THE FALL: Q & A FALLEN ANGEL TELL THE STORY OF SATAN'S FALL

Making the Invisible Visible, October 2, 2008

By Grady Harp (Los Angeles, CA United States) - See all my reviews

The author of this highly original and fascinating interview with a fallen angel elects to go by the name 'Q', not a unique moniker as far as history is concerned, but an apt one in that the author AND illustrator of this book places himself in the role of Everyman attempting to resolve the origins of good and evil. The format is fascinating and striking: each page has as its centerpiece a box within which is either a question or an answer along with subtly varied images of the author (a man with a dark hat) and the angel (a lad with blond hair and a sense of both innocence and suggestion of white-eyed otherworldliness). These emphasis boxes are set on a background of anatomy pages suggestive of da Vinci drawings of human skeletons and associated comments, and the contrast between the etching cum temple rubbing style of the faces makes a bold statement about the frailty of mankind very much in the background of this disturbing conversation! The graphics of this book are stunning and are equally as important as the written word.

The topic is the question 'Why did Satan fall?' and the answers and extensions of the responses from the Fallen Angel form a dialogue that includes the quality of power, fear, pain, and the struggle for independence and dominance. The dialogue becomes convoluted at times, but for this reader that imposed difficulty in following the pieces of the argument only serves to make it more powerful: the tendency for the reader to understand pushes the envelope to go beyond the apparent dialogue between Q and the Fallen Angel (whether that is Lucifer, or Satan himself or one of the disciples that fill the mold of terror), and think in terms of the contemporary status of struggle we all are witnessing in a disheveled universe. And when the final question is posed - 'Does hatred and freedom so pure, so powerful, so absolute, so revolutionary, so ruthless, so violent, so infinite exist?' - the Fallen Angel's answer is 'Yes, it exists in God.' An appendix arguing that Power is Pleasure closes the volume.

This is a remarkable achievement, quite likely to gather strong

responses from the reader. When edgy topics such as this are coupled with graphic representation the result is not unlike the big questions posed in the murals of medieval cathedrals: the words and images are meant to challenge. And they do! Grady Harp, October 08