

# WHY GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO BAD PEOPLE

## Henry Cavanaugh

**I**n 1993, Henry Cavanaugh, an ex-con with a hair-trigger temper, mugged an elderly woman in Philadelphia, stealing about \$28. To avoid being caught he ducked inside a nearby camera store where, to his surprise, he was met by flashing lights, showered with confetti, and handed a check for one million dollars—*he was the store's one millionth customer!*

No longer needing to steal to make a living, Cavanaugh moved into a swank apartment and took up photography. He became quite proficient at it, taking pictures of the poor and the homeless, becoming, according to one review, "a brilliant interpreter of the plight of the underclass." His photographs showed so much empathy for their subject that they were used in a magazine campaign for economic justice.

Then, last year, at an exhibit of his work, Cavanaugh lost his temper and conked an art critic on the head with a cocktail glass. He received a seven-year sentence for parole violation, but served only a few months in the Pennsylvania state penitentiary before making a daring escape. He is still at large.

## Ezra Walterman

**E**zra Walterman ran a small dress shop in the heart of the garment district in New York City. He became quite wealthy, in part because he paid meager wages to illegal immigrants and worked them like slaves. But he wasn't satisfied with being rich—he wanted to be *filthy* rich. So, he hired some hoodlums to burn down his factory. The arson squad never traced it back to Walterman, who collected millions from the insurance.

With his abundant wealth, Walterman bought a huge mansion on Long Island and hired a bright young graduate student to manage his affairs. One night the young man overheard Walterman talking in his sleep about the fire. When confronted, Walterman panicked. To buy his silence, he told him he could have anything he wanted. The young man asked for financial backing for an invention he was working on. Eight years later the "invention" turned out to be the enormously successful Krazy Glue.

Of course, Walterman sued for all the profits from Krazy Glue, claiming he was the sole investor, and he won his case. The day after the decision he was crushed to death by an overturned Brink's truck.

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## Or Making Sense of Suffering

Everyone has encountered sorrow...

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Alzheimer's
- Loss of loved ones
- Suicide
- Neonates with diseases
- Car accidents
- Mental illness

Cruelty and inhumanity...

- Hitler
- Stalin
- Pol Pot
- Mao Tse-tung
- Holocausts...

Natural Disasters...

- Earthquakes
- Hurricanes
- Tsunamis
- Bush Fires
- Floods
- Landslides

Poverty and socioeconomic corruption

- 1 Billion people in the world lack the basic necessities of life

So...we ask the questions

Where is God?  
Why didn't God stop it?  
Why doesn't God care?  
Why doesn't God help?

If God is all powerful, all loving and He is good then surely all this suffering should not exist. And yet it does!  
What's worse, it's often the innocent who are victimised.

This is the single biggest obstacle for spiritual seekers.

Question? Does The presence of suffering necessarily mean the absence of God?

When a baby in Africa dies because of lack of rain, we may question, who controls the rain? Not me, not you God does. How can a loving God allow a innocent baby die from a lack of rain? Does God not love?

Is it intellectually arrogant to think like this?

Bear – Hunter Illustration p43

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Suffering and Love