minimal losses.

God bless America; Goddess bless Afghanistan..

