

The Problem of Evil

Why would a good God create a world where bad things happen?

An Argument Against the Existence of God

“The Problem of Evil”

1. An all *good* being would *want* to prevent evil from happening in the world.
2. An all *powerful* being would *be able* to prevent evil from happening in the world.
3. But, evil exists in the world.
4. So, it must be false that there is any being that is both all good and all powerful.
i.e., *there is no God.*

The Reasoning

- This looks like a valid argument.
 - That is, if all the premises are true, then the conclusion *must* be true. The only way for the conclusion to be false would be for one or more of the premises to be false.
- Are all the premises true?
 - Classical Theism defines God as a being that is both all good and all powerful (and all knowing, too).

God and Evil

“The Problem of Evil”

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4. So, it must be false that there is any being that is both all good and all powerful.

Since theism is committed to 1) and 2), the only way to avoid 4) is to deny 3), i.e., to deny the existence of evil in the world.

The Theist's Response

- “*God has a plan*”
 - Theism has many responses to the problem of evil.
 - But they all seem to involve, in some way, arguing that...
 - What *looks* evil (to us)
 - Isn't *really* evil (if we knew everything that God knows).

Does Evil Exist in the World?



Memory of the Camps

Show *Memory of the Camps*

- If you want to learn more, the most intense and horrific film (all of it composed of interviews, with no graphic images) is a documentary called *Shoah*. You can learn more about it [online](#).

