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Questions:

1. Why do you suppose John Steinbeck and many others including filmmakers, writers and artists, return so often to the theme of Cain and Abel.

2. Where do you see the energy of the Cain and Abel story today?

3. What might it mean if God is somehow complicit in creating the situation that precipitated Cain's act of violence?

4. What is required for us to be our sisters' and brothers' keepers? What is not?

5. What difference does it make if our most important choice is not between good and evil, but whether or not to be in relationship with God?

EPISODE TITLE: "That Darned Brother"

Failing, Falling and Flying, Episode 3

Featured Guest: *Reinhilde Ruprecht*

Reinhilde Ruprecht entered the field of publishing in 1993, first as an editor for the Evangelical Church Encyclopedia and of theological textbooks.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Genesis 4: 1-16

4 Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying,
'I have produced a man with the help of the Lord.' [2]Next she bore his brother
Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. [3]In the
course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,
[4]and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions.
And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, [5]but for Cain and his offer-
ing he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. [6]The
Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?
[7]If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurk-
ing at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.'

8 Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.' And when they
were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. [9]Then
the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know;
am I my brother's keeper?' [10]And the Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen;
your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! [11]And now you are
cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's
blood from your hand. [12]When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to
you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.' [13]Cain
said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! [14]Today you have
driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a
fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.'
[15]Then the Lord said to him, 'Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold
vengeance.' And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon
him would kill him. [16]Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and
settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

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