

Adam and Eve and Dad

Prologue: Some time shortly after In the Beginning (Probably the 6th. Day)

OK, Dad and His kids. Something new about the story.

Here's the Character Line...the line of what, to what? Let me tell you.

First: G-d, The Creator, Adam and Eve's Dad and Cain, Abel, and Seth's granddad

Second: Adam, The Creator's son, Eve's husband, Cain, Abel and Seth's father

Third: Eve: The Creator's daughter, Adam's wife, Cain, Abel and Seth's mother

Fourth: Cain: The Creator's first grandson, Adam and Eve's first son, Abel's brother

Fifth: Abel: The Creator's second grandson. Adam and Eve's second son, Cain's brother

Sixth: Seth: The Creator's third grandson, Adam and Eve's third son, Cain/Abel's brother

Let me put this in another way.

The Creator

Hebrew/Jewish Line

Adam and Eve
Cain, Abel, Seth

Noah

Abraham:

Arabic/Islamic Line

Abraham and Hagar

Ishmael

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Muhammad

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Shiite and Sunni

Abraham and Sara

Isaac

Moses

David

Solomon

OK, now to the point of this presentation. For those of us who live within the One G-d Belief of the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims this is an exploration of the psychological affect of The Creator's interaction with our ancestors, the First Couple and The Creator's continued influence on human feelings through the generations. It's also an introduction of the concept about how conflict that we experience as people who are descendants of the One G-d is a derivative of the manner in which The Creator in the role

of parent interacted with Adam and Eve resulting in their removal from their home in Eden. We continue this overview as this Role Modeling is then reinforced as The Creator judicates in a similar manner in the outcome of Cain blowing it with Abel; as Cain was forced to leave his home to live in the wilderness. Then we have Abraham's son, Ishmael, like his ancestors Adam, Eve and Cain, suffering the result of this Primal Role Modeling as Abraham when in conflict over having two sons by separate living women, follows the Creator's lead by forcing Ishmael and his mother Hagar to leave the family home and live in the wilderness. Karmic twists as Ishmael ends up being the "Father" of Islam as Ishmael is the many generation removed ancestor of Muhammad, the Prophet who brought Islam into being.

OK, first let's spend some time with Adam and Eve. Because The Creator is presented as Omniscient, all Knowing, all Mighty etc., it can be surmised that everything that happened between Adam and Eve and The Creator was known in advance by The Creator. Given that Adam and Eve were innocents, living without human parents, created as adults with absolutely no knowledge, they were destined to eat from the Fruit of Knowledge thereby triggering The Creator's "reaction." For what reason did The Creator cause this outcome? I don't have any clues and I can't even begin to imagine. However from a human perspective it is clear that until they ate from the Fruit of Knowledge they had no previous experience with making a mistake and thus had no insight as to any possible outcomes from their actions. Furthermore it was only by eating of the Fruit of Knowledge that they had the ability to even grasp that they made a mistake. Of course with this sudden realization they were immediately overwhelmed with this knowledge and being human, "freaked out" and tried to hide...as the story of Creation is told.

I can't help but to wonder how they felt. One mistake and thrown out of their home to live alone, with trials and suffering just to survive. Psychologically this must have been both traumatic and devastating to their sense of emotional well-being and security. Who can describe the confusion and feelings of abandonment they experienced by being banished from their home. Being human and on their own with their hormones now fully functioning they mated and procreated, having two sons, first Cain and then Abel. I have to wonder how Adam and Eve handled the birthing all alone. How much nurturing could they have provided Cain what with all the work that they had to do just to survive. It's relevant to wonder how Cain felt with the pregnancy and then the birthing of Abel. Did he feel left out, no longer the center of focus? Was he jealous watching Abel nurse? Likely there was no awareness of the affect of Abel on Cain and it would be hard to imagine that Adam and Eve would know how to relieve Cain's feelings of insecurity and anxiety. Did this feed into Cain's response to Abel's offer to The Creator being favored and it seems likely Abel being favored triggered Cain's aggression. To me Cain's overreaction was an explosive release of pent up feelings and it's unlikely that it was intentional, just a terribly unfortunate outburst of rage that emanated from the so very hurtful dismissal of his offering in favor of Abel's. This being in the realm of The Creator's influence, being Omniscient and All Knowing, The Creator was well aware of the outcome of his rejection of Cain. However, rather than take responsibility for this calamity The Creator blames Cain as happened with his parents in Eden. So Cain is tossed out of the homestead to live even further within the wilderness. Traumatized by the consequence of his action against his brother, with no consideration for his confusion as to why he killed Abel, or allowed to express the likely remorse he felt, he was forced

to make it on his own, in his parent's footsteps. Of course there is no comment as to the feelings of Cain's parents in regards to his killing Abel and the terrible loss they experienced. This along with the banishment of Cain, another severe loss, must have had a devastating affect on Adam and Eve. I can't help but to wonder how these loses and emotional traumas affected the raising of Seth, their third child.

I also can't help but to empathize with Cain's feelings. Feelings? Bewildered, hurt, angry, and likely even experiencing self-loathing. Certainly he must have hated himself for his behavior and internalized the rejection from The Creator. Can you not but wonder how this affected his family that he had with "people" who lived in the wilderness and from whose lines he interwove his genes? Was this the end of it or the starting of the initial downfall of humanity leading up to The Creator's decision to flood the earth? As stated above it's unlikely as with the birth and maturity of Seth, what shape were Adam and Eve in to raise him after the trauma they experienced with the death of one son by the other and the surviving son stripped from them and cast into the wilderness. In my experience with trauma they must have had all sorts of psychological issues with attachment that must have infused their parenting with Seth. What a mess and I can't help but wonder of the feelings that The Creator was having with all of this. Perhaps bewilderment and a good amount of shame. The issues of Adam and Eve must have permeated Seth's upbringing and in Seth's subsequent manner in parenting of his children, perhaps further reinforcing the dysfunctional Primal Role Modeling to such a degree that Human life except for Noah and his family had to be wiped off the face of the Earth. Did this end it then, this destruction of Cain's and Seth's descendants? Probably not for the story follows Seth's descendants to the very time of Abraham accepting G-d as the One and Only.

Not being able to conceive, Abraham's wife Sara, being ever so loving and thoughtful of Abraham, gives her maid Hagar to Abraham and she conceives a son, Ishmael. Then there comes the miracle brought into being by The Creator who gifts Sara with fertility at an age far beyond this possibility and so Isaac is conceived and born. Not to be outdone by The Creator's rejection of Adam, Eve and Cain, Abraham as a result of the miracle of Sara conceiving Isaac later rejects Ishmael and passes the inheritance on to Isaac. So the First Son, Ishmael, not being of the Chosen People, as the line is passed through the mother, he and his mother Hagar are cast out. Wow! Triple the devastation and the reinforcement of the genetic trauma of Cain's experience with the aggravating feelings of not being worthy, the loss of self-esteem, and the deep subconscious feelings of self-hate. Is it not possible that the emotional wounds Ishmael was subjected to were passed through his genetic line down through the ages right into the line of Muhammad? I mean, would not Ishmael have every reason to resent the way he and his mother were treated and I can imagine the affect of his recounting his experiences with his family and their relating the family history to their offspring and so on to later generations. Good reason for a certain deep-seated distaste for Abraham and his descendants. Could this be having a subconscious influence on the conflicts throughout the history of the West? But there could be more. It would feed into the very depths of sibling rivalry that may be also influencing the claims by both the Sunni and Shiites as to who has the Authority of Muhammad.

To complete the genetic tapestry of the manner in which handling conflict was Role Modeled by the Creator and then reinforced by the line of Adam and Eve, we have

to look at Seth, the third son of Adam and Eve and how he must have been affected by the family experience from the killing of Abel and the loss of Cain. I wonder how Adam and Eve explained all of this to Seth. As a result of what he was able to understand I can't help but to wonder about his feelings and how they affected his relationship with his parents and with The Creator. In my view the descriptive word that captures these feelings would have to be Apprehension. On one level he may have felt a great amount of fear and thus anxiety in making any mistakes. I'm also wondering whether Seth made any attempt to contact his older living brother Cain. If he did, I wonder what they might have discussed.

I wonder how all of this may have affected his parenting when he continued the line of his parents? Kind of like living on egg shells and should one break...Yeow, run for your life. Also I can't help but wonder about his ability to be attached to anyone, including his parents, his wife, and his children. Any one of them also may make a mistake and be torn from his arms. So, it would be reasonable to suggest that he kept his family both close and in being close they presented a certain amount of over vulnerability and therefore threatened his emotional well-being and this may have brought him to cyclically distancing himself. His probable bringing close and pushing away behavior likely would cause a great deal of insecurity and self-doubt in his offspring. My goodness. From Seth came all of the Jewish ancestors who now we know so well as our Grandparents, parents, all carrying these genetic memories buried so deep into our psyche. So with The Flood, not only are all of Cain's descendants wiped off the earth, but also all of Seth's descendants exclusive of Noah and his family. All join the fate of Cain's line. Wow!

Oh but there's more. Let's take a peek into Noah and the surviving members of his family as a result of being treated as The Favorite over the rest of humanity, to say nothing of all life on Earth. This pattern of choosing a favorite as was done in The Creator's acceptance of Abel's gift and then in choosing Noah, this choosing of favorites was then passed on to Noah's line and down to our very time that this is being written. I know that in my family's history of the sorrow that comes from a parent having a favorite child and the damage it does to their other offspring and how it causes behavior that is so self-defeating and inhibits if not prevents the experience of having a healthy loving family life.

With these stories being told to children and as young children do, they take stories as being real and not allegorical. They form their values and impressions in regards to security and expectations and these form their outlook on life. This cooks inside and as they mature and enter adulthood they of course treat each other with the same judgmental vigilance as did the First Role Model, The Creator. With the treating of one member of the family as a favorite and the harsh punishment for mistakes taken as transgressions so did raise misunderstandings that are perpetuated generation to generation.

How did other off-shoots of Judaism feel about their predecessor, the Jews being the "Chosen People," the Favorites? Did it stimulate feelings of jealousy and resentment? Could this be a root of the terrible reaction that manifested under the guise of Christian Religious Fervor that led to the drive for two thousand years to punish the Killers of Christ? Was this the subconscious impetus in the Jewish torture and then their being burned at the stake during the "Cleansing Period" of the Inquisition? Then, did this

being the Favorite not lead to the Pogroms that caused such trauma for Jewish communities throughout East Europe? Did being the Favorite not excite Hitler to the extreme of fostering a culture's extermination? On some emotional level does this Favoritism influence the continued Call to Push the Jews into the Sea by Muslim Extremists?

To me it seems that there are numerous examples of people when they feel diminished for whatever reason, become highly aggressive toward the source of that feeling when that source appears weaker. "See, you're not so high and mighty now are you? We're in power now and we're going to enjoy getting even for your making us feel insignificant."

Part 1.

As I have repeatedly referenced the emotional damage caused as a result of the Creator's dysfunctional Role Modeling when handling Family Conflict, I would like to spend time exploring an alternative outcome should The Creator have had the advantage of having been exposed to "enlightened" parenting.

So through Creation The Creator brings into being in the image of The Self, Adam and from Adam, Eve. Created in the image of The Creator both male and female they wandered around Eden with a complete lack of knowledge, it being contained in the Fruit of Knowledge. As the story is related all was cool in Eden, no wants, no worries and no cares. I suppose no curiosity, creativity, or inventiveness either for to my understanding those qualities resided also within the Fruit of Knowledge. So just kicking back and...

Maybe The Creator rested on the seventh day and then on the eighth day having just created the perfect world, who knows, maybe took off on a vacation and only occasionally visiting the newly formed world. Well, certainly we can deduce that in Eden, Adam and Eve and all the animals lived in harmony including the snake until that fatal day when the snake awoke in the role of the villain. Being fair, we must accept that the snake being one of The Creator's creations must be viewed as an innocent in regards to Knowledge as were Adam and Eve. Imagine waking one morning, unaware that this is the day of one's pre-determined destiny and without any Free Will or Choice being influenced to respond to the overwhelming and irresistible compulsion to push the Fruit of Knowledge on Adam and Eve. We know the outcome of the snake's action and the reaction The Creator had to the "Transgression" of Eve and then Adam taking a bite of the Fruit of Knowledge leading to some pretty serious consequences. But this is not about what we already know as we have been told, but about taking what we now know in regards to human psychology and updating the story with this knowledge in place, which will have the affect of a small but significant change in the storyboard of our lives.

(The Original Diversion, The Alternative Path...Compassionate Awareness)

The Creator just returning to Earth from who knows where appears in Eden. Maybe the reason for the return of the Creator at this very moment is due to the predestined moment occurring and the triggering of the underlying compulsion awakening the snake's feeling of mischief. Perhaps The Creator had a reason for this

inevitable moment and maybe had every intention of intervening much like occurred with Abraham with Isaac on the alter, but due to unknown circumstances on the way to Eden the Creator was delayed maybe at one of the other worlds that had recently been created and thus was a moment too late to intercede before the fateful bite took place. Or maybe we just live in the dimension in which the bite takes place and yet in other dimensions the bite never happens and everything is still going on in its idealic merry old way. However in this dimension that we are about to explore the Creator arrives a moment too late and enters the scene seeing from afar, the juices of The Fruit of Knowledge dripping from Adam's and Eve's mouths.

The Creator feeling very bad and not wanting to make a scene approaches Adam and Eve and softly speaks, "Hi my children, taste good? I've always wondered about what it would taste like, this first bite into The Fruit of Knowledge."

Eve, with her consciousness now awakened and knowledge impregnating her brain replies as a connoisseur of fruit, "Gee, somewhat sweet and yet also a bit sour, creating a fascinating and tantalizing explosion of taste accompanied by an aroma similar to a bouquet of rose blossoms and lemon grass flowers. Whoa, did I just say this? You know I must share that the flooding of knowledge was exciting yet so overwhelming."

The Creator giving her a hug then a kiss on her keppie (A fond Jewish word for head) speaks in a very soothing voice, "Yes, it must have been quite a shock. I'm very proud of how well you are handling it. Well, How about for you Adam. Can you share with me what it was like?"

Adam, "Kind of like how Eve described it, yet it also had a degree of mystery thrown in. I mean with all the advent of Knowledge the surprising thing for me is the presence of a certain veiling of how all this knowledge fits together. It seems to be missing connectivity, which would allow me to understand what it all is supposed to mean. I mean I have all the knowledge of what is, but not of what I'm supposed to do with it. Does this make sense?"

The Creator, "I can empathize with that dilemma. Look. I've created this world. Why? Well I'm The Creator. This is what I do. But your insight into what to do with knowing all this, well yes I can see that can be a mystery."

Eve, "Yes, So, what is the purpose of knowing all of this?"

The Creator with a spreading whimsical smile, "Got me, I just create things, ideas, thoughts, feelings, and so forth. I have no idea what it is all about except I had this deep feeling that should human life ever get a hold of it they would get confused and make a mess of things in trying to figure this all out. That's kind of why it was The Forbidden Fruit. But now, well to be totally honest, which is a challenge to any being including my self, I may have been curious what humanity would do with it."

Adam, "Well, thanks for being so honest about it. Now that we have Knowledge doesn't this mean that we need to get on with living life? You know, procreate and such so that there is a humanity which can then get confused."

The Creator, "Yes, it kind of does, however we're in Eden now and in Eden everything is provided and there's really no way that knowledge can be of use here as Eden is a place where everything remains the same forever. So, being that's so, what's the point of staying here if you want to use Knowledge that you now have?"

Eve, "Do you mean that Eden is a place, if I can call it that where time doesn't exist; where the past, present and future are frozen?"

The Creator, "Eve, I believe you got it right."

Adam, "Given you're the Creator can't you change Eden so that time flows and well, then things can happen?"

The Creator, "Nope. Can't be done. Life as you're thinking of how it might be can't exist in Eden. You'd have to leave Eden for that possibility."

Eve, "But what exists beyond Eden?"

The Creator, "Oh. The Unknown. A place where Knowledge comes in mighty handy. Beyond Eden is where anything may and can happen and a lot of it would be as a result of what you do with the newly acquired Knowledge. Does this sound interesting?"

Adam, "Hmm. Interesting. Something that captures our attention. You mean a place where in applying knowledge we can figure out what is so interesting about things?"

The Creator, "Yes, and that's called Curiosity. The drive to satisfy Curiosity would be called Motivation. The urge to do something."

Eve, "Wow, this does sound interesting. Not like lying around here in Eden, which of course was OK before we were endowed with Knowledge. It's not as though you could strip Knowledge out of us if we asked you to. Could you?"

The Creator, "You know why I'm called The Creator? Because I create. I don't uncreate and that's what would be required for me to strip you of Knowledge, which of course I can't do now that you got it."

Adam, "So if we stay in Eden we would be unable to use our Knowledge to satisfy our curiosity because everything stays the same."

The Creator, "I believe you got the hang of how this getting Knowledge makes it difficult to be satisfied with everything being the same. It won't be long before you will experience feelings of being unsatisfied, of missing out on something, and Eden would then become too small for you." This leads to boredom, a very uncomfortable feeling that drives people with knowledge crazy, or so the future will show."

Eve, "Are you suggesting that we would be better off to leave Eden? What do you think Adam?"

Adam, "Maybe so. Let's take a break and get some rest. Rest? I never needed that before. Wow. I wonder how we get that?"

The Creator, "See what I mean?"

Eve, "Kind of."

Adam, "I do have one more question for you. Should we leave, will we be able to visit you?"

The Creator, "Not likely. Once you leave Eden you will change and even if I wanted you to come for a visit you wouldn't be able to do that. However, Let me come up with something so that should you leave we can still have a relationship."

Eve, "Can you at least come with us?"

The Creator, "Hmm. That's part of what needs to be worked out. In any case our time here together is now short, but I'll let you know what I come up with. I'm sure that even now you can probably feel the change coming over you. Your bodies are becoming more dense and as this takes place your bodies won't be able to exist here. They will be too heavy and you will begin to drift down to Earth, you know the place down below us that looks so pretty from where we are standing. That's how it is and well, it looks like it's happening already."

Part 2. Adam and Eve Come into Being on Earth

And so Adam and Eve were enveloped in a sphere of memory, kind of like daydreaming and when they “woke” up they were indeed on Earth, standing outside their mud brick house under the full sun of early afternoon with the hot breeze blowing from the South. They looked at each other and found that they were pleasing and while they still had the memory of Eden, they were also fully endowed with the knowledge of their Earthly lives. Such is the power of The Creator, good at creating and so their memories were created in order to have all of this make sense and so I don’t have to go through relating the early days of them figuring out how to satisfy their new feeling of hunger with the resultant consequence of what the pain in their belly was all about leading to pooping and then what is this smell and then figuring out how to clean their butts and so forth and so on. Then of course there was this new feeling of attraction and the interest in exploring the differences and similarities in the form of their bodies which naturally lead to figuring out about birthing and what to do with these little beings and how to encourage them to stop crying every few hours.

In this way The Creator’s ability to create was passed into Adam and Eve and so they came to figure out that they needed to share knowledge with Cain and Abel who didn’t know anything unless everything and I do mean everything was taught to them. Eventually they got it all worked out and as time goes, and for them getting to figure out time was a major hurdle, but eventually they got that too and came to understand the relationship between time and change and growth and that’s what Cain and then Able got to do...grow. Can’t say much about them experiencing a normal childhood, as there never had been children before. Let’s just say they survived. So Cain and Abel both grew into young adolescence strong and healthy and as the story goes completely isolated from peers of a human nature.

You might wonder how Cain and Able got along or for that matter how Adam and Eve got along what with spending all their time together with no breaks. I suppose they went through the usual cycles of happiness and unrest and awareness and confusion and everything between, because mostly everything is somewhere in between isn’t it. And you might wonder about their relationship with The Creator and this is where it gets sticky. Whereas Adam and Eve could no longer be in The Garden of Eden, The Creator being The Creator is somewhat more flexible.

Tricky as things got here is a quick summary of the Bible happening.

Cain and Abel come up with the idea of making an offering to The Creator. Cain feels that offering honey and sweet peaches would be welcomed and Abel feels that offering a fattened lamb would just hit the spot. For reasons unknown, The Creator accepts Abel’s offering with praise however finds Cain’s offering wanting. This angers Cain and in a moment of rage kills Abel. Cain is thereafter ordered by The Creator to depart his home and to make his way far from the family homestead. The Creator doesn’t appear to include Adam and Eve in this decision nor offer Cain a penance to pay in order to regain his favor.

It is clear that Cain was upset that his offering is not up to snuff while Abel's offering is just right. This rejection of Cain's offering is obviously overwhelming and so I might suggest that The Creator's attitude was full of shortcomings. So let's rerun this scene with the boys making their offerings by projecting into The Creator the full awareness of current parenting philosophies and skills and observe the variance as to the outcome

Cain, "Gee Abel we haven't seen Granddad in a long time. Wouldn't it be cool if we could spend time with him in Eden?"

Abel, "But mom and dad said that isn't possible, not even for them."

Cain, "Still, it would be nice to get together if only here. I've been thinking. Why don't we put together a pleasing offering from our labor and hopefully, I mean maybe we will be rewarded with a visit here at home. What do you think?"

Abel, "Great idea, Cain. One of my sheep has given recently given birth to a fat and so sweet little lamb. Do you feel that The Creator would appreciate such an offering?"

Cain, "Sounds perfect. As for my offering how do you feel about me offering Granddad some honey from my bees and maybe a peach or two which are now perfectly ripe?"

Abel, "Yes, that has to be pleasing."

Cain, "Maybe we should run this idea by mom and dad before we do anything. How do you feel about doing this?"

Abel, "Yeah, I guess. Sure. That's a good idea. You know how busy Granddad is what with all the creations coming into being somewhere up there. It's always a good idea to run things by them."

So they head over to the homestead and it's dinnertime anyway so during dinner Abel nudges Cain in the ribs and this get's Cain on the right path.

Cain, "You know mom and dad, we haven't seen Granddad in a long time, so Abel and I were thinking of laying out an offering to him to kind of grab his attention."

Eve, "Hmm. That's a good idea. The laying out of offerings is what we were taught to do whenever we wanted to hang out with him, so yes I feel that this is a great idea and it has been too long since the whole family got together."

Adam, "Eve is right boys. Your thoughtful idea of giving Granddad a call is wonderful. What were you boys thinking of as an offering?"

Abel, "Well dad, I was feeling that because he can kind of be hungry I was hoping that a nice fat lamb would be to His liking."

Eve, "And you Cain. What were you feeling would be attractive enough to get His attention?"

Cain, "Well I know what a sweet tooth he has so I have the first ripe peaches from the tree and the bees have been really busy so I was hoping that some honey would be just the thing."

Adam, "You boys make us proud. Your offerings are perfect. When are you thinking of making the offering?"

Cain, "How about tomorrow morning so we can spend the whole day with Him and then with our offerings we can provide a feast and maybe mom will play her harp and the two of you can sing for him while Abel and I dance with him."

Eve, “Can’t wait until tomorrow. The old guy is so busy and this will make a good break for Him.”

The next day the offering is placed on the altar and Kaboom with a flash of lightning and a band of Angels playing their trumpets and harps The Creator appears. Abel and Cain are standing in front of Adam and Eve all with big smiles on their happy faces.

The Creator exclaims with such joy, “My family. Shalom and Mazel Tov. What an offering. I can’t believe my good fortune,” all the while embracing the four of them for a family hug. Tightening his hugging He twirls them around in a big circle of Love as He lifts them all up into the air and soars with them high as the clouds and then laughing hugely He lowers them back to the family home.

Abel who can’t contain himself cries out, “Wow Granddad, that was fantastic! Let’s do that again.” And so they do, back up to the clouds over the hills this time and on the way back race a speeding hawk on its way home to its nest. Landing again back at the home Adam laughing as he speaks, “Time for a bar-b-que. Dad would you like to do the honors of taking the lambs spirit into yourself?”

The Creator, “It already is with me. Proceed with the feast.”

Part 3. The Outcome

And so...no rejection. No destruction of life. No feelings of abandonment and loss. Just a very cool time spent by all and the feeling of joy spreads through their being and the feeling of being loved envelops them and is passed on to their children and their children’s children which turns out so very well for Noah who doesn’t have to spend a lifetime building an Ark and gathering animals and preparing for the worst. As for Abraham, with this wonderful role model by accepting both Cain’s and Abel’s offerings that when Sarah becomes pregnant Abraham embraces the joy of fulfillment that The Creator is providing him in his old age and looks forward to the coming of another child. In this way both Isaac and Ishmael share the leadership when Abraham rises into heaven and this role modeling provides their descendants with the inspirational and loving resolutions of situations. Can’t help but to wonder with such wonderful Role Modeling by The Creator, our Progenitor, that wouldn’t things for us have been a whole lot better.

Recognizing that from the Biblical stories that the manner in which they have been interpreted has led to seriously disastrous consequences through the ages in relationship to people struggling to get along in a harmonious manner. Acknowledging its affect on us opens another view of the cause of conflict that can alter our perception to a broader and more encompassing attitude. This then allows us to be open to the benefit of acquiring the necessary skills so critical in attempting a loving approach to conflict resolution. Oh yeah! Of course also for enlightened parenting.