



## **B. The creation of the invisible world. The origin of evil.**

### **The creation of the invisible world**

The Scripture tells us (Isaiah 14, Psalm 103, Juda 6, II Peter 2) that before the creation of the visible world, the Almighty and loving God created the invisible world (the spiritual or angelic beings (“heavenly and bodiless powers”).

Angels are beings:

- Rational** (intelligent, with a reason superior to man but not omniscient as God);
- Personal** (they are persons with knowledge of the self similar to God and men);
- Spiritual / spirits** (with no material bodies but limited in time and space; they are not omnipresent like God; invisible to men but able to make themselves visible when God gives them a mission to communicate His will to people; i.e: Archangel Gabriel appears to the Holy Virgin Mary, the devil appears to Eve in the form of a serpent);
- Powerful** (they receive power from God and move very fast with the speed of thought);
- Immortal** (created by God in an angelic time (eon) but they never die as they have no material bodies);
- Genderless** (they are neither masculine nor feminine, have no gender);
- Holy** (but not perfect like God) and endowed with liberty and will.

There are many angelic ranks (according to their service to God; they are constituted of nine hosts, in three categories:

1. **Seraphim, cherubim, thrones** (the closest to God);
2. **Dominions, powers;**
3. **Archangels and angels** (the closest to the visible world).

The purpose of the angels is to enjoy forever the knowledge of God, serving Him in relation to the material world. All angels know God and share with each other the joy of this knowledge, which is why it is said that they always praise Him. Every person has a guardian angel assigned at Christening (Matthew 18:10).

### **The origin of evil:**

According to the Holy Tradition, after the creation of the angels, one of them, from a superior rank, named **Lucifer** (“bearer of light”), became envious of God’s omnipotence and the praise offered to Him by all of the created beings and, driven by **envy and pride**, wanted to be like God. Having realized that such a thing was impossible without a communion based on love and grace, he spearheaded a revolt against God and drifted away and permanently separated from God, losing the divine grace and becoming **evil, Satan or the Devil**. In other words, he rejected the communion of love with God and isolated himself from Him. (Hades, “the flame of hades” is God’s love for him, which he cannot endure). In his revolt he tried to engage other angels from the inferior ranks.

It is said that the revolt turned into a **war / a fight between the angels**. **Michael** (“who is like God?”), from the host of the archangels, opposed him and argued that nobody can be like God by nature and that He can and wants to make gods, according to grace, those who love Him; Michael advised the

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angels to remain in the service of God. Many stayed in communion with God but many others followed Lucifer; they **“fell”** on the earth, among the visible world, inferior to the angelic world, wishing to be the masters “gods” of the material world. Jesus said: “I saw Satan fall like lightning frn heaven”(Luke 10:18).

The Devil lives on (for God continues to love him and does not destroy him but tolerates and allows him to exist) even though he is still against God and works against Him (God allows him to tempt the people and do things that are against God’s will, testing the great gift of free will given to all people.

The Devil cannot do harm to those who are faithful to God, who place themselves under the protection of His grace.