

The Problem of Evil

If one of the attributes of God is “all-good”, why is there evil in the world?

Answer- The most common response to the problem of evil I’ve encountered from theists is the misinterpretation of evil. Who are “we” to question what appears to be evil and assume it is not really an act of good and/or justice? All that appears to be evil is really just our misinterpretation of the good or just intentions of God’s actions.

Objection- Assuming there is [NOT] some kind of universal agreement on the interpretation of “good” and “justice”, it would be impossible or certainly difficult to distinguish a good act from an evil one, as in fact, there would be none. All acts chosen by man would actually be “good” acts (perhaps with the guidance of God). Furthermore, it would be ludicrous to attribute anything, namely good and just, to the identity of God, as they are not (even remotely) accurate to the “true” characteristics of God. It certainly takes a lot of faith for anyone to “dismiss” the effects of natural disasters and genocides as “God’s intention” and therefore not “evil”.

Comment [dp1]: Just want to confirm that you think this is the strongest argument that would make an all good God and evil compatible. That was the assignment.

Comment [dp2]: Did you mean to negate the first phrase? If so, then it would not follow from the lack of such a universal that we could never distinguish good and evil. If you are asserting exactly what you say, then I don’t understand this.

Comment [dp3]: Support this.

Comment [dp4]: This would seem to make sense, but it does not seem to flow logically from the rest of what you say.

Was this your first draft, or did you read it carefully as if you did not write it to see how it might come across to others? If the former, try to avoid turning in a first draft. Works occasionally, but usually not. If the latter, I am a bit at a loss. You could have written a bit more to make this work better.

2/5

Or Rewrite (probably best to move on to the essays, if you are pressed for time)