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Origin of Sin

This noon a young man told me that he had a friend who was a Christian and yet who was very much disturbed about a question he could not answer. He asked whether I could give an answer to it. It was an interesting question and the attempt ~~was~~ rather to answer it/stimulated me. I don't know whether it did him any good but it certainly stimulated me. Maybe I can recall enough of what I said or what I wanted to say at that time to get something that might be a start for eventual consideration down on to paper.

The question was: Where did sin come from? If God knew man was going to sin why did He create man at all? ~~x~~ Now this question of course immediately takes us into areas in which we cannot expect to know everything, but I immediately gave the ~~many~~ most obvious answers. I said, "Sin comes from man's desire to put himself in the place of God, to make himself the end of all creation, to make his desires and his purposes the ~~what~~ matters, instead of trying to do God's will. This is sin." "Well," I was asked, "where does sin come from?" "Well," I said, "sin is not a thing like a quantity of something that you can move it from here to there, put it into this or that; sin represents an attitude, and attitude into which all of us very easily fall." It was there that the question then was asked, "Well, ~~a~~ if God knew that ~~man~~ man was going to sin anyway, why did God create man? Why should He create him in order that he would sin and that he should eventually have to be terribly punished?" At this point I thought about the relation of a child. A ~~parent~~ parent says to the child+ "This you should do and this you must avoid doing." The parent tries to explain to the child what he can explain but there is much that we cannot explain. Yet we know a great deal that the child does not know and cannot understand, and therefore we have to direct him this way and that. God's wisdom in comparison to ours is far greater than the wisdom of a parent, compared to the intelligence of the child. ~~Rx~~ I pointed back to the figure I have given a good many times about the tapestry. You look at one side of it and you have beautiful colors and very interesting figures in representing a very fine picture. You look at the back reverse side of it where you see all the parts of it but they do not ~~present~~ present a picture at ~~all~~ all. It gives you a very rough