

Lies with Good Intentions and Lies with Bad Intentions

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This month I will speak about lies told with good intentions and lies told with bad intentions. Lies told with a good intention are told to save, to comfort, or to keep one from being hurt. This is what is known as a white lie, and it is often told by doctors to patients. Neither is the individual telling the lie or the person hearing it hurt, and instead of disturbing the peace and harmony in human relationships, white lies can actually serve to foster these. This is why they can be regarded as lies told with good intentions.

Opposed to this, lies told with evil intentions are harmful and ultimately bring about destruction. It is a product of vanity and egoism, and is used to defend one's position, interests, reputation, social standing, or property. Although these lies may hurt others, the person telling the lie does not feel any remorse. All evil in the world arises from this kind of lie, and it works to destroy the world. This is the very thing that leads one down the road of depravity where one sells his soul to the devil, which leads a person eventually to total ruin and extinction. Even when you find yourself in a precarious situation, you must not try to talk your way out of it by telling lies for the sake of self-preservation. As soon as you start to do this, you begin to back away from Heaven, and ultimately you will be pushed beyond the turning point to rebellion against Heaven. All traitors and those whose extinction has been announced have trodden this path. You should bear this firmly in mind as you go about your daily activities.

Of course, I am speaking in reference to relations between followers of the True Law and about having faith in Heaven. When it comes to dealing with others who do not follow the True Law, there are times when it becomes necessary for you followers to

tell white lies in order to avoid argument, and this is permitted.

The danger occurs when the lies with bad intentions begin to appear between followers of the True Law where there should be no need to conceal oneself. For the sake of training your soul, you must constantly reflect on your own behavior throughout your daily life. To forget to do this is the beginning of the downfall of your soul and it becomes the first step in the failure of spiritual training.