

THE PARADOX OF **EVIL** IS THIS:  
WHY DOES A **BENEVOLENT**  
CREATOR **ALLOW** IT?

AFTER MUCH **DEBATE**,  
THEOLOGAINS  
DECIDED THAT  
**EVIL** MUST  
SERVE SOME  
**GREATER**  
**GOOD**.

SILVER  
DOLLARS?

THERE'S  
GOTTA BE  
MORE'N TWO  
DOZEN.

THEY DO NOT WANT TO  
DWELL ON THE **OTHER**  
POSSIBILITIES: THAT THE  
CREATOR IS **NOT** SO  
BENEVOLENT AFTER ALL.

OR THAT THERE  
**ISN'T ONE**.

"But who prays for Satan?  
Who, in eighteen centuries,  
has had the common humanity  
to pray for the one sinner that  
needed it most?" — Mark Twain

# FATHER LUCIFER

Part One: Practicing to Deceive

holly lee ANTONIO TODD  
BLACK GARBETT FABELA KLEIN  
writer artist colorist letterer

lee MAGGIE ellie  
GARBETT howell pyle  
cover artist asst. editor editor


Based on characters created by Neil Gaiman,  
Sam Kieth & Mike Dringenberg




AND SO WE  
HAVE SETTLED  
ON THIS  
REASSURING  
EXPLANATION:  
WE HAVE **EVIL**  
BECAUSE WE  
HAVE **FREE**  
**WILL.**



AFTER ALL, IF  
WE DON'T HAVE  
**BAD** CHOICES,  
HOW CAN WE  
KNOW **GOOD**  
ONES?



WITHOUT SUFFERING, HOW  
WILL OUR **TRUE** NATURES  
BE REVEALED?



WE MUST HAVE THE **BITTER**  
TO KNOW THE **SWEET.**



BUT IF THAT'S SO, IS THE  
**OPPOSITE** ALSO TRUE?



IS THERE ANY USE FOR  
THE **DEVIL** IF THERE'S  
NO **GOD**?



IN THE SILVER CITY, THE ARCHANGEL RAPHAEL GLIDES TOWARD THE TOWER ABOVE THE PRIMUM MOBILE WHERE THE THRONE OF HEAVEN SITS *EMPTY*.



HE IS TROUBLED.



METATRON...

...I WAS SUMMONED BY A HUMAN BOY WHO HAD *STOLEN* MY FEATHER.

IT HAD THE FEELING OF FATE TO IT.

I TOLD YOU OF MY PREMONITION, THAT YOU HAD A *PART* YET TO PLAY, RAPHAEL.

IT IS NOT OUR NATURE TO DECEIVE, YET IT SEEMS *YOU* ARE HIDING SOMETHING.

THE ADVERSARY SOUGHT INFORMATION ABOUT A LONG-BURIED *SWORD*. A PIECE OF IT WAS IN HIS *CHEST*. WHY WOULD THAT BE?

WHY DO THE ANGELS SAY THAT GABRIEL FLEW HERE ON WHITE WINGS AND THAT *YOU* THREW HIM BACK TO EARTH?

AND WHY DO YOU *HIDE* HERE, BROODING?

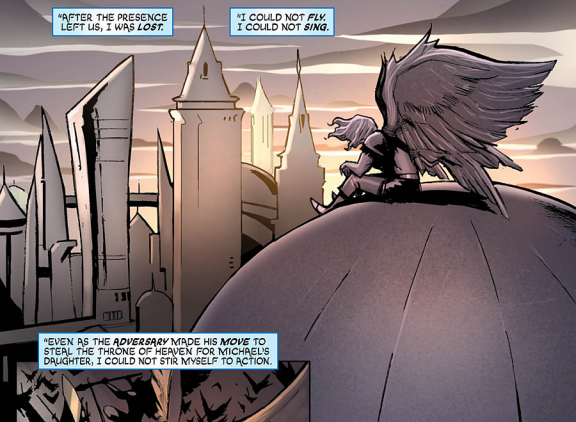


I WILL  
TELL YOU.

THOUGH  
YOU WILL WISH  
YOU COULD  
UNKNOWN THE  
TALE.

"AFTER THE PRESENCE  
LEFT US, I WAS LOST.

"I COULD NOT FLY.  
I COULD NOT SING.



"EVEN AS THE ADVERSARY MADE HIS MOVE TO  
STEAL THE THRONE OF HEAVEN FOR MICHAEL'S  
DAUGHTER, I COULD NOT STIR MYSELF TO ACTION.



"WHAT WAS MY PURPOSE, I WHO WAS CREATED  
TO BE THE CHANCELLOR OF HEAVEN?



"THEN, FINALLY,  
THE PRESENCE  
SPOKE TO ME."

"THE PRESENCE CALLED UPON ME TO SEND HIM GABRIEL, WITH A SWORD THAT HAD BEEN LONG FORGOTTEN.

"HE TOLD ME THE SWORD WOULD BE USED AGAINST LUCIFER.

"I BEGGED OUR FATHER TO LET ME GO INSTEAD. LET ME WIELD THE SWORD. LET ME DO SOMETHING, ANYTHING.

"BUT HE CHOSE GABRIEL, OUR DISHONORED BROTHER, FOR THIS MISSION.

HE SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN ME.

GABRIEL RETURNED WITHOUT THE SWORD.

LUCIFER WAS STILL ALIVE.

IT WAS THE PRESENCE WHO WAS GONE.

DEAD!