

The Logic of Love

Chapter 14: Is Imperfection a Good Idea?

*God created perfect children
And they partied through the night
Then it began to dawn on them
That something was too right*

*They had known only perfection
They were always truly blessed
But they had never known triumph
Because they never faced a test*

*So, God created something new
Carved with wisdom out of love
Where the point is direction, not perfection
That below might smile to above*

It is natural to conclude that a perfect God would create a perfect life without suffering, where all the joys of heaven are shared liberally with all. In short, we would like life to fulfill our heart's desire at every moment. Anything less and, obviously, God does not exist. Imperfection seems to contradict God's benevolent omnipotence.

Heaven from birth may exist for some of God's children. Who *knows*? But what would really be so superior about an environment where no one ever exhibited glorious character traits such as altruism, loyalty, and courage? It may be a good mental exercise to contemplate how the irresistible force might move the immovable object, but good answers don't come from bad questions. Similarly, contemplating how the omnipotent God should be able to do the impossible leads nowhere. We cannot expect beautiful character traits such as altruism, loyalty, and courage to find expression where everybody and everything is (and always has been) perfect.

We don't find altruism when everything is fair and all needs are being met. Loyalty is not deeply touching when it is not tested, when there is no possibility of or motivation for default. The valor of courage is seen only against the backdrop of hardship and uncertainty. In short, the height, breadth, and depth of love's expressions expand with imperfection. If we want to have an opportunity to experience the most profound expressions of love, then this world is ideal!

Ironically, we sometimes want the world to be a place where the faintest flicker of faith instantly obliterates everything in life that makes faith a beautiful and courageous choice. The attitude of "I want nirvana and I want it now!" is an emotional response to life, not a reasoned one. It's an attitude that sometimes shows up when people quit smoking or drinking. They expect everyone else to quit, too. Transformations generate such strong feelings that we look for immediate results outside of ourselves. Such sentiments are the type of thinking found in New Year's resolutions. The ends get glorified while the means get despised. But it is valuing the means that allows us to see the glass as half full.

Finding consistency between the concept of a loving God and the state of this world requires us to value the process of accomplishment and be grateful for the opportunity to express extraordinary acts of love. In particular, we must especially value the opportunity to be the architects of our own perfection. There is no reason to assume that we will be stuck in imperfection for all eternity. Such thinking lacks idealism. If the concept of God is to be given fair consideration, then the status of

our imperfection should be looked at as the blessing of being given the opportunity to *accomplish* perfection.

There really is nothing like the satisfaction of accomplishment. Anyone can wear a gold metal around chens neck. The glory comes from earning it. Unless the trait is somehow beaten out of us, by nature children we want Mommy and Daddy to show them how they can do things for ourselves. This disposition is also of great value to us as adults because many of life's greatest satisfactions come from a sense of personal accomplishment. The song *I Did It My Way* was written on earth, not in heaven. If we want to develop a loving attitude, if we want to build strength of character, if we want to achieve a self-motivated transformation from imperfection to perfection, then we are definitely in the right place. By valuing the opportunity to be the creators of our own perfection, imperfection can be appreciated as a reasonable way in which a loving God might create beings with freewill.

[Go to Chapter 15: It's Just Not Fair](#)
[Go to Table of Contents](#)

[Back to Top](#)

UBtheNEWS
Verifying History and Science in The Urantia Book