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The commandment and disobedience

Some may think that the commandment, not to eat from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil, which God gave to man after He created him, was a tricky test setup by God to test man. However, as we answer the questions related to this subject we will realize that the commandment had a different meaning in the mind of God, the lover of mankind.

Through answers of questions in future articles, we will also find out about Satan, the source of evil. How did he fall in sin, and how did he trick Adam and Eve, and all mankind till this day.

1. Why did God command man not to eat from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil?
2. Why didn't God create man infallible, unsusceptible to disobedience?
3. Was the purpose of this commandment to test man?
4. Is the commandment a trap for man setup by God?
5. Is it contradicting to God's love to give man a commandment that he eventually disobeyed?
6. If God, through His foreknowledge, knew that man will disobey, why did he give him this commandment? Why did he leave him fall in disobedience? Why did God create man in the first place?



All these questions revolve around the same idea, and therefore they will roughly have the same answer. According to the Holy Scripture, God gave man the commandment saying: **“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”** (Genesis 2:16-17)

If love is a natural interaction between man and God His creator, then with respect to God the creator, His love is certain and unwavering for **God is Love**. However, with respect to man, the love he offers to God has to be according to his free will, otherwise it becomes compulsory love which has no value. Love and freedom are connected together; the love which man can offer to God can't be compulsory and without freedom. Moreover, we can't say that God loves man and at the same time He doesn't give him the freedom to reciprocate to His love with free will.

Hence, this commandment was the opportunity which God offered man to express his love towards Him with his complete free will and freedom if he obeys it, or he may disobey the commandment in which case he would be refusing God's love with his free will.

Thus, if we wonder why God didn't create man unsusceptible to falling? The answer is simply if He did so, His love towards man would have been compulsory since man would have had no other choice. Additionally, man would have become a distorted image of God, as he would have had no freedom.

If we wonder was this commandment trap or a test for man setup by God? The answer is of course not, the commandment was important guidance for man in order to learn how to walk with God without listening to the lure of the enemy of good.

If we wonder why God gave the commandment to man despite His foreknowledge that man will disobey? We answer saying that man is free and God's foreknowledge does not negate the freedom of man.

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