

**Evolution and Devolution**  
**Pathwork Lecture 20: God: The Creation**  
Eva Pierrakos January 1, 1958  
Paragraphs 23-24

So, spiritual worlds did exist for a very, very long time where all created beings lived in a state of bliss, in a way that is unimaginable. The possibility existed for all creatures, ever since they came into existence, to choose freely either to live within divine law or to act against it. At one time, one spirit fell under the temptation to act against it. You can find the symbolic explanation of this in the story of Adam and Eve in Paradise. Actually this happened in a very different way, although the idea of temptation was there. Perhaps you are able to comprehend some of this when you imagine that you may possess great power. You may know that to use this power in a certain way might prove to be dangerous for you, yet as long as this power is not exploited, you may feel a curiosity concerning what would actually happen if you did use it. This temptation becomes stronger and stronger. The stronger it becomes, the less you can think of the means to counteract this temptation. You will not even have the intention of continuing the use of this dangerous power, but you feel you must try it out a little bit, just to see. All the theoretical knowledge you may possess, that having once tried it you may not find it possible anymore to resist being swept away by it, dissolves under the growing weight of the temptation.

Once the first spirit succumbed to the temptation, it set something in motion that could not be changed any more. This spirit once knew that this would be so, but did not wish to remember after he had succumbed. The result was not an immediate change, but a gradual one. The change from harmony to disharmony took place just as gradually and as slowly as your personal change occurs from disharmony to harmony. The latter is *evolution*; the former could be called a *backward evolution* or *devolution*, and neither can ever happen suddenly.