
Message to the Reader

The first message to the reader is that all men and women are created as same with the same inclinations and urges towards good and bad behavior. As far as evil is concerned, there is both human and nature's complicity in its commission. The second message is that in addition to the main Devil, there are millions of smaller but equally nefarious devils in the form of human beings all actively participating in Sinful evil. When the main Devil is at rest, the smaller ones are busy at work and continuing to wreck havoc behind the main Devil's back.

The third message is that human cunning consists of blaming the Devil and others for their own wrong-doing.

"The Devil Asks For Forgiveness" is an attempt therefore to warn Readers that if they are wherever they are for the wrong reasons or under false pretexts, they should not remain there till tragedy strikes them for them to learn from their greed, decadence, self-indulgence and Sin.

Gomani Jere

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The Devil Asks for Forgiveness * Gomani Jere

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Fultus™ Books



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The Devil Asks for Forgiveness

*To all the men and the women in
Seminaries, Convents, Colleges and Universities of Theology.
To all those struggling with the perplexing and nagging question of
the principal source of the ubiquitous and irresistible nature of sin.*

Acknowledgements

My deeply-felt gratitude goes to Shamiso for her material and moral support during the writing of this book, and for her continued assistance throughout the entire period I was putting the final touches to the same piece of work.

Foreword

It is with amazing courage and extraordinary skill that the author deftly tackles and cleverly treats the extremely difficult questions and the elusive answers regarding the principal source and the ultimate end of the act of sin. The author also highly succeeds in highlighting the sharp contrast between the Devil's smallness and iniquity and God the Almighty's grandeur and magnanimity. In the most superb style, the author exposes Man's sole responsibility over sin when he reveals God extending His grace to the repentant Devil hitherto used as a smokescreen for Man's own sin. The striking characteristic about the story in this book is that throughout all the dramatic clashes between good and evil, God the Almighty's holiness, omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence as well as His resilience remain intact and untainted. The author presents this in a very remarkable manner.

Preface

In this story, God the Almighty remains as inscrutable as He always was, is, and will ever be. For this reason, the tale takes place against a background of God's omnipresence, omniscience and omnipotence. The central character, the Devil, however, assumes both abstract and Human characteristics and qualities. The rest of the living and non-living Creatures in the Universe are personified in order to give them character, life and movement for the purpose of facilitating interaction amongst them. Geographical distances and times are quantified in order to create a sense of touch and accessible reality. Secondly, the story is narrated within a World context as old as Creation but which World has evolved technologically, scientifically, socially and intellectually with the passage of time. The Antagonists and the Protagonists are of divine and non-divine Nature but contacts and communication between the two categories of personages are expressed in Human form for the benefit of the reader. Lastly, the story takes place before the advent of organised religious practice.

After millions of billions of trillions of quadrillions of years of untold suffering, the Devil was sincere when, after another round of millions of years of reflection, he decided to repent and appeal, first, for pardon from the Mankind, Nature, Beasts and Elements and then for God's eternal mercy. In doing so, he was counting on the logic that if the former forgave him, the latter, that is, God the Almighty, would also automatically do the same as what is bound on Earth and so it is in Heaven.

What is going to unfold in this amazing story is a narration of that attempt to seek forgiveness, its progression, hurdles and outcome.

Disclaimer

Let the reader be informed that the author of this book is a God-fearing, loving and respecting believer. No opportunity should therefore be given to any provocateurs or inciters who will look behind and underneath every word, phrase or sentence in this story of fiction for blasphemy. No opportunity should be allowed to any fanatical zealots who will be quick to judge and label the author as a Satanist because he is not. Finally, neither the author nor the publisher will be held responsible for any emotions or controversies which may be aroused as a result of the conclusion that in this story of fiction, the Devil is finally forgiven. The author is fully aware that for many, the Devil must never be forgiven because they know and fear that if he is, then they have nowhere to hide in their sinful ways.

Any coincidences or contradictions between this story of fiction and any religious Holy Book teachings is merely coincidental and neither the author nor the publisher can be held responsible for such coincidences or contradictions. Any coincidences or similarities between the characters, operations, beliefs or activities in this story and those in real life are merely coincidental and neither the author nor the publisher can be held responsible for such similarities.

Chapter 1.

The Devil's Fate after the Great Fall

Most Sin Historians and Sin Watchers concur that the Devil's real name was Pырhusus Planetarius. Planetarius was a dynastic title representing a long succession of Kings, Queens and Princes. It was from this aristocratic ancestry that Pырhusus came. When he was admitted into Paradise, he was allowed to maintain his royal status and privileges until the Great Fall. With the Fall, came the name Devil accompanied by all the stigma which the name bears. With the passage of billions of years, the original name of Pырhusus Planetarius was gradually buried and eventually forgotten.

After the Devil, alias Lucifer, Diable and Satan, had been cast out of the power, glory and comfort of the Holy Kingdom, disgraced, downcast, frustrated, protesting, hungry, thirsty, dirty and bitter, he started on the long hard, winding and solitary 360 light-year journey to Hell via Earth.

It is not confirmed what exit mode of transport he used. In fact a lot of controversy surrounds the answers to this question. Speculation is rife that Lucifer, in a state of utter humiliation and dejection, took a horse or a donkey-drawn cart or chariot into which he bundled all his few belongings and at a gallop, took off with his immediate family, in the southern direction.

Other people claim that an imposing sky-blue UFO landed at the golden gates of the Holy Kingdom where, his scanty belongings beside him, he was standing. It is claimed that the doors of the UFO opened automatically and he, and his family behind him, jumped in and after the doors had closed, the strange looking machine put power to its engines and flew away, again in the southern direction.

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A third theory is that a modern supersonic paramilitary jet landed some 10 kilometres away from the gates of the Kingdom and that a green armoured vehicle was dispatched from the aerodrome to defiantly fetch Lucifer and his belongings. A fourth theory claims that it was a helicopter, bright silver in colour, which landed a few metres from the gates and once he had run towards it and had climbed aboard, he arrogantly waved good-bye to everybody present before the helicopter swiftly whisked him away southwards.

The last theory purports that nothing of the above ever took place. Lucifer, this theory goes, self-assertively flew on his own wings and flying at a speed of 300 kilometres per second, headed southwards, his family close at heel.

Given the contradictory Nature of all these theories regarding Lucifer's exit from Heaven and the means of transport he used, it is not known for sure how long it took him to complete the long, long journey from Heaven to Hell via Earth. Those who claim that he used an UFO believe that he took several millennia to cover the estimated 360 light-year journey. Those who say that a conventional paramilitary jet brought him over are convinced that the journey took millions of years. The helicopter, chariot and the wings theorists believe that Lucifer took 50, 150 and 300 million years respectively to reach Earth.

There is also heated debate regarding who and how many accompanied Lucifer on his way to Hell via Earth. Some claim that he was single while others believe that he was married and took with him only his wife and five children, consisting of four males and one female, the youngest. The eldest, called Bhatinosimus (conqueror), was 25 million years old, it is believed. The next, Damianocus (winner), was 23. The third, Laizanus (recover), was 21 and the fourth male child, Mutundanus (destroyer), had just turned 19 million years old when the divine expulsion took place. The youngest, a girl, and reportedly adored and pampered by both the father and the mother, was 15 million years old then. Her name was Shopacus (persuader). At times, when the Devil was in a jovial mood, he affectionately called her 'My Sunshine', the Sin Observers reported.

The same people also say that in addition to his immediate family members, Lucifer was followed by hundreds of relatives, friends,

associates, sympathizers, professionals, advisers and admirers. This means that either the UFO, the paramilitary jet, the helicopter or the chariot must have made several round trips between the Kingdom of Heaven and Earth to fetch all these people. It is estimated that outside his family members, Lucifer's followers numbered in excess of five million.

There is also a lot of disagreement regarding Lucifer's final destination once he and his entourage had landed in Hell. Some claim that Lucifer and his people immediately went into hiding in caves, forests and hills from where they were said to hold many secret Meetings to map out various strategies and device schemes all intended for the conquest of the Kingdom of Earth. It is also said that in these Meetings Lucifer and his people openly acknowledged right from the beginning that the task of conquering the Kingdom of Earth was going to be a mammoth one, requiring resourcefulness, creativity, imagination, craftiness, ruthlessness, treachery, flattery and lies. It is also said that the Devil and his workmates were under no illusion whatsoever that they would meet stiff resistance from the Inhabitants of the Earth.

The most plausible theory is that after the disgraceful expulsion from Heaven, the Devil, his family, his personal physicians, physiotherapists, pharmacists, his personal advisers, collaborators and followers, five million people altogether, headed for Hell via Earth, 360 light-years away from Heaven.

From the description given by the Devil's loyalists, Hell was desolate, barren, hostile and inhabitable. The followers say that the place was unbearably hot during the day, with ground temperatures soaring to as high as 5000 degrees centigrade, while freezing at night with temperatures dropping to -2000 degrees centigrade throughout the calendar year. The river waters were boiling all day and frozen all night, they added, trembling.

Depressed, on the brink of nervous breakdown and suicidal, the Devil scouted for a suitable place upon which to build his Palace. He scanned the horizon and when he looked to the east and spotted this hilly place, he liked it and instructed his builders to erect his stone Palace on top of the hills. He also issued orders to the rest of his

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people to build their own houses in the valley below, within his easy view and reach. It is also important to mention it here that as soon as the construction of the Devil's Palace was completed, he instructed his workers to erect a 10-kilometer high, 50- million kilometer long barbed razor wire perimeter security fence to surround the entire Devil's community dwellings and Palace. The fence was also electrified by a 20 million volt electric charge. The aim of the fence was to bar any arrivals from Earth condemned to Hell from storming the Devil's Palace and community and attacking them out of rage and bitterness for having been responsible for their being condemned to and dragged into eternal punishment in Hell. The Hell society, because of this physical barrier, comprised therefore two groups, namely, the high class consisting of the exiles from Heaven and low class made up of the condemned from Earth. But both groups fell directly under the general command of the Devil himself.

Right from the start, the Devil's community in Hell was plagued by hunger, thirst, disease and social unrest. To begin with, because of the infertility of the Hell soil, agricultural production and output were very low, barely enough to feed a fraction of the Hell population. Agricultural labour was scarce and erratic due to absenteeism caused by morbidity, alcoholism, insubordination and indiscipline.

The Hell community's health service delivery system was not only in shambles but almost non-existent and the only trained medical staff available on demand was exclusively in the service of the Devil himself, his family and the small privileged circle of the Devil 's friends. There were no schools and for this reason, the level of illiteracy was nearly 98%. The only educated people were the Devil himself, his family, his Personal Assistant, his Chief Advisor, his Generalissimo, his Generals and a few Engineers. It is believed that the Devil himself was highly educated and it is rumoured that he held several university degrees in Micro-biology, Geo-physics, Marine Biology, Astronomy and History among others, before he was chased from Heaven. Indeed, it is said that he was working on the final year of his doctoral degree in Nuclear Physics when he was expelled from the Kingdom.

Politically, the Hell community was run on the lines of absolute authoritarianism at the top of the hierarchy and on the lines of

absolute anarchy at the bottom. However, the Devil's word was a final and any dissidence was dealt with, with absolute severity. Demographically, the Hell population grew rapidly from the time the Devil arrived in Hell.

Although the Devil's family itself was small, those of his followers were big and fast-growing, recording a phenomenal birth rate of 200,1% per annum. Added to this figure was the fact there was a 0% mortality rate in Hell. Condemned sinners from Earth were also coming to Hell to inflate the population with the result that it galloped from 5 million to 20 million in 3 months and 100 million in 5 months and to 1, 2 billion in 12 months.

Socially, it was chaos which characterized life in Hell. Over-crowdedness, drunkenness, greed, rowdy behaviour, violence, murder, rape, fraud, cheating, jealousy and many other vices were openly endemic. It is from this background that the Devil, his Generals and his Commanders emerged to travel all the way to Earth to mislead the Citizens, Creatures and Inhabitants of the Planet and cause confusion and unhappiness among them.

Reference has already been made to the fact that it is not known for certain how the Devil travelled from Heaven to Hell after the expulsion. But it is widely rumoured and accepted that from Hell to Earth, his Generals and Commanders used fast, sophisticated aircraft whose frame was made of Human bone skeleton, the engine of herbal roots and which aircraft used, as combustion fuel, Human sweat and animal urine. Able to carry 20,000 passengers at once and burning 1 litre of urine-sweat mixture for every 200 million kilometres, at a speed of 9 trillion kilometres per $\frac{1}{4}$ second, such aircraft took just a day to cover the Hell-Earth 2-light year distance. This mode of transport and its speed explain how the Devil agents were often always among the Earth's Inhabitants and Creatures, mingling with and tempting them one minute then vanishing the next minute, only to reappear another day to continue with their evil mission of misleading the Inhabitants of Earth with all kind of ruses.

It is reported that after several millennia of long drawn discussions and planning carried out in Lucifer's many hide-outs, he and his Teams came up with an idea which they considered brilliant. Lucifer's

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advisors had produced a SWOT Analysis, a tool deemed extremely useful in the Devil's strategic planning in his quest to conquer the World. With the SWOT Analysis tool available, the grinning Lucifer and his followers would be able to evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses as individuals and Teams. They would be able to identify opportunities - Human lust, greed, ambition - open them in order to maximise success in their way. With the same tool, they would be able to identify the threats that they were likely to encounter, especially from embryo organised religion, in their ambition to win away and mislead hearts and minds of people of the World.

Guided by this SWOT Analysis tool, Lucifer and his Team were made to understand that demographically, the people of the Earth were far superior to his population of 5 million. Under these circumstances, there was no way they were ever going to make any impact which would eventually lead to Lucifer Team's victory over his intended victims. Lucifer's advisors also brought to his attention that the Inhabitants of the Earth's mortality rate measured against their birth rate, reflected a constant population growth of 4% and this was not good news. Wars, accidents and diseases would not have any desirable impact on the population growth of the people of the World. This population growth rate would mean that Lucifer's people would always be outnumbered by the people of the Earth. What was needed, ideally speaking, was a ration of one Lucifer follower for every twenty million Earth people.

The Devil's surveillance Teams tasked with the responsibility of monitoring the daily activities of the Inhabitants of the Earth brought back very discouraging reports that Many men, women and young people were becoming more focused and serious in mending their ways. The result was some noticeable drop in the levels of sinful behaviour and marked increase in Human piety. This intelligence information did not please Lucifer at all. It is also reliably reported that, so distressed would Satan be by such reports that he would spend days drinking himself to near stupor. He would brood all day, bark at his servants and subordinates and would be rude and unpleasant with his immediate family members, particularly his wife.

It is also reported that the Devil was also deeply depressed by the intelligence information reaching his domain that the people on Earth

were becoming more and more masters of their own destiny in the sense that there were becoming more capable of containing Many fatal diseases, were able to prevent Many conflicts and that wherever they were already occurring, they were able to Manage them. Satan or Lucifer is also said to have been enraged by the news that the people of the World were cooperating more and more amongst themselves, were becoming more productive and were beginning to share more equitably both goods and services among themselves. There were more smiles and explosions of laughter than cries among people on Earth, the Devil was told, to his great chagrin.

Mounting Traps and setting snares

The Devil, Lucifer, Satan or the Evil one, scheming as usual, then came up with a plan. He appointed 20,000 Commanders and 20,000 Lieutenants to be in charge of mounting traps and setting snares which would lead the people of the Earth into commission of all kinds of sin, venial and mortal. For example, Commander 1, known as the Jackal, was responsible for the commission of all categories of erotic or sexual sins such as fornication, adultery, perversion and molestation. Those closest to Commander 1 confirm that he was thorough and single-minded in the execution of his duty to ensure that millions of people around the Globe would be tempted and fall victim to these sins of the flesh. Alcohol, money, physical beauty, emeralds, diamonds, gold, silver, houses, cars, music, travel and dancing the night away were some of the few traps used to tempt people.

Lieutenant Zero reported directly to Commander 1. He supervised more than one million Field Workers deployed all over the World and who in turn recruited millions of followers who then visited households, schools, colleges and workplaces as well as pleasure houses to influence men and women of all races, creed, colour and class to indulge without restraint in sinful sex. They also encouraged couples and families to be unfaithful and urged children to rebel against their parents. They exhorted shamelessness among the people. Lieutenant Zero collected all the field data and compiled it into a report on sexual sin on Earth which he presented to the Jackal who in turn scrutinized it before finally submitting it to Lucifer himself.

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“The figures look impressive’ Satan or Lucifer would remark gleefully after having carefully looked at the report. ‘But you need to promote more sinful sex among those who claim to be the most pious among the leaders. Once those have fallen, everybody else will follow their lead. That will be our sweetest victory”

“Yes Your Majesty.’ Commander 1 would reply enthusiastically. “Your wish shall be respected and done.’ Execution instruction would immediately be sent through the Lieutenants and the Field Workers.

Commander 650 and his Lieutenant, Zamab, led a total of 1,3 million Field Workers Worldwide in the area of general immorality and vice which covered dishonesty, corruption, lust, deceit, lies, theft, swearing, verbal and psychological insult, betrayal, hypocrisy, discrimination, insolence, anger, intolerance, hatred, unforgiving, jealousy, disrespect, unreliability, bitterness and ingratitude. Using reward and punishment or the carrot and the stick as well as negative competition and malicious gossip as their tools, Commander 650 and his Lieutenant saw to it that people of the Earth in their orbit were influenced to engage in the vices listed above and to teach others to do the same. Nicknamed the “King of Vice” Commander 650 was the most eager, it is said, to present this report to Satan at the end of each month. It is also reported that he often arrived at Lucifer’s Resident Offices thirty minutes ahead of schedule and often over-stayed hours after the official Meeting was over. Rumours have it that the “King Vice” was one of Satan’s favourite Commanders and it is believed that he was one of the Commanders Lucifer regularly drank with during and after the monthly Meetings. The last rumour claims that the “King of Vice” was one of the few Commanders who enjoyed the rare privilege of unscheduled visits to Satan’s Residence for informal discussions on unlimited number of subjects.

Another Commander was Commander 66 whose Lieutenant was called Brimstone. These two were responsible for causing all sorts of havoc and destruction on Earth. Domestic and civil disputes and conflicts, international wars, natural disasters such as fires, tsunami floods, Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, droughts, excessive heat or cold, lightning and quicksand, among Many others, were directly controlled by tem. Commander 66’s Lieutenant gave orders to the Field Workers living in various regions of the World to provoke

havoc and misery among the people of the Earth through the unleashing of any of the above mentioned disasters on any spot of the Globe.

It is said that Satan read the monthly Report on World Havocs as prepared and submitted by Commander 66, usually in the evenings as he sat by the fireplace in his lounge. Lifting his eyes off the Report and looking into the eyes of the Commander and Lieutenant, Lucifer would say "That's marvellous, what is happening in Zones 1, 3, 17, 105, 206 and zones 740 of the World. You are doing a splendid job. But you need to increase the number and areas of suffering. Trigger more suffering among the people of the Human race."

"Thank you, Your Majesty, for the praise, Rest assured that your wish shall be done," would reply Commander 66 and Lieutenant obediently bowing their heads in respect as they said so. In his routine Meetings with his Commanders and Lieutenants, Lucifer or Satan was known to have always emphasized the point that enslaving the Earth people by physical and mental sin alone was not good enough. The people of the World had to be enslaved and crippled by disease too and only in that Manner would his empire grow and flourish. It was for this reason that Satan appointed Commander 3000 to carry out this mission.

Commander 3000 was Satan's Commander for physical and mental diseases on Earth. He and his Lieutenant called "Stinger" had agents planted all over the World Manufacturing and spreading through food, drink, alcohol, air and water various viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, germs and parasites of all descriptions. These in turn caused both genetic and infectious physical and mental diseases among the people of the Earth. Unbearable suffering and loss of life followed. Upon learning, through the monthly Reports, of the growing number of people falling ill and dying, Lucifer or Satan, it is said, would gloat with cruel delight and would, after thanking Commander 3000 and his Lieutenant for a job well done, exhort them to cast more disease virus and spells upon the people of the Earth until, in Lucifer's own words, "the people of the Earth squeal in pain and fall on their knees begging for mercy from and worship me."

In his scheming, Lucifer was extremely careful not to leave out a single aspect of the lives of the people of the World unperturbed. To

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this end, he had appointed Commander 5000 to take charge of all Manner and degree of addiction of alcohol, psychedelic drugs and pornography. To facilitate Commander 5000's work, Lucifer placed at his request and disposal abundant quantities of alcohol, loose men and women ready to expose them for the illicit blue film industry and also supplied him with ecstasy drugs for consumers seeking heightened pleasures.

Violent and passionate crimes, murders, rape, cruelty towards Animals and plants, robbery, sadism and muggings among similar crimes, fell under the direct responsibility of Commander 7500. He was under strict orders to ensure that three or more or even all of these crimes would take place once every day in every group of one hundred people throughout the World. And when Commander 7500 reported back to confirm the statistics, it is said that Satan would temporarily lose his composure, jump out of his chair and make a few dancing steps, all this because of joy.

When intelligence reports reached Lucifer that it appeared as if the people of the Earth were putting up a stiff fight to ward off sin and working very hard to improve the quality of their lives, the Devil was very scornful. Immediately he appointed Commander 10,000 whose job was to encourage people of the World to be lazy, incompetent, lethargic, lacking in motivation and loathing both Manual and intellectual work. Lucifer's intentions were to promote prolong ignorance, hunger, poverty, backwardness and under-development among the people of the Earth. He was successful in his endeavour because reports submitted by Commander 10,000 revealed that as a result of Commander 10,000 underground activities, there was a noticeable reversal of the hard work trend among the people of the World who were now shunning work in preference to having a lazy, good time.

It has been mentioned that following his ejection from Heaven, the Devil deployed 20,000 Commanders and 20,000 Lieutenants to lure the people of the World to commit sins of all descriptions. It has also been reported that the Commanders and Lieutenants recruited millions of marshals and ushers to execute these tasks in the field on Earth. It was alluded to that the Field marshals and ushers mobilized and recruited millions of followers on Earth to do Lucifer's dirty

work. Finally, it has been said that all the sins were recorded in monthly Reports which the 20,000 Commanders presented to Lucifer himself.

What has not been stated yet is that at the end of each year, all the thousands of monthly Reports, that is to say 20,000 reports multiply by 12 months, giving 240000 reports had to be written. These were compiled into one Annual General Report on sins of Earth and submitted to Lucifer for reading and evaluation. It is said that he took three weeks to read it, make notes from it and then convene a general Meeting to which all Commanders and Lieutenants were invited. And it was at such a Meeting that Lucifer would express his opinions, fears and hopes based on the information extracted from the Annual General Report on Sins of the Earth.

It is reliably reported that such Meetings were usually moments of sharp tension if in one particular area of sin, enough work was not considered to have been well done. But it is said that for Many successive years, the Annual General Report on Sins of the Earth, contrary to all rumours and inaccurate intelligence reports, indicated that the Commanders and their Lieutenants were doing a splendid job and that the commission of sin, rather than drop, was in fact on the increase everywhere and everyday on the Globe. This meant, in Lucifer's own words of self-praise "the conquests are increasing and my Empire is growing bigger and bigger by the day."

The same Annual General Report also mentioned the mushrooming of Many churches and prayer places on Earth but Satan sarcastically dismissed them as "frivolous, ineffective and ineffectual. In fact, infiltrate them with money and cars and other goodies and then destroy them from inside. While inside, just be good pretenders and perfect hypocrites," he commanded smilingly. It is widely known that the Annual GENERAL Meeting ended with a grand satanic party attended by all the family members, friends, loyalists, advisors, admirers and subordinates of Diable or Lucifer. It is known that the party at which were eaten sumptuous meals and drank mellow, sparkling wines lasted several nights. Naked dancing, singing, games and dirty jokes were all part of the party to close the year in style.

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Devil's continuing mental, psychological and physical anguish

It was cautiously and prudently whispered by those closest to him that despite Lucifer's continued conquest of the hearts and minds of the people of the World, that in spite of the ever-increasing size of his empire, despite the jovial appearance he projected each time he completed reading his Commanders' monthly Reports, the Devil himself inwardly remained restless, depressed and bitter. He appeared, the whispers went, mentally anguished and tortured by some inexplicable causes. His wife confided in her young sister that her husband suffered from an incessant insomnia, nightly deliriums and that he continuously had nightmares and panic attacks. She went on to say that he soliloquized a lot and also was subject to somnambulism. "But when I asked what the matter with him could possibly be, he brushed me aside and said, 'Oh it's nothing, not to worry'"

Physically too he looked gravely ill. He was emaciated, greying, limping on a walking stick and his appetite was reported to be very low and poor, disallowing him to eat for months at a stretch sometimes. Worried that both his mental and physical conditions would deteriorate further, his family decided to call the family doctors, five of them, to examine him. Satan was reluctant at first but gradually changed his mind and accepted their intervention.

The five physicians spent nearly twelve weeks working on him, investigating all possible causes of the symptoms Satan was showing. Blood samples were taken and tested and all his skeletal, mental, muscular, circulatory, digestive, ocular, auditory, endocrine, reproductive, respiratory and nerve systems were subjected to rigorous investigation. He was, on his permission, even tested for HIV/AIDS but the doctors, true to their ethical practice, kept the results confidential. Whispers are that when Lucifer was presented with the HIV/AIDS results, his face remained expressionless. Baffled, the doctors were at a loss as what to do next and to what drugs to prescribe. In the absence of any specific diagnosis, they agreed however to make general proposals and to prescribe common anti-pyretic, analgesic, anti-depressant and anti-insomnia drugs for his immediate use.

“It must be his soul which is in a state of deep conflict” suggested timidly amongst themselves, some of his closest advisors. “It’s a soul disease and the cure can only be a soul cure,” they insisted. “Once the soul conflict has been cured, the body will be cured. It’s a psychosomatic ailment,” the advisors repeated.

It is said that when this information was eventually but diplomatically conveyed to Lucifer, he went beside himself with rage. Trembling, foaming at the mouth and his eyes rolling and bloodshot, Lucifer barked and howled at anyone he suspected of having made such a lost suggestion. It is reported that in his rage he smashed furniture, set some of his clothes alight and kicked and punched his domestic pets and servants. This state of affairs lasted for several weeks before Satan started cooling down and it was only then that he could find some half sleep.

For several decades which rolled on and folded into centuries after this episode, and while his Commanders and Lieutenants continued to cause sin among the people of the World, Satan endured. But while his empire grew bigger and bigger, the Devil himself continued to suffer horribly, mentally and physically. And yet, out of sheer fear, nobody, not even his wife and children, dared ask him to consider the advice circulating to the effect that he needed a soul conflict cure. In the meanwhile, he howled with pain, sulked with depression and complained of hang-over and loss of appetite and general lack of wellbeing. It is reported that in order to fight the unbearable mental anguish and maddening physical pain that were gnawing him, Lucifer went for all remedies his doctors had prescribed. Additionally he tried Yoga, Transcendental Meditation, Homeopathic Treatment, Traditional Medicine, Hypnotism, Massage and Physiotherapy among others, to no avail. The torture and suffering continued unabated.

It was then, some close relatives of Lucifer’s family are believed to have revealed that, no longer able to bear the pain anymore and any longer, Satan confided in his wife and children that he was missing the wholesome health, the comfort and peace of mind he once knew in the Kingdom of Heaven. The family members also revealed that at those moments Lucifer was however torn between openly admitting that his wish was to be allowed to return to Heaven and resisting

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making that admission. The Sin Observers are said to have reported having overheard times without number, the Devil's eldest children saying that their father often but hesitatingly whispered into their mother's ears that he had some very important information to share with her. But each time the Devil tried to open his mouth and pour out his heart to her, he would freeze and tell his wife "Oh forget it. It was nothing really." At this, the puzzled wife would look into his eyes quizzingly and wonder.