

EVIL

Cruelty, Sin, Vice and Wickedness

1. ESSENCE

- 1148 Evil is simply misplaced force. It can be misplaced in time, like the violence that is acceptable in war is unacceptable in peace. It can be misplaced in space, like a burning coal on the rug rather than the fireplace. Or it can be misplaced in proportion, like an excess of love can make us overly sentimental, or a lack of love can make us cruel and destructive. It is in things such as these that evil lies, not in a personal Devil who acts as an Adversary.
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 1149 All cruelty springs from weakness.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1150 Sin is essentially a departure from God.
Martin Luther (1483-1546)
- 1151 Evil has no substance of its own, but is only the defect, excess, perversion, or corruption of that which has substance.
John Henry Newman (1801-1890)
- 1152 What is evil? - Whatever springs from weakness.
Nietzsche (1844-1900)

2. OPPOSITES

- 1153 The only good is knowledge and the only evil is ignorance.
Socrates (B.C. 469-399)
- 1154 They who are ashamed of what they ought not to be,
and are not ashamed of what they ought to be,
such men, embracing false doctrines, enter the evil path.
They who fear when they ought not to fear,
and fear not when they ought to fear,
such men, embracing false doctrines, enter the evil path.
The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)
- 1155 Bad men hate sin through fear of punishment;
good men hate sin through their love of virtue.
Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 1156 To overcome evil with good is good,
to resist evil by evil is evil.
Mohammed (570-632 A.D.)

- 1157 The evil man is like a pot of clay,
easily breaking, but reunited with difficulty;
whilst a good man is like a jar of gold,
hard to break and quickly to be joined again.
The Hitopadesa (600?-1100? A.D.)
- 1158 The greatest evils, are from within us; and from ourselves
also we must look for the greatest good.
Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)
- 1159 Vice stings us even in our pleasures,
but virtue consoles us even in our pains.
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 1160 The cruelty of the weak is more dreadful than that of the
strong.
Lavater (1741-1801)
- 1161 Evil is a form of good, of which the results are not
immediately manifest.
Balzac (1799-1850)
- 1162 The first lesson of history, is, that evil is good.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 1163 Preventives of evil are far better than remedies;
cheaper and easier of application, and surer in result.
Tryon Edwards (1809-1894)
- 1164 Evil and good are God's right hand and left.
Bailey (1816-1902)
- 1165 He who does evil that good may come, pays a toll to the
devil to let him into heaven.
Hare & Charles (c. 1830)
- 1166 Sin may open bright as the morning,
but it will end dark as night.
Thomas Talmage (1832-1902)
- 1167 Evil exists to glorify the good. Evil is negative good.
It is a relative term. Evil can be transmuted into good.
What is evil to one at one time, becomes good at another
time to somebody else.
Sivananda (born 1887)

3. INSIGHT

- 1168 To see and listen to the wicked is already the beginning
of wickedness.
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

- 1169 Evil events from evil causes spring.
Aristophanes (B.C. 448-380)
- 1170 There is wickedness in the intention of wickedness,
even though it be not perpetrated in the art.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 1171 There are a thousand forms of evil; there will be a
thousand remedies.
Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)
- 1172 The way to wickedness is always through wickedness.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1173 No one ever reached the worst of a vice at one leap.
Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 1174 Through no amount of effort can a naturally wicked man
Be turned into an honest one.
However long you boil water,
It is impossible to make it burn like fire.
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 1175 He that falls into sin is a man;
that grieves at it may be a saint;
that boasteth of it is a devil.
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 1176 Sin first is pleasing, then it grows easy, then delightful,
then frequent, then habitual, then confirmed; then the man
is impenitent, then he is obstinate, then he is resolved
never to repent, and then he is ruined.
Robert Leighton (1611-1684)
- 1177 No man is clever enough to know all the evil he does.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 1178 Wickedness may prosper for awhile, but in the long run,
he that sets all the knaves at work will pay them.
L'Estrange (1616-1704)
- 1179 Most of the evils of life arise from man's being unable to
sit still in a room.
Pascal (1623-1662)
- 1180 The dread of evil is a much more forcible principle of human
actions than the prospect of good.
John Locke (1632-1704)

- 1181 What maintains one vice would bring up two children.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 1182 The lives of the best of us are spent in choosing between evils.
Junius (1740-1818)
- 1183 Sin puts on that which tempteth to destruction.
It has been said that sin is like the bee,
with honey in its mouth, but a sting in its tail.
Hosea Ballou (1771-1852)
- 1184 This is the course of every evil deed, that, propagating
still it brings forth evil.
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 1185 If evil is inevitable, how are the wicked accountable?
Nay, why do we call men wicked at all?
Evil is inevitable, but is also remediable.
Horace Mann (1796-1859)
- 1186 Moral Evil is Falsehood in actions;
as Falsehood is Crime in words.
Injustice is the essence of Falsehood;
and every false word is an injustice.
Injustice is the death of the Moral Being,
as Falsehood is the poison of the Intelligence.
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 1187 There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil
to one who is striking at the root.
Thoreau (1817-1862)
- 1188 The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not
necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness.
Joseph Conrad (1857-1934)
- 1189 One may say that evil does not exist for subjective man at
all, that there exist only different conceptions of good.
Nobody ever does anything deliberately in the interests of
evil, for the sake of evil. Everybody acts in the interests
of good, as he understands it. But everybody understands
it in a different way. Consequently men drown, slay, and
kill one another in the interests of good.
Gurdjieff (1873-1949)
- 1190 Evil is unspectacular and always human
And shares our bed and eats at our own table.
W. H. Auden (1907-1973)

1191 Sin is hoping for another life and...eluding the implacable grandeur of this life. 5 of 10
Albert Camus (1913-1960)

1192 Mankind fears an evil man
But heaven does not.
Chinese Proverb

4. POSITIVE

1193 The best known evil is the most tolerable.
Livy (B.C. 59-17 A.D.)

1194 The sun shines even on the wicked.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

1195 Much that we call evil is really good in disguises;
and we should not quarrel rashly with adversities not yet
understood, nor overlook the mercies often bound up in them.
Thomas Browne (1605-1682)

1196 The vices enter into the composition of the virtues,
as poisons into that of medicines.
Prudence collects, arranges, and uses them
beneficially against the ills of life.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)

1197 We sometimes learn more from the sight of evil than from
an example of good; and it is well to accustom ourselves
to profit by the evil which is so common, while that which
is good is so rare.
Pascal (1623-1662)

1198 There is this good in real evils, - they deliver us,
while they last, from the petty despotism of all
that were imaginary.
Colton (1780-1832)

1199 The world loves a spice of wickedness.
Longfellow (1807-1882)

1200 It is some compensation for great evils that they enforce
great lessons.
Bovee (1820-1904)

5. NEGATIVE

1201 The fool who does evil to a man who is good, to a man who
is pure and free from sin, the evil returns to him like the
dust thrown against the wind.
The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)

- 1202 Bad conduct soils the finest ornament more than filth.
Plautus (B.C. 254-184)
- 1203 What has this unfeeling age of ours left untried,
what wickedness has it shunned?
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 1204 Cruelty is fed, not weakened by tears.
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 1205 Vice is contagious, and there is no trusting the sound and
the sick together.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1206 A few vices are sufficient to darken many virtues.
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 1207 Who though he has been born a man
yet gives himself to evil ways,
More foolish is he than the fool
who fills with vomit, urine, dung
Golden vessels jewel-adorned -
harder man's birth to gain than these.
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 1208 Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when
they do it from religious conviction.
Pascal (1623-1662)
- 1209 The happiness of the wicked passes away like a torrent.
Jean Baptiste Racine (1639-1699)
- 1210 If you do what you should not,
you must bear what you would not.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 1211 Physical evils destroy themselves, or they destroy us.
Rousseau (1712-1778)
- 1212 The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil
is for good men to do nothing.
Burke (1729-1797)
- 1213 Men scanning the surface count the wicked happy; they see
not the frightful dreams that crowd a bad man's pillow.
Tupper (1810-1889)

- 1214 It is almost impossible systematically to constitute a natural moral law. Nature has no principles. She furnishes us with no reason to believe that human life is to be respected. Nature, in her indifference, makes no distinction between good and evil.

Anatole France (1844-1924)

6. ADVICE

- 1215 If a man possesses a repentant spirit his sins will disappear, but if he has an unrepentant spirit his sins will continue and condemn him for their sake forever.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 1216 Keep far way from an evil neighbor, do not associate with the wicked, and do not shrug off all thought of calamity.
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)
- 1217 The gates of hell are three: lust, wrath and avarice. They destroy the Self. Avoid them.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 1218 Let no man think lightly of evil, saying in his heart, it will not come to stay with me. Even by the falling of water-drops a water-pot is filled; the fool becomes full of evil, even if he gather it little by little.
The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)
- 1219 Every evil in the bud is easily crushed: as it grows older, it becomes stronger.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 1220 If thou wishest to get rid of thy evil propensities, thou must keep far from evil companions.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1221 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.
Romans (c. 56 A.D.)
- 1222 O ye men! Eat of the produce of the earth things that are lawful and pure, and follow not the footsteps of the evil-one; surely, he is an enemy to you clear.
Koran (c. 651 A.D.)
- 1223 Association with corrupt people is a pain, the cure of which is separating yourself from them.
Abu Ali Katib (fl. c. 940)
- 1224 When better choices are not to be had, We needs must take the seeming best of bad.
Samuel Daniel (1562?-1619)

- 1225 Each year, one vicious habit rooted in time
ought to make the worst man good.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 1226 Let no man be sorry he has done good, because others have
done evil! If a man has acted right, he has done well,
though alone; if wrong, the sanction of all mankind will
not justify him.
Henry Fielding (1707-1754)
- 1227 The doing evil to avoid an evil cannot be good.
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 1228 For every evil under the sun,
There is a remedy, or there is none;
If there be one, try and find it,
If there is none, never mind it.
Hazlitt (1778-1830)
- 1229 Between two evils, choose neither; between two goods,
choose both.
Tryon Edwards (1809-1894)
- 1230 The true rule in determining to embrace or reject anything
is not whether it have any evil in it, but whether it have
more of evil than of good. There are few things wholly evil
or wholly good.
Lincoln (1809-1865)
- 1231 Strive with thy thoughts unclean before they overpower thee.
Use them as they will thee, for if thou sparest them and
they take root and grow, know well, these thoughts will
overpower and kill thee. Beware! Suffer not their shadow
to approach. For it will grow, increase in size and power,
and then this thing of darkness will absorb thy being before
thou hast well realized the black foul monster's presence.
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

7. POTPOURRI

- 1232 The butcher relenteth not at the bleating of the lamb;
neither is the heart of the cruel moved with distress. But
the tears of the compassionate are sweeter than dew-drops,
falling from roses on the bosom of spring.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 1233 If Jupiter hurled his thunderbolt as often as men sinned,
he would soon be out of thunderbolts.
Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)

- 1234 In whatever manner you fashion a wicked man,
It is impossible to make his nature good.
You may wash charcoal with zeal,
But you will not make it white.
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 1235 Capricious, wanton, bold, and brutal lust
Is meanly selfish; when resisted, cruel;
And, like the blast of pestilential winds,
Taints the sweet bloom of nature's fairest forms.
Milton (1608-1674)
- 1236 When our vices leave us, we flatter ourselves with the
idea that we have left them.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 1237 Vice is a monster so frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 1238 Scarcely anything awakens attention like a tale of cruelty.
The writer of news never fails to tell how the enemy
murdered children and ravished virgins.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 1239 I would not enter in my list of friends,
Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm.
An inadvertent step may crush the snail
That crawls at evening in the public path,
But he has the humanity, forewarned,
Will tread aside, and let the reptile live.
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 1240 Evils in the journey of life are like the hills which alarm
travelers on their road. - Both appear great at a distance,
but when we approach them we find they are far less
insurmountable than we had conceived.
Colton (1780-1832)
- 1241 There are times when it would seem as if God fished with a
line, and the Devil with a net.
Anne Swetchine (1782-1857)
- 1242 But, by all thy nature's weakness,
Hidden faults and follies known,
Be thou, in rebuking evil,
Conscious of thine own.
John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

- 1243 Wild animals never kill for sport. Man is the only one to whom the torture and death of his fellow creatures is amusing in itself.
Froude (1818-1894)
- 1244 It is a proof of our natural bias to evil, that in all things good, gain is harder and slower than loss; but in all things bad or evil, getting is quicker and easier than getting rid of them.
Hare & Charles (c. 1830)
- 1245 Vice is waste of life. Poverty, obedience, and celibacy are the canonical vices.
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 1246 The very emphasis of the commandment: Thou shalt not kill, makes it certain that we are descended from an endlessly long chain of generations of murderers, whose love of murder was in their blood as it is perhaps also in ours.
Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)
- 1247 It is a sin to believe evil of others, but it is seldom a mistake.
H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)
- 1248 Virtuous ten years - still not enough.
Evil one day - too much already.
Chinese Proverb