

# Evil Is Invisible

**A talk by Vernon Howard given on 12-21-85**

Evil is an attack against human spiritual development and enlightenment. All evil, badness, neurosis – it has one motive and one motive only which is to destroy – to destroy your chance of arising above yourself.

I want you from now on to always think of evil like that whenever you see it, and you'll have a lot to think about, won't you? Wherever you encounter it with the thugs and the terrorists that you see in the news. You are walking down the street and you see that mother slap her child viciously, not to correct him but to get out her own pressures and pain.

Whenever you encounter evil you are to at once know that its basic, fundamental and sick purpose is to prevent human beings from escaping evil – from rising above their own evil. Not only that but the spirit of maliciousness and darkness is vicious, ruthless. *Nothing stops it.* Except one thing, which is the appearance of light, of course.

Nothing stops its viciousness, and it is looking for weak ignorant human beings to bluff. Evil wants you to think that its power is absolute, endless. It wants to so make you quake and quiver that all you'll do is fall down and worship it. And it says, it screams out in its fire, it screams out – listen to this. You may not have ever heard it said this way before and it may be new to you and because it's new you may reject it. But I am telling you the fact. The spirit of evil says, screams out, "I HAVE A RIGHT TO DESTROY YOU." It has a right to continue to be evil to prevent you from finding the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Hell doesn't want you to find the Kingdom of Heaven.

"I HAVE A RIGHT TO DO THAT, AND IF YOU OPPOSE ME, IF YOU RESIST, IF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH MY ALL-POWERFUL STATE, IF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THAT I WILL SHOW YOU NO MERCY." It won't show you any anyway.

Evil is a force, a power, and I want to explain now before we go on something else about it that you have not uncovered for yourself which connects with my earlier statement that only light can destroy the darkness of evil. When you ladies are afraid of a cruel man, an evil man, when you men are afraid of anything or anyone, I want you to remember this phrase: "My fear is his power. MY FEAR IS HIS POWER!" Now you don't get it. You don't understand it but get it down so that you can start on it because I don't ever want you to miss this. "My fear is his power." If you didn't fear him he wouldn't have any power but you don't know that.

You really believe that sickness, neurosis, psychopathy – you believe that sickos, you really believe that they have a power independent of you. They don't. They're pseudo-power – their base, low-life activities depend on you!

Now don't think you understand the meaning behind that just because you have

got a surface understanding of the idea. Only spirituality can understand that. But I am giving you the start so that you can eventually understand that when you don't fear anything, it ceases to exist. It vanishes.

Now you know what to do with that bully. Now you know what to do with that sly evil and darkness that you sense has snuck into this society and disguised itself. And even its disguise, by the way, its disguising itself as a good man or a good organization or a good cause, good purpose. Its slyness is a part of its scheme to bewilder you so that in the weakness of your bewilderment you will fall down and worship it. And you worship it with a useless plea, "Have mercy on me." I told you it won't happen.

Evil cannot be anything but evil. Therefore the walk-away exercise is the only one that is effective for it. Walk away. What does that mean? There is that person threatening you. There is that organization that is trying to make you feel as if it has power over you. What do you do? You walk away either physically or mentally, psychologically. You walk away. You don't recognize its power. "I am not going to be afraid of you."

I know you say that and you really are, but start. You know that there are some countries that don't recognize another country. Who don't recognize your existence. Don't you recognize the reality of evil as something that has power over you or that has any existence, has any existence at all outside of you! If every other human being on earth was terrified and believed in evil and believed in its power – if everyone else recognized it, you don't have to! And if you don't then you will be the one person on earth who is free.

Walk away means to not have the connection of fear between you and that person or that situation, either inside you or outside you. There is no connection because there is a clear – real freedom is a clear recognition of the nonexistence of evil as far as you are concerned now, because now you are enlightened because you see and understand.

To walk away means when you are confronted with evil that you don't argue with it. You don't plead with it for mercy. You don't fight it. Because all these things are done in an attempt for you to try to feel safe. To feel that *you* can have power over evil. But there are two delusions there. That there is a you that can have power over evil and that evil has power itself.

When you think of evil, therefore, "My fear is its power." If you didn't have fear, there would not be power on its part because it would vanish. It would vanish – the banishment of your fear would banish its so-called power. Try it! Try it and see that it works.

Now back to the incredible non-stoppable force of furious sickness, unhealth, lowness, darkness, and you have a dim feeling, don't you? Yes, you do. That that is the way it is. Something that you cannot recognize and bring out in yourself that is secretly trembling at what you think – wrongly – is the overwhelming numbers that have advantage and authority of evil. It is all in you and no place else. Because your fear of the dark – because your fear in the dark is inside, so is

the answer, of course.

Never talk to an illusion. Of anxiety, for example. Walk away! It will call after you, of course. When you lightly turn your back and go about your right business it is going to fear that it won't have you to argue with it anymore.

See, all of this is going on inside of you, as well as outside of you. The persistence of sickness in trying to keep you from waking up – there are no words to describe its unstopability. *And it's everyone!* Everyone out there is lost. You are out in the lake struggling to stay up. They are going to push you down to stay up themselves. Anything goes. The idea that it is the wrong thing for them to do, to hurt you, can't occur to them because in their mind they are doing the thing that is going to save them. This is you. You understand that you are both sides of it. You are both sides. You are the persecutor and you are the persecuted human being.

Are you telling me you have never seen the ruthlessness in yourself? The little things, the little discoveries they will shock you, but I tell you after the shock, the sun shines. I instruct you to catch yourself in petty greed. Getting that dime from someone. Going after that favorable compliment from someone. I instruct you to be a seeker within yourself of petty greed. You – you want attention and you will be as bad as you can be in order to get it.

Description of evil continued. You are downtown in a city that you don't know. You hail a cab. You tell the cab driver where you want to go, which you know is just, maybe, twenty blocks away. The cab driver salutes you, calls you Sir, already got you feeling good and disarming your alertness to evil. You get in his cab.

Why is he driving that cab? To make as much money as he can, right? And he has got all of those financial pressures, which he himself brought about by being a part of sick society. And he wants to make all the money he can on this run tonight.

So he takes you way to the outskirts deceiving you into thinking that that was where it was. Gets all the extra fare, five times the fare that he would have got if he had been honest and dropped you off where you really wanted to go, but he lies to you, and he points out that you will find the address that you want right around the corner there. And you don't know. You can't have all knowledge, so you get out and when you go around the corner, he takes off. Call another cab. He does the same thing. Some little trick to get more money out of you.

And don't forget what I tell you. This is so overwhelming. Words can't do justice to it. You know what all those cab drivers do to get all the money they can out of you? Calling you a sucker. Which you are, for not being alert to them. You know what he says? What I told you before, "If you accuse me of being dishonest, I'll beat you up on the outskirts and leave you at the edge of the woods at the edge of town."

See, you think, you think that hit and run on the part of cab drivers and evil in general – you think that hit and run means hit and get your money, hurt you some way. You think that the run means run permanently. No. The next cab

driver is ready to pick you up, and take you, cheat you, and drive away laughing at how easy it is to fool human beings. One after another after another. This is the story of your life.

Now I hinted earlier in the talk that is not the physical cab driver you have to fear. It isn't that woman who dresses well, and smiles well, and she is going to cheat you. She is going to take you wherever she can. She has a shop somewhere. She sells things. She is going to take you too.

So it is not physical bodies. It is not physical objects that are evil. They are merely being the physical body and objects, such as a gun, they are being manipulated by invisible powers that come and inhabit them and possess them and they get you as a gullible human being.

So you are to think more about the fact that that brutal husband or that shrewish screaming low-level wife, you are not to think that they are the enemy because they are really not.

Possessed! All human beings are possessed by evil. They are manipulated. They are deceived. They are used. The physical body is used by invisible evil to hurt other physical bodies so that the minds inhabiting those bodies will be destroyed, discouraged so that the person will not go on to spiritual growth and enlightenment and salvation.

So your thinking is going to have to start anew towards all forms of human sickness. You are to know that that person is a puppet and the evil controller of the puppet with the strings is pulling them the way he wants. This is true of you too, you understand.

Exercise to prove it. You won't get mad for a whole week. (Laughter) You won't get mad for a whole day. (Laughter) You are kind of worried, aren't you? You won't get mad for a whole hour. On and on down. You won't get mad within the next five minutes.

The cab drivers are there and that awful low-level woman is there. She is a hater. And things are exploiting them, using them. So it is not going to do you any good at all to fight her or him or to hate him, or to hate her. It is not going to do any good to pass laws to restrict evil. You pass a law against one evil and they either forget it or they commit another evil that there is no law for. You would have to have billions and billions of laws. Big libraries filled with law books filled with "Thou shall not hit this person with your left fist when the moon is full." (Laughter) They will hit you anytime. All right.

Ah! Oh, we've got it. Got it at last. Now, now we are beginning to get spiritually enlightened by seeing that sickness hides itself, makes itself invisible. Oh! What a relief. Oh! I can walk away from that brute, from that trickster, from that con man, con woman. I can walk away and I don't have to talk at all to them because they really don't have any power at all. Because my invisible spirituality can look beyond the body and the threatening face and the hatred. Can look above that and understand what was really going on, therefore I am not tricked by the cab driver, or by the hate spouse anymore. I am free! Nothing they can do. There is

absolutely nothing they can do, because I am not afraid of them anymore.

The reason that I am not afraid of them anymore is because I understand what is going on. If you understand what is going on that fills up your psychic system, your life, your mind. Fills it up so that there is no room for anything else. Isn't that nice?

Story time following the themes that we have covered. There was once a big country, and this country had a national ball game. Just like we have football and baseball and other sports. National ball game. Everybody played it from the children in the lots next door to the school grounds to the big national teams that engage in this ball game. Everybody played it. Real exciting. Everybody watched it on television on Sunday afternoon.

There was a scientist, a medical scientist who studied human injuries like in traffic accidents and in factories. And he made a study of this national ball game which was enormously popular. And he noticed something that had never been noticed before. And he attended the ball games and he made notes and put them into his computer and he got on his typewriter. And he wrote out some papers on this ball game. And presented them to the public. And here is what these discoveries were all about. He made it clear that though no one noticed it, the injuries, severe injuries, to the athletes playing this game were far more numerous than anyone knew.

After a game and a certain team won, it wasn't mentioned that three players had to be carried off on stretchers, paralyzed and seriously hurt by the violence of the game. That was a pretty rough game. No one heard about the serious injuries, but his report stated it. And he sent it to newspapers, anyone who would listen. Was a guest on television shows, and he pointed out what a violent game this was, an awful lot of people were getting hurt out there in the field. That was just the beginning, because he had a good mind. He could look and analyze and dissect things clearly.

He also pointed out that because this game was so violent and people took sides with their team against the other team that there were both major disturbances among the spectators and major riots – minor disturbances and major riots. Some of the riots, a lot of people were killed. They'd go crazy when the referee called a decision they didn't like against their team, they rioted. They threw bottles and threw pop cans. They hit each other and even crossed the field. You know, one team audience on one side and the other fans on the other side, they would cross the field and start fighting with each other.

But the media didn't play that up at all. They kept it very quiet. But the report – no question about it. There was something very much wrong with what was going on. Hundreds of times a week all over the nation people were just getting hurt, and some of them never came back to a game after they got in one of these riots, and the players didn't come back to play again the next game because they were out of commission all together. Put his paper out.

Well, he was a good scientist, but he didn't know human nature. So he was

surprised when nobody paid attention. Here he was – wouldn't you like to know if members of your family getting hurt in doing something. You would want to know. He put the information out and nobody seemed to care. It was ignored. He couldn't believe it. I mean it was just like, you know, in wartime you would say war is bad, right? War kills soldiers and hurts civilians too. He was stunned by the lack of reaction to his astounding exposé of the violence and the injuries over what had been a very popular national game. No one had ever brought it out before. There it is and nobody paid any attention. He couldn't believe it.

So he, "Oh well," he said, "I haven't told enough newspapers. I haven't been interviewed on radio and television enough. I will redouble my efforts. Run a few ads too." And he did. No response. No outcries of indignation over we've got to change the rules on this game to make it a right game. And he even offered the rules. Ten rules on how to make this an enjoyable game. You are given ten rules, a thousand rules on how to change from a violent life to a healthy, peaceful and fun filled life. Aren't you? Again no response.

As a matter of fact the very opposite of what he expected to happen happened to him. One day after working hard telling everybody this awfulness that was going on. The pain – you know what it is to get physically hurt. A thousand times worse than people ever imagined. Nobody paid attention.

One day he went home. And he took out mail out of the mailbox, and he looked at one letter. It didn't have a return address on it. He looked it up and opened it, and it was a threat against his life. This letter said, "If you don't stop publishing your exposure of our beloved national game, you are going to get it." He knew what they meant. They're going to go after him.

And that was just the start. Instead of appreciation and praise for his discoveries that would have lead to more help for more people, instead of that he was threatened. Hate letters. They increased in volume. He noticed that the reporters didn't want to interview him anymore. They saw his persistence and they did not want that. He wouldn't be written up in the papers. They didn't want him on radio and television anymore. And he didn't understand it. You understand it. Don't you? You know what I am talking about.

So here he was trying to do a good thing, and the opposite happened. Now he was being viciously attacked and the lies – you wouldn't believe the lies they told about him. "What are you getting out of this? You are just a show-off. You want to see your name in the papers." Every possible kind of lie, falsehood and slander and viciousness.

He went from understanding scientific principles about the national ball game to understanding something about human nature. Began to get a little suspicious that people weren't at all what he thought they were. You know why he thought that, don't you? Because he thought he was a nice man. And what a shock he had to go through to see that he did have a lot of egotism in himself that he hadn't uncovered. Now he is beginning to understand the other evil by first understanding self evil. Which was a shock but he knew it was a healthy one. He was a good student of the lessons that everyday life had to give to him.

He said, "All right. I have investigated the ball game and came out with some astonishing and shocking facts. Now I am going to investigate why nobody wants to be saved from being hurt, from the riots, and all the heartache that comes from human beings hurting each other both on the field and in the stand. "I am going to find out what is going on. I don't know what is going on, but I am going to find out."

You know what he found out? What we have been talking about up to this point. About evil being invisible. Something you don't see. There is an evil headquarters. You can call it Hell if you want. An evil headquarters that is sending up its messages and instructing its evil spirits to inhabit human beings to try to prevent them from getting healthy. He began to understand this, so he did some investigation.

You know what he found out? Here is what he found out. He discovered what was really in back of not only just the resistance, but the violent hatred and attack on him for exposing the ball game as it was now played. He found out that there were manufacturers of ball game equipment, uniforms, the balls themselves, all the equipment necessary for the game. He found out that those manufacturers of the game were behind it. They didn't want to change the rules. They didn't want the game to become safer. If it became safer, then they would lose money in one way or another.

He found out that the operators of the stadium, that nice smiling man who appeared and who welcomed the hundred thousand top the ball game smiling with a flower in his lapel, and he was one of the city officials. That man had an interest in the commercialization of the stadium itself and all the concessions, the popcorn and the peanuts and all that. There is a lot of money in that. One hundred thousand people in one stadium several times a month, and that is duplicated all over. There is a lot of money in that.

The operators of the stadium, of the equipment, the parking lots, the cafes surrounding the stadium. Before and after people go and they have their drinks and they have their dinners. Nobody wanted the situation changed because they would lose out financially. But do you think they are going to come right out and say that in public? Of course not.

In order to continue to make a profit from the game as it is now played, in order to get money, and power and position, what do they care if thousands of human beings are wounded in the mob violence. What do they care if the players are hauled off and never come back? What do they care? They have what they wanted. Invisible evil works like that.

Now your exercise, your work is to take today's talk from the start and work up to this example I gave you and you are to look and see how true it is in all human affairs. What if there are ways to abolish crime? How many people would be put out of work? What would all the policemen and the wardens and the judges and the lawyers do for a living if crime was abolished? Crime is a national pastime. It is a sport. You abolish it, then what is going to happen to the income of all of these people? It is going to vanish.

Are you understanding it? I know you are. Are you ever going to look at any human being again and think that he or she is what he or she pretends he or she is? You are never going to do it again. And the reason that you are never going to do it again is because you have followed the spiritual law "Look at yourself first." If you don't do that, you will remain one of the greedy, vicious owners of the stadium or the manufacturers of the equipment or the owners of the bars, and you will want your reward whether it is financial or popularity, approval, whatever it might be. You will want your reward from this world. Which means that you won't have a reward from the other world.

I know you don't understand what that means yet to have a spiritual reward, something that is higher than what you are getting now. But you will understand it if you perform the exercise until you shockingly come face to face with your petty greed. With your wish to get a nickel.

See, you see it is not the nickel that counts, it is the "I won" that counts, and it is not even the "I won," but the feeling that "I exist" that counts.

None of those greedy merchants are ever going to track their own sickness, neurosis back to that point. They are never going to do it. They are not going to wake up. You are here to wake up, not to continue to be one of the greedy merchants. Your exercise is clear to you. Track it way back. Until you understand quite clearly that evil is invisible and its purpose is to prevent other human beings from waking up. And they don't go around saying that to themselves, because evil is unconscious of itself. It's built in to it. Work on the exercise and take a break.