

Core Curriculum

2 Foundations of Islam - Theology

2.11 The Problem of Evil, Suffering and Pain

Question: What is the emotional problem of evil?

Answer: It is people's dislike or even hatred of God who permits suffering in the world. They are angry that God doesn't do anything about it.

Question: What is the intellectual problem of evil?

Answer: This problem sees God and evil as mutually incompatible from a logical perspective.

Question: What is one of the main reasons why God allows evil in this world?

Answer: Human evil is produced by free will. By preserving human free will, God allows humans to flourish and reach their highest potential of the good. But free will also means that humans can choose the wrong path.

Question: Why doesn't God punish people who do evil?

Answer: He does punish them, but that can take place in this world (if they are lucky) or take place in the Hereafter if they are unlucky as punishment in the next life is much worse.

Question: Are there rewards for people who suffer from evil in this world?

Answer: Yes, one of the rewards is having sins forgiven.