

K'aint and Able

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Hewhay smiled with favor on Able, who had offered the fattest lamb in his flock. Able's brother, K'aint, presented Hewhay with some mediocre turnips he had let rot in the soil. Hewhay gazed down upon them both and said:

Children, one of you has pleased Me greatly. You have afforded both your mother and Me the opportunity to feed our small family. Nevertheless, I will now put you both to the test: I want you to wrestle. The winner will marry the most beautiful and intelligent woman in the Garden of Odem, Onym, your younger sister with the long, blond tresses. She will give birth to beautiful and intelligent progeny who will settle in a land called New Odem, where the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil will no longer be forbidden to eat. The loser will be banned from this Place, as will his descendents. He and his lineage will be forced to wander the emptiness far below the New Odem—and they will be *accursed!*

After Hewhay had spoken, K'aint stealthily crept up from behind Able and grabbed the off-guard shepherd by the neck in a suffocating headlock. Able, with great difficulty, was finally able to free himself from K'aint's powerful grip, and he swung around in a circling movement. The two brothers faced each other, head-to-head, maneuvering their bodies ably; they wrestled in a spirit of intense competition. K'aint showed abiding jealousy and hatred for his brother, but Able, equally intent on winning the prize, felt no such enmity towards K'aint. The two brothers fell to the ground, writhing and sweating profusely. Each had determined he would be the victor—the give-and-take seemed endless. After two and one-half days battling fiercely for the hand of the gorgeous and lusty Onym, K'aint was beginning to feel weak. He panicked and became impatient. Desperately, he snatched a fallen branch from the lush, green ground and, with a great and powerful swing, he was able to break and disable Able's arm. Able, unable to stand, submitted himself to his brother and to the wrath of Hewhay. "Surely Hewhay would proclaim K'aint the winner, and I, Able, will be the accursed one," thought the amiable Able.

Hewhay then intervened. He had witnessed the match from its beginning:

K'aint, look what you have done! You have committed a great Sin. I did not put this test to you alone. In your hatred and envy, you have disabled your amiable brother, Able. You shall be punished in the way I described for the loser. You are the one who will roam the barren landscapes in search of food and shelter. Your stupid and ugly woman will bring forth stupid and ugly progeny. You and your descendents will forever be

unable to enter New Odem and eat of the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

In accordance with Hewhay's promise, K'aint was punished for disabling Able, while Able was duly rewarded. K'aint and his descendents were marked from that time onward.

K'aint's new home, "Earth," is a curious place. He and his progeny continue to fight amongst themselves in useless wars of hegemony and religious intolerance—but Hewhay looks the other way. There is neither Peace on Earth nor Good Will Toward Men. None on Earth are considered Children of Hewhay. Only Able and his descendents in New Odem are Hewhay's True Children, and they have long since been elevated to a Higher Plane to follow Hewhay's Will.

In this way, Hewhay created Paradise and the State of Damnation. Aware of the ambition of our primogenitors, Hewhay, The Omniscient and The Omnipotent, let the Woman's first born abuse his loving brother's faith and trust. K'aint was predestined to choose Evil over Good, forever enslaving the souls of his descendents to Hell on Earth. This was Hewhay's wise resolve: to separate the just from the unjust—"the wheat from the chaff."

Once upon a time, one man, eponymously called K'aint, was able to determine the course of human evolution.