

Problem of evil knowledge organiser

Key words

Fitrah	An inner sense of right and wrong Muslims believe is inbuilt in humans
Free will	The ability to make our own choices
Moral evil	Caused by humans
Natural evil	Caused by nature
Omnibenevolent	All loving
Omnipotent	All powerful
Omniscient	Is all knowing
Shaytan/ Iblis:	The Devil (In Islam)
The problem of evil	One of the strongest arguments against the existence of God
Transcendent	God is outside the universe

What is the Problem of Evil?

We cannot deny evil exists. We have examples of moral evil (murder) and natural evil (earthquakes). Many religious people claim their God is all loving, all powerful and all knowing, but how can this be the case if evil exists? The problem of evil = if evil exists it makes no sense that God has all these qualities



Why do Christians still believe in God when evil exists?

Moral evil God has given us free will. We have to have free choices – especially the choice to love God or our actions are robotic and meaningless. Unfortunately it means some people choose to make bad choices, causing moral evil

Natural evil- is part of God's bigger plan that we can never understand. The universe is very intricate and detailed and as humans can never understand it. God can because He is transcendent. This can be seen in the Book of Job.



Why do Muslims still believe in God when evil exists?

- Evil originated when Shaytan/ Iblis refused to bow down to Adam, when ordered to by God (Allah).
- When Shaytan disobeyed God, he was cast out of heaven and vowed to spend eternity trying to tempt humans to do evil.
- Muslims believe we have an intrinsic (inbuilt) sense of right or wrong called Fitrah. They should know what is right or wrong without being told.
- Muslims have responsibility over their own actions; they must avoid the temptation of Shaytan.
- To avoid bad decisions Muslims must work hard not be selfish.
- Allah provides guidance for Muslims in their holy book, which is called the Qur'an.
- Some Muslims believe that suffering can be Allah trying to educate or test them. An increased reward in the afterlife.

What is the Buddhist explanation of suffering?

The Buddha realized that there were four truths that summed up why there is suffering in life and how it can be solved.

The First Noble Truth- the world is always in some kind of suffering.

The Second Noble Truth - suffering is caused by us craving (wanting) something.

The Third Noble Truth- If we stop our cravings to material things, then we can stop ourselves and others from suffering.

The Fourth Noble Truth- If we do not go to extremes in our life, then we can live well without forming attachments to material objects. We do this by taking the middle way or Eightfold Path – living with enough resources to survive, but not craving more than we really need.

Why is karma so important to Hindus?



- Hindus believe that every living thing has a **soul**. The Hindu word for soul is **Atman**.
- Hindus also believe we have lived **many lives** before this one and we will live many more lives in the **future**.
- When we die our soul **moves** on to be another living thing.
- If we have been good, our next life will be **good**. If we have been bad, our next life will be **bad**. This is called **Karma**.
- Another way of getting good Karma is making sure you do all your **duties**.
- If you have **good** karma you may be **rich** in the next life.
- If you have **bad** karma you may **suffer** in your next life. We are responsible for our own suffering, due to our previous actions.