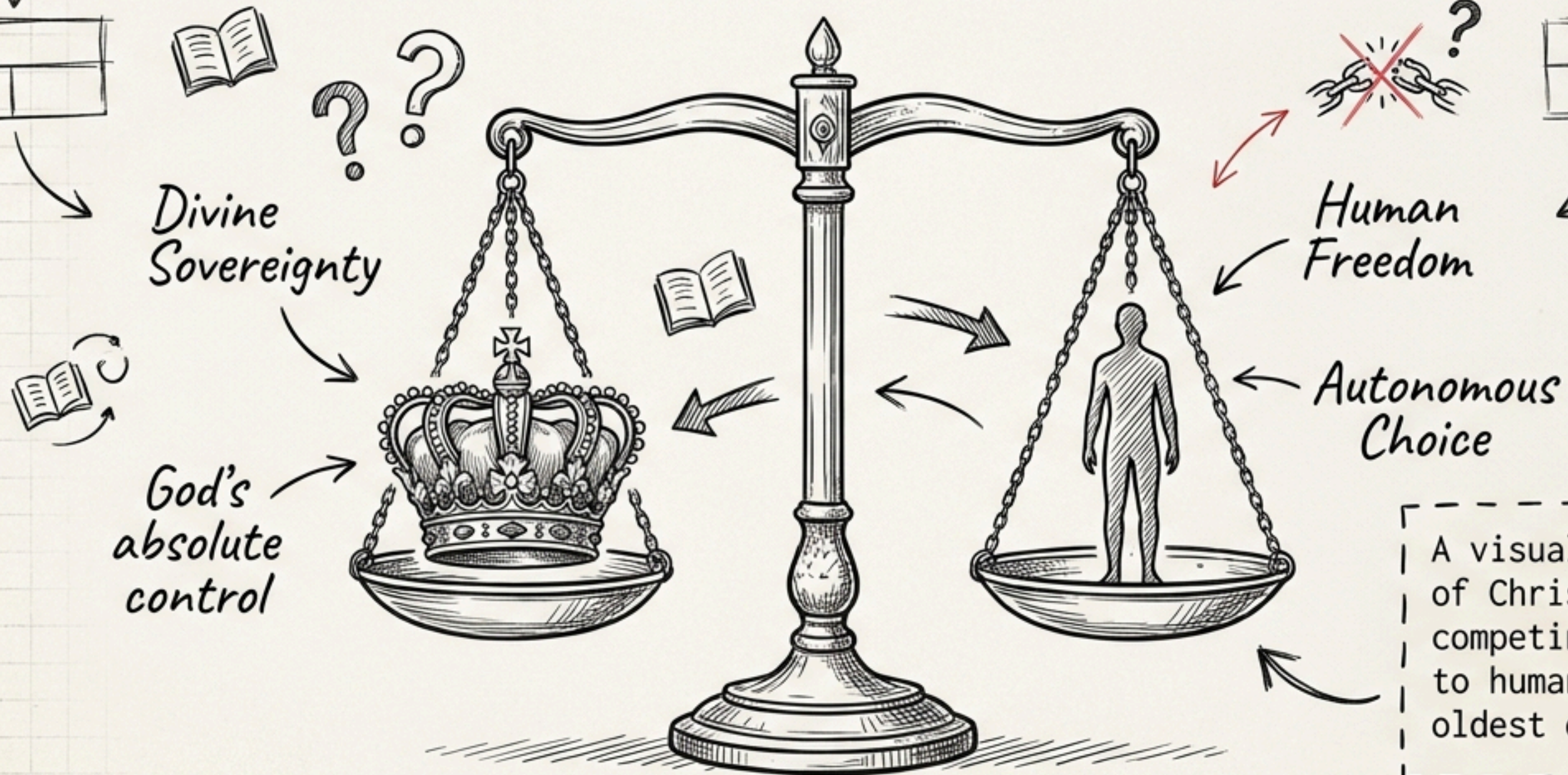


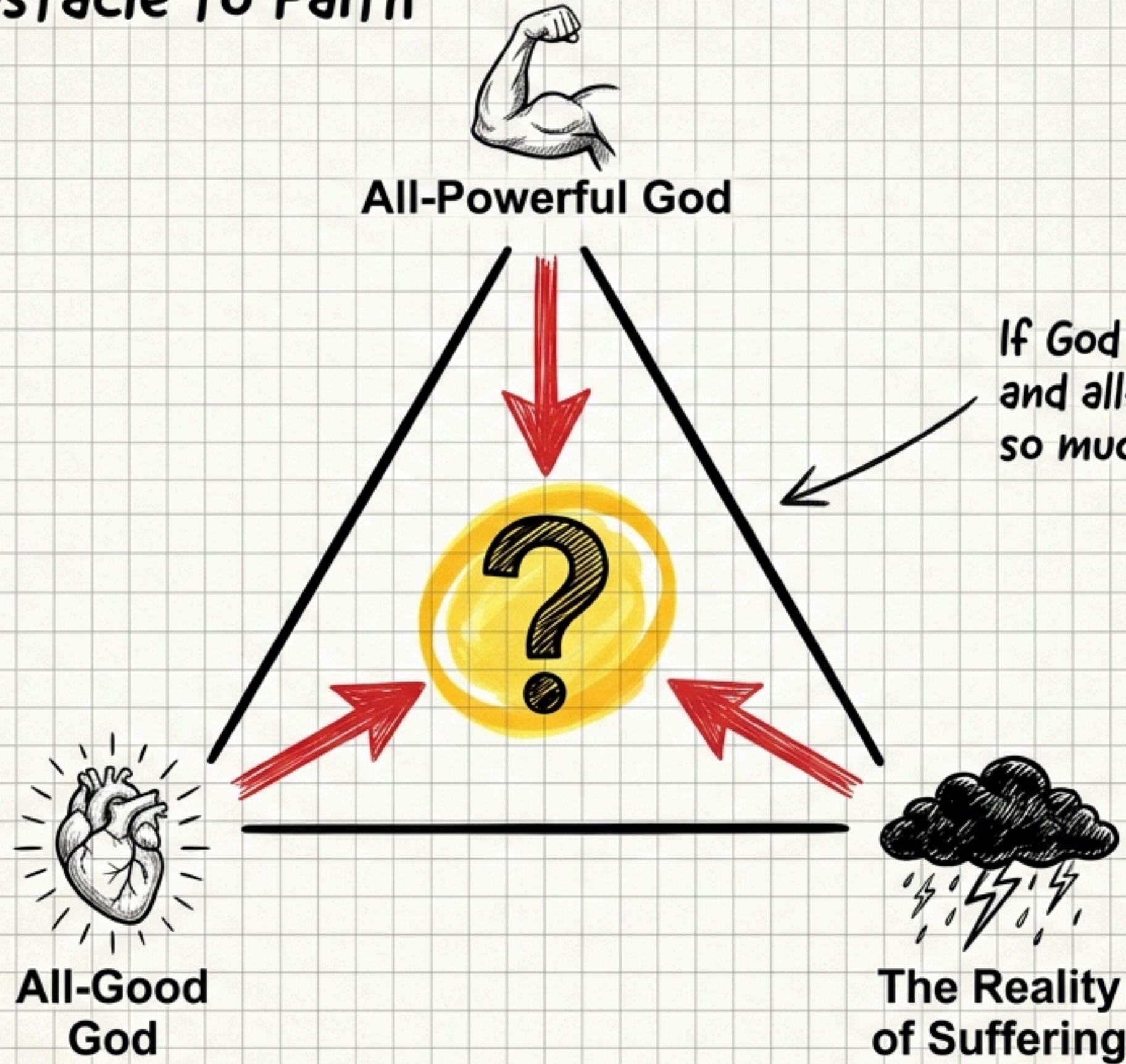
Calvinism vs. Molinism

Is God Responsible for Evil?

Evil $\leftrightarrow$ God



The Greatest Obstacle to Faith



This isn't about picking a team. It's about seeking understanding and deepening our awe for a God whose ways are higher than ours.

Defining the Scope of the Problem

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Natural Evil



Disease, earthquakes, famine.
Suffering that seems to come
from the world itself.

Moral Evil



Cruelty, murder, betrayal,
injustice. The evil that flows
from the human heart.

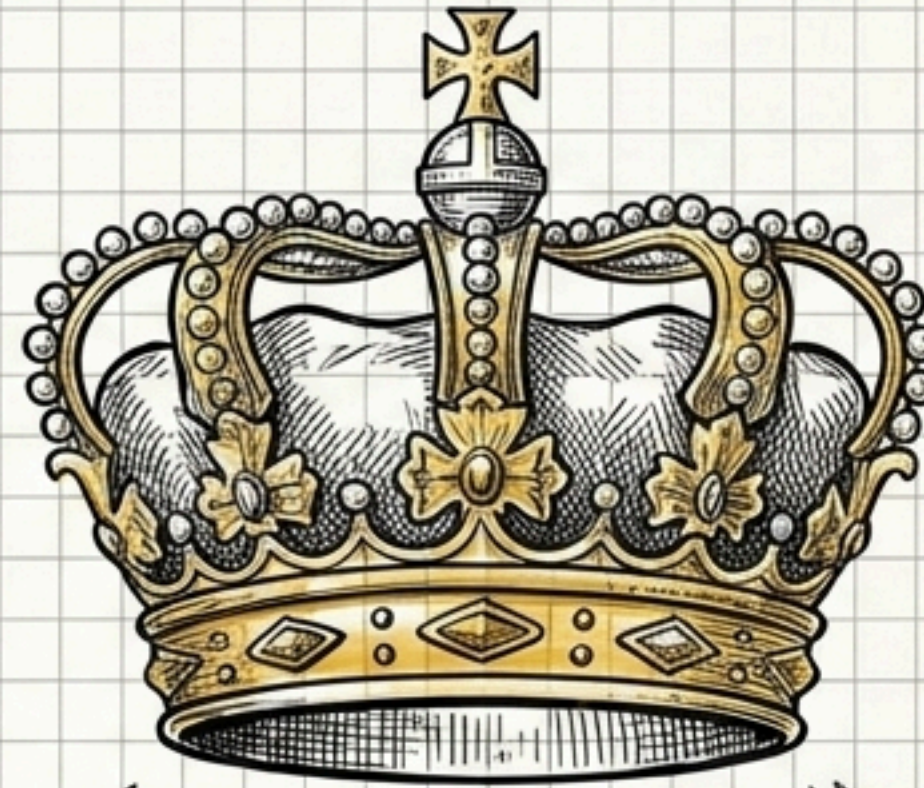
Why does God permit human
wickedness, and how can He
hold us accountable if He is
in total control?

Calvinism: The Sovereign King

God is absolutely sovereign.
Not merely aware of what
happens, but ordaining
what happens.



"He works all things
according to the
counsel of His will."



Are we robots? No. We act
according to our own desires
and are not coerced. But our
choices fall within God's
sovereign decree.



The Mechanism: Dual Intentions

Case Study 1: Joseph (Genesis 50:20)

His brothers sold him into slavery out of jealousy (Evil Intention).
God meant it for good (Divine Purpose).

Human Evil Intention

The Event

Divine Purpose

Case Study 2: The Crucifixion (Acts 2:23)

The Jews crucified and killed Him (Moral Responsibility).
Delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God (Sovereign Decree).

One event. Two intentions. God ordains the path,
but the evil intent belongs to the creature.

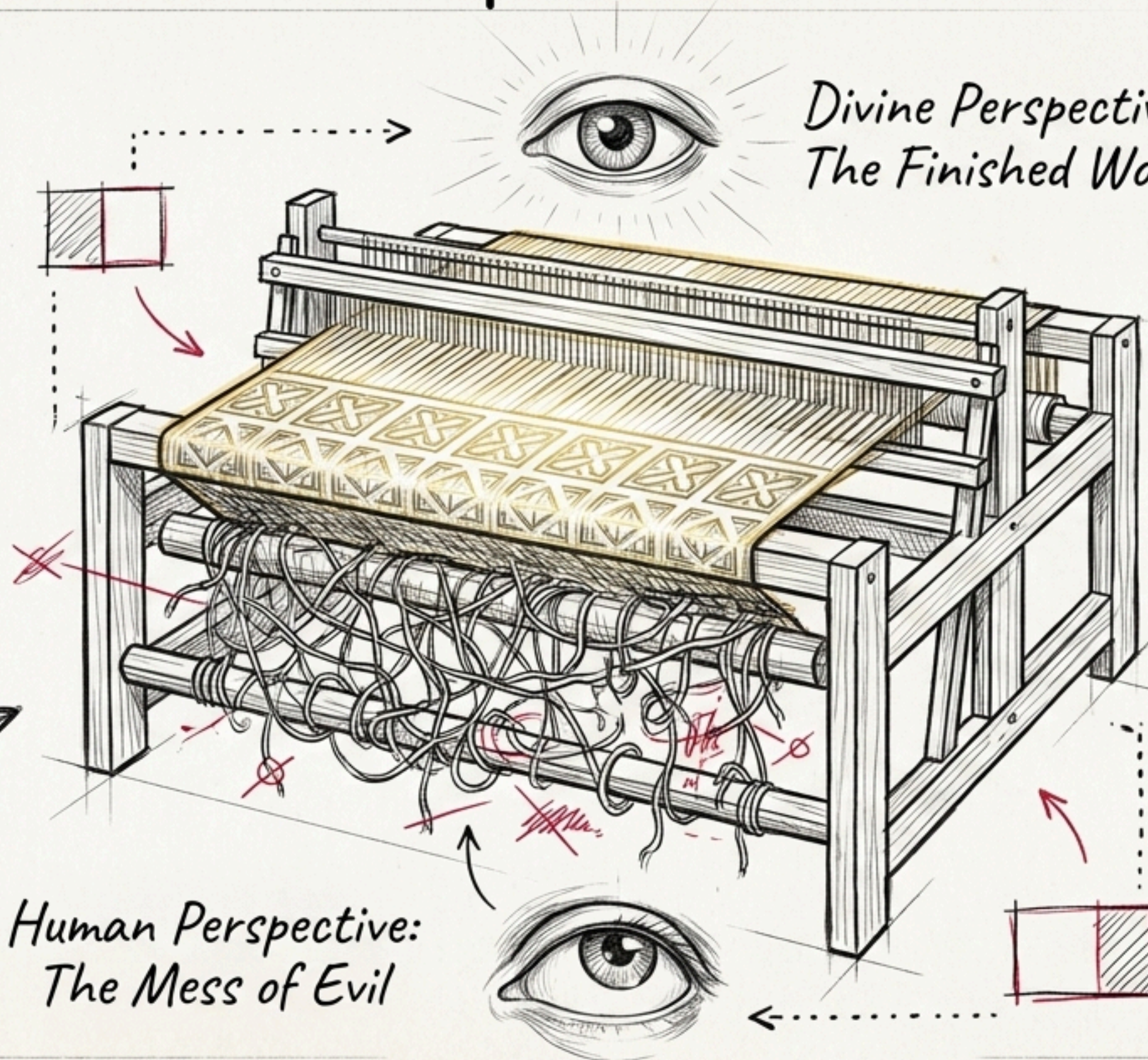
The Calvinist Metaphor: The Grand Tapestry

*Divine Perspective:
The Finished Work*

God sovereignly ordains whatsoever comes to pass. He remains holy and does not become the author of sin, but works through human choices to accomplish His purposes.

Evil is not an accident. It is part of a grand tapestry.

*Human Perspective:
The Mess of Evil*



Molinism: The Master Strategist

Molinism also affirms God's sovereignty, but introduces a crucial distinction: genuine libertarian freedom.

In this view, human beings possess genuine freedom. We are not puppets. Sinful choices are not causally determined by God.



Named after 16th-century Jesuit theologian Luis de Molina.



The Mechanism: The Knowledge Funnel



Natural Knowledge

All necessary truths and all logical possibilities.

Middle Knowledge

What any free creature would do in any given circumstance.

He knew what you would do if born in the Middle Ages vs. the 21st Century

Free Knowledge

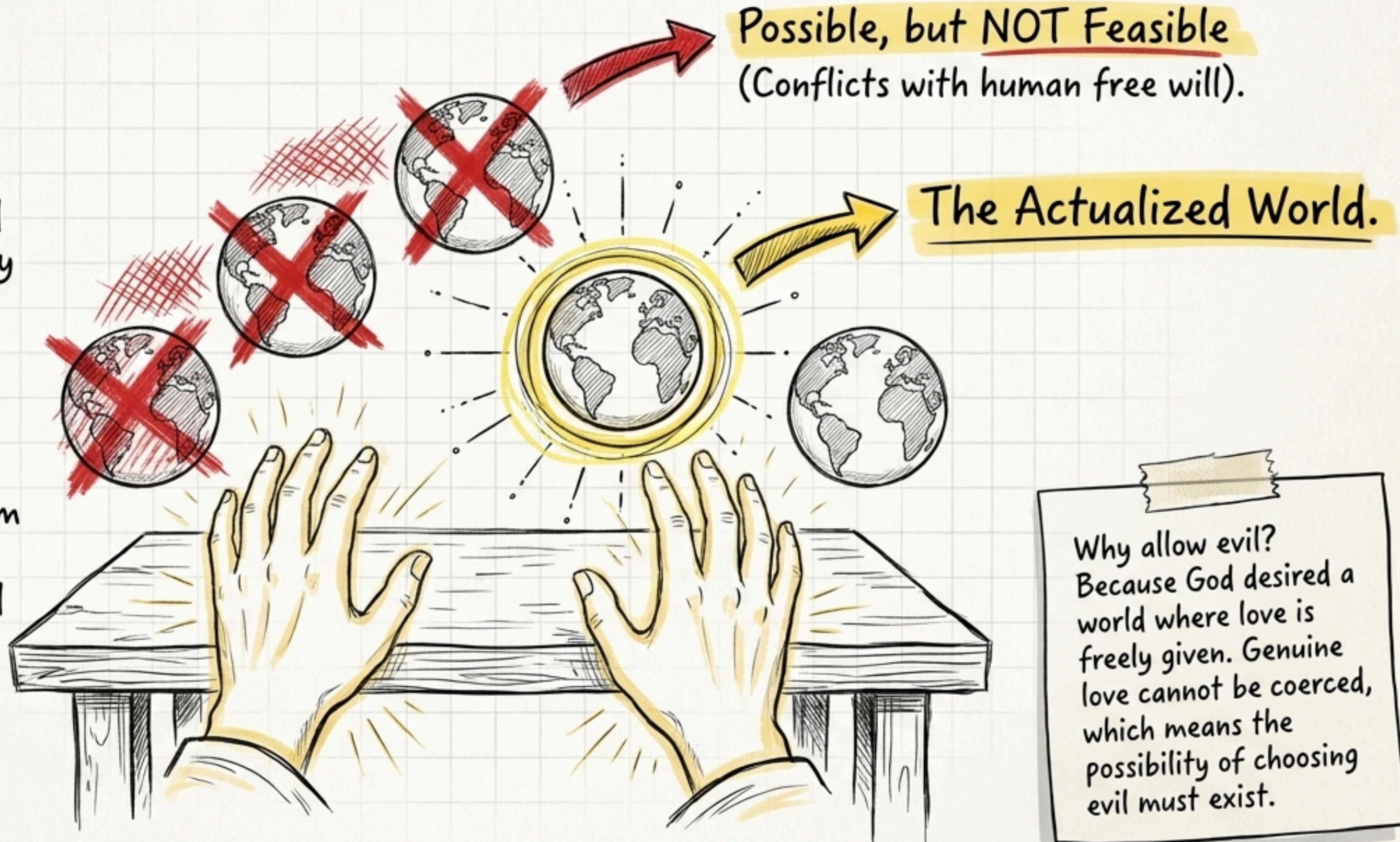
What actually happens in the world He creates.

Middle Knowledge is the key. Before creating the world, God knew every possible choice every person could make.

The Molinist Metaphor: Feasible Worlds

Given the true counterfactuals of creaturely freedom, God cannot simply choose any logical world He wants.

He surveyed all feasible worlds, seeing which included genuine freedom and accomplished His purposes, and actualized this one.



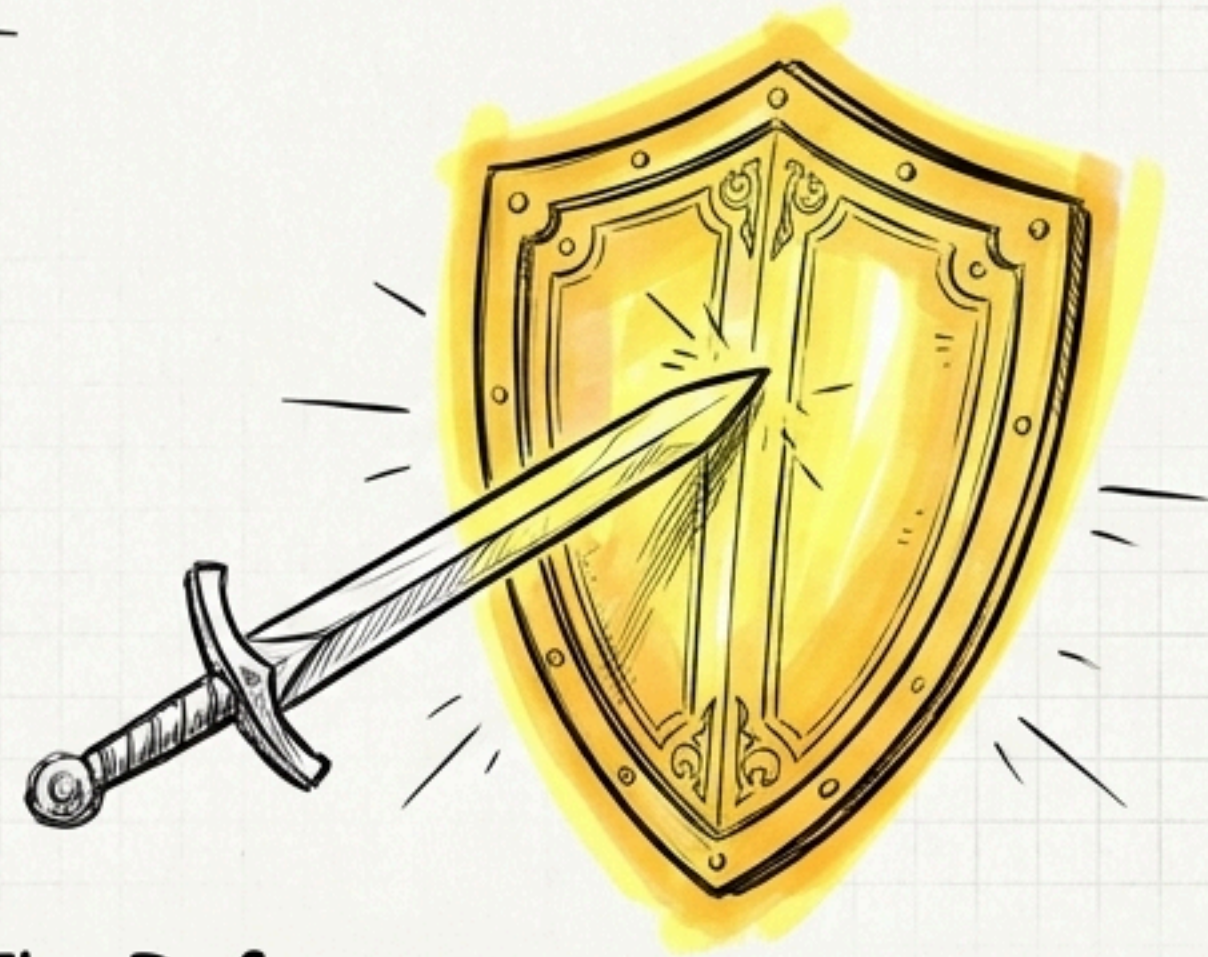
Why allow evil?
Because God desired a world where love is freely given. Genuine love cannot be coerced, which means the possibility of choosing evil must exist.

The Showdown: Critiquing Calvinism



The Objection (Molinist Critique):

If God sovereignly decrees an evil action, does this make God's relationship to that evil too direct?



The Defense:

Calvinists distinguish between God's decree and human intention. God ordains the event, but the evil intention belongs strictly to the creature.

The Lingering Tension: How can a good God ordain sin while remaining holy?

The Showdown: Critiquing Molinism



The Objection (Calvinist Critique):

In Molinism, God's middle knowledge is logically prior to His creative decree. He merely knows the counterfactuals; He does not determine them. Is God truly sovereign if His creative options are constrained by what creatures would freely choose?

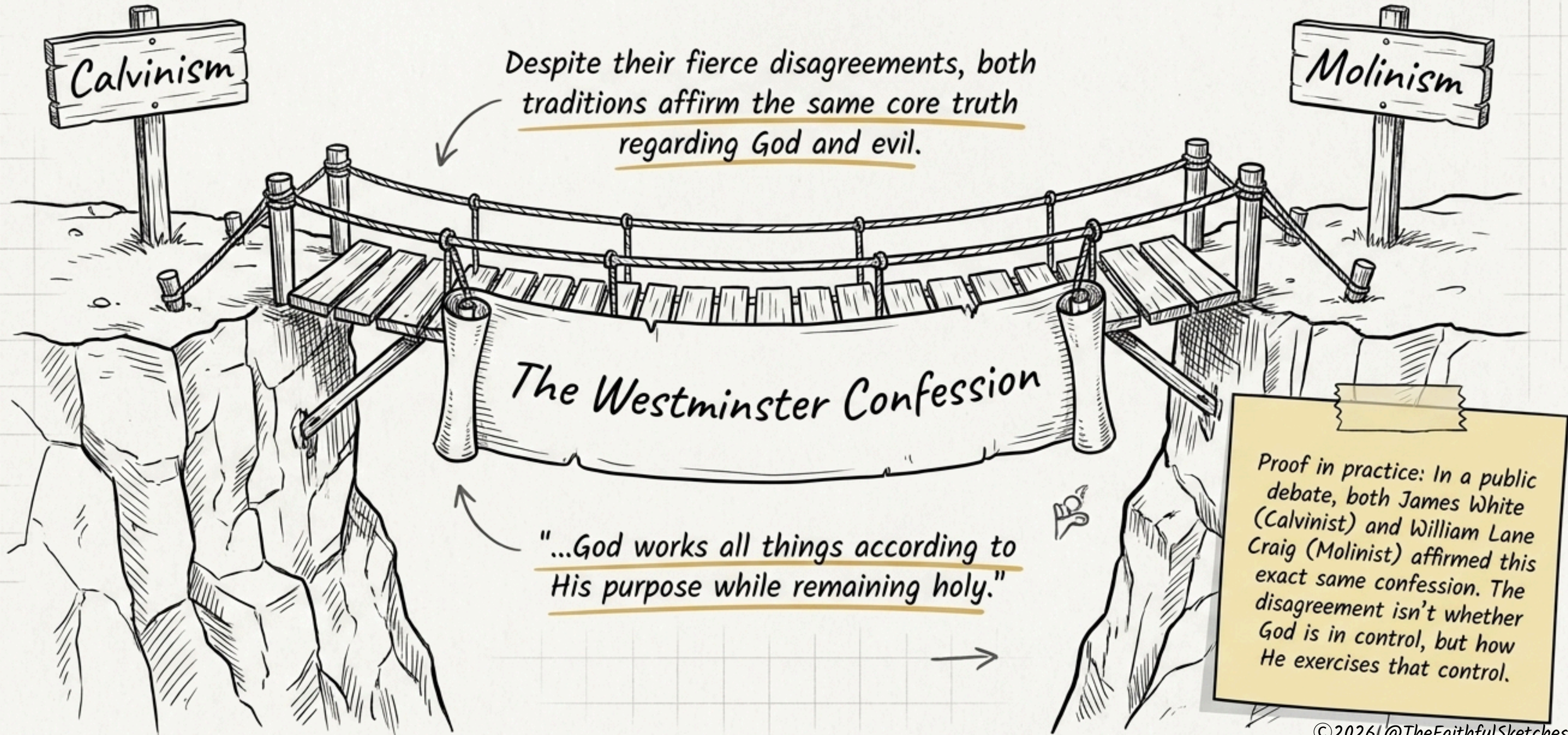


The Lingering Tension: If God knowingly actualizes a feasible world containing horrific free choices, does this really remove God's responsibility? He still chose to create the world containing the evil.

The Diagnostic Matrix

	Calvinism 	Molinism 
Core Emphasis	Divine Sovereignty (God is in total control).	Human Freedom & Moral Accountability.
View of Freedom	Compatibilism (We act on our desires, within God's decree).	Libertarian Freedom (Genuine alternate possibilities).
Origin of Evil's Action	Ordained by God, intended by man.	Anticipated by God, actualized by man's free choice.
The Greatest Tension	God's proximity to the authoring of sin.	The limitation of God's sovereignty by human choices.

The Surprising Connection



The Ultimate Answer

Neither system offers a perfectly tidy resolution to the problem of evil.

Both traditions ultimately point us to the cross.

Calvinism

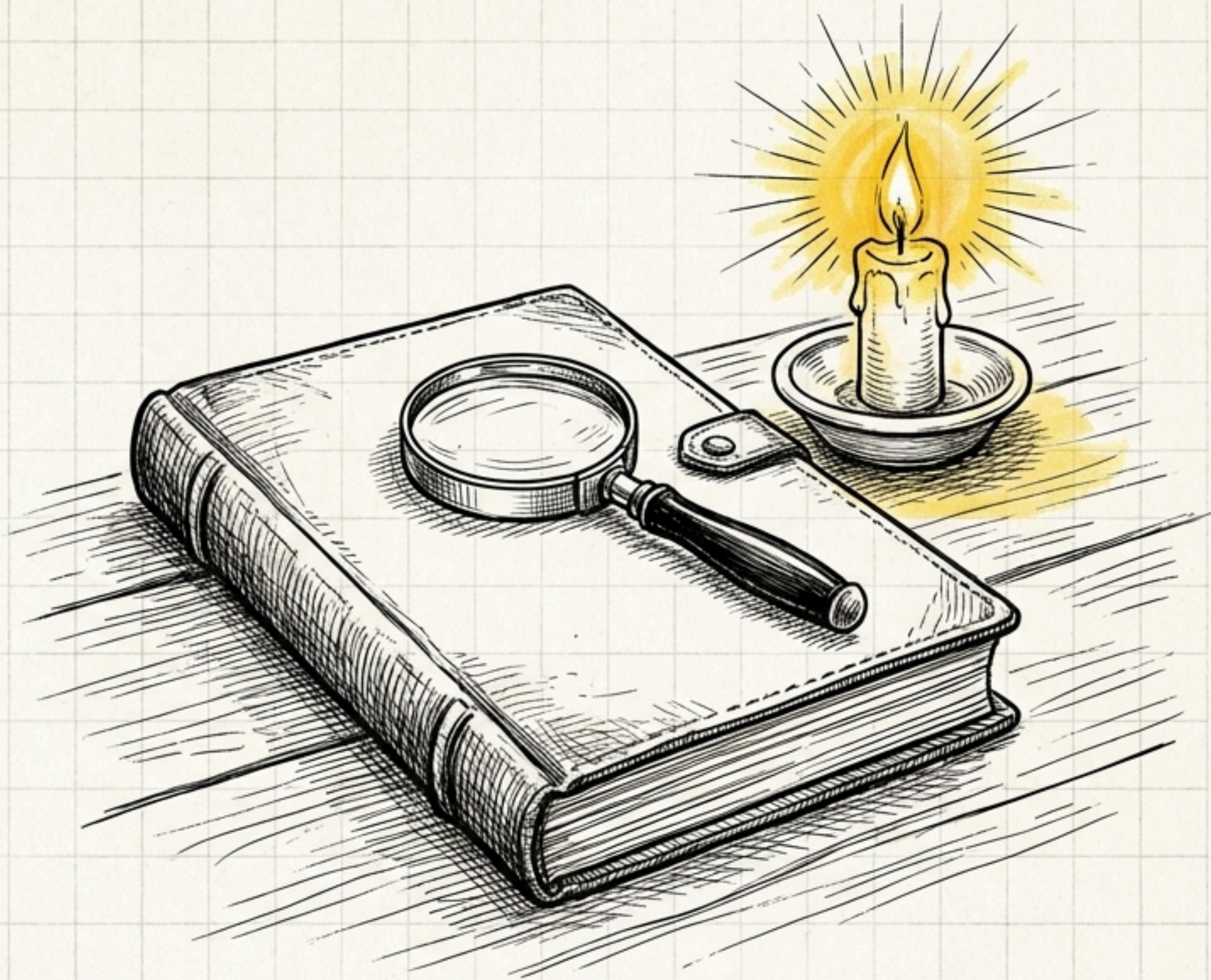


Molinism

God defeated evil not by avoiding it, but by entering into our suffering and bearing it.

A Profound Mystery

- Both traditions are the work of faithful believers.
- Both seek to honor God and defend His goodness.
- Both acknowledge that the intersection of God's sovereignty and human evil remains a profound mystery.



The goal is not to win a debate, but to deepen our awe for a God whose ways are higher than ours.