

Evil Real and Obstinate

The Age-long Problem

From the earliest times men have been seeking to solve the problem of evil. The Egyptian priest wrestled with it. The Chaldean astrologer, gazing into the stars of the midnight sky, sought a solution. Job, the ash-heap philosopher, was tortured by its dark enigma. Greek writers could not keep away from it. It was the theme of Milton's "Paradise Lost." The African witch-doctor, the Mohammedan with his prayer-wheel, the mournful procession of Hindu pilgrims wending their way along the sacred river Ganges, are all conscious of evil, and each in his own way is seeking deliverance.

There are genial optimists who, unable to find a solution of the problem, take the easy way of declaring that there is no problem. Evil is non-existent. Sin is a delusion. There is error and weakness and ignorance, but there is no sin. Forget it, and it will cease to trouble you. But evil is a reality that cannot be dislodged by any intellectual sleight-of-hand performance.

The Stubborn Fact

The history of man on the planet is a history of the battle between good and evil. The Scriptures cover a period of thousands of years, and in them the inner history of man is told in terms of a moral struggle. An old philosopher once said, "Happy