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### What is evil?

It is often used to describe an event or crime that has caused great harm. If a baby is born innocent how does it become evil? Is there an outside force such as the devil or something in a persons mind that causes them to harm or destroy other lives?

### What is suffering?

Suffering creates problems for **theists** (a person who believes in God). They believe that God is **omnibenevolent, omniscient and omnipotent**.

### Problems for theists

- If God is omnibenevolent, why does he allow us to suffer?
- If God is omnipotent, why doesn't he stop suffering?



### Problem of evil

Causes suffering. Evil means that God can't be all the things theists believe

### Types of evil

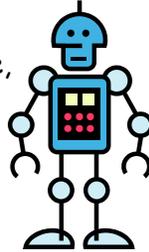
Evil can be split into 2 types;

#### Moral evil

People acting in a way to hurt themselves or others either by accident or on purpose eg a car accident or murder

#### For & against

- Why did God give humans free will? - Why are we not perfect?
- Human freedom is part of our nature, we are not programmed like robots, so make mistakes



#### Natural evil

Happens as a result of nature eg, floods, drought, earthquakes, volcanoes

#### For & against

- If God created the earth why are there natural disasters?
- Not to blame for the forces on earth, we should be able to develop ways of dealing with them

### Does suffering have a purpose?

- Needed to keep us alive & well.
- Make us appreciate the things we take for granted.
- Make us a better or stronger person if we show courage and determination. (Hick)
- Achieve a goal.
- Test of faith, like in the story of Job.
- Punishment for sin and it can teach us a lesson
- Part of Gods mysterious plan.
- Helps us to develop as human beings. (Irenaeus)

### Christian explanations for evil

- We were given **free will**, so evil is our fault not God's.
- Humans choose actions that cause suffering.
- The consequences are shown by Adam and Eve in **Genesis 3** in **The Fall**.
- Evil came into the world through Adam & Eve's disobedience.
- Humans are all born with **original sin** - the natural desire to do the wrong thing.
- Punishment for sin, which allows spiritual growth.
- The **Devil** is responsible. He tempted Adam and Eve, and even Jesus.

### Free will

The ability to chose your own actions.



# Good and Evil

### Jewish beliefs about evil & suffering

Most Jews believe that everything God does is for good. From a human perspective, some actions might seem evil, but they trust that whatever happens on Earth is ultimately according to God's plan, which is good.

### Hindu beliefs about evil and suffering

Hindus accept suffering as a part of their lives. They know that it is part of the world we live in and therefore acceptance allows them to move forward. Hindus believe that suffering can be both physical and mental. They accept that suffering can also be caused by being attached to material things.

### Muslim beliefs about evil and suffering

Many Muslims believe that suffering can be caused by the selfishness and evil of human beings which leads to bad decisions. They can overcome suffering in their own lives and help to ease the suffering of others by following Allah's path. This path is set out in the **Qur'an** and in the **Sunnah**.

