

The reality underlying this question is that the evil spirit, Satan or whatever is interpreted as evil, refers to the lower nature in man.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Therefore, there is no satanic tree whatever—Satan being a product of human minds and of instinctive human tendencies toward error. God alone is Creator, and all are creatures of His might.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

There are no people of Satan; all belong to the Merciful.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Shall we manifest hatred for His creatures and servants? This would be contrary to the will of God and according to the will of Satan, by which we mean the natural inclinations of the lower nature. This lower nature in man is symbolized as Satan—the evil ego within us, not an evil personality outside.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

God has never created an evil spirit; all such ideas and nomenclature are symbols expressing the mere human or earthly nature of man. It is an essential condition of the soil of earth that thorns, weeds and fruitless trees may grow from it. Relatively speaking, this is evil; it is simply the lower state and baser product of nature.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

It is evident that human personality appears in two aspects,—the image or likeness of God and the aspect of Satan. The human reality stands between these two,—the divine and the satanic.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Remember how Adam and the others once dwelt together in Eden. No sooner, however, did a quarrel break out between Adam and Satan than they were, one and all, banished from the Garden, and this was meant as a warning to the human race, a means of telling humankind that dissension—even with the Devil—is the way to bitter loss. This is why, in our illumined age, God

teacheth that conflicts and disputes are not allowable, not even with Satan himself.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

The attributes of God are love and mercy; the attribute of Satan is hate. Therefore, he who is merciful and kind to his fellowmen is manifesting the divine attribute, and he who is hating and hostile toward a fellow creature is satanic. God is absolute love, even as Jesus Christ has declared, and Satan is utter hatred. Wherever love is witnessed, know that there is a manifestation of God's mercy; whenever you meet hatred and enmity, know that these are the evidences and attributes of Satan.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

If his morals become spiritual in character, his aspirations heavenly and his actions conformable to the will of God, man has attained the image and likeness of his Creator; otherwise, he is the image and likeness of Satan.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Regarding your question relative to the condition of those people who are described in the Gospel as being possessed of devils; this should be interpreted figuratively; devil or Satan is symbolic of evil and dark forces yielding to temptation.

On behalf of Shoghi Effendi

The Bahá'í Teachings inform us that there is no independent force of evil in creation, but terms such as "devil" or "Satan" are used in sacred books as symbols of the promptings of the lower nature of man.

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In answer to those who may ask you what the stand is of your religion on the subject of demons, you can say without hesitation that the concept of Satan or the Devil as an actual being opposed to God is rejected by the Bahá'í teachings but that the term is understood by Bahá'ís to mean the promptings of self and desire and the dark side of human nature.

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Satan

A brief selection from the

Bahá'í Writings