

Special Topics

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10 Islam, Religion, and Modern Controversies

10.1

Modern Fallacies about God: where Theists and Atheists Agree

Question : What is Tawhīd?

Answer : Tawhīd is the oneness and unity of God. It means that He is absolutely one and there is nothing imaginable like Him.

Question : What is objectifying God?

Answer : Objectifying God or Allah means to consider Him as a being who exists like we do, that is, as a limited object among other objects that currently exist.

Question : How does the Abrahamic God differ from the gods of polytheism?

Answer : The Abrahamic or Muslim God is the non-conditional, non-contingent source of all of existence, He is the condition of possibility for anything to exist. The gods of polytheism are contingent beings like any other except that they are immortal.

Question : If I reject the existence of a contingent God, am I an atheist?

Answer : Not unless you believe in a God who is non-contingent.

Question : What does it mean when you say “God is the fountain of all of existence”

Answer : It means that the totality of reality and existence depends upon Him.

10.2

Tawhīd: The Muslim God according to the Prophet Muhammad and the Ahl al-Bayt (as)

Question : N/A

Answer : N/A

10.3

God's Existence: The Argument From Being (Wujūd)

Question : Can't there be a third form of existence, something that is between necessary and contingent?

Answer : The only other alternative is an impossible existence, that is, a logical absurdity, like the whole of a thing being greater than its part, or a "square-circle." These kinds of absurdities are only mental creations and have no existence.

Question : How do atheists reject this argument?

Answer : One can reject the argument, but the only way to do so is to accept its alternative, namely the logical absurdity of infinite regress, which cannot be justified in any way. This is why rejection of God, according to the Qur'an, can only be done with the lack of 'aql, or proper intellect.

Question : What is wujūd?

Answer : Wujūd is the simple fact of existence, it is the "something is there" part of our understanding of the world.

Question : What is māhiya?

Answer : Māhiya is the makeup or "whatness" of the existent being, that is, its details, how it is understood, parts, origins, end, etc.. When you ask "what is this" concerning a particular object, you're talking about māhiya.

Question : Can science one day disprove God?

Answer : No, God's existence depends on the fact that there is such as "existence" which we are consciously aware of, and not the discoveries of science.

10.4

God's Existence: The Kalam Cosmological Argument

Question : How is God conceived in Islam?

Answer : A He is spaceless, timeless, immaterial, uncaused, very powerful and has an unembodied conscious and intelligent mind.

10.5

God's Existence: The Argument From Design

Question : What is the argument from design?

Answer : It is the argument that the world as we know it is designed which means that the world has an intelligent designer.

Question : Does the fine-tuning of the universe prove God's existence?

Answer : The fine-tuning argument is an argument, not a mathematical proof. Real proof of God comes from the experience of the heart, that is, the heart's vision of God.

Question : If God designed the universe, who designed God?

Answer : God is timeless and eternal. Only things that exist in time are created at some point in time. If you are timeless and eternal, you cannot be created.

Question : What is a multiverse?

Answer : The multiverse is the hypothetical set of finite and infinite possible universes, including the universe in which we live.

10.6

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.

10.7

Why did God Create Us? The Purpose of our Creation

Question : What is true servitude to God?

Answer : It is to submit your heart to God, to synchronize your soul with His will and being.

Question : Why isn't the world filled with only good people?

Answer : Because God gave humans free will, and free will means that people can choose evil as well as good. If there is no free will, people cannot choose good either.

Question : Why did God create bad people?

Answer : God did not create bad people, bad people chose to be bad by themselves.

Question : Why is our purpose in this life?

Answer : To submit our hearts to God and thereby purify them and reach spiritual perfection and

wisdom.

Question : What is the reason God create us humans?

Answer : He created us out of His love and compassion.

10.8

Why Humans Need Religion according to Islam

Question : What is the purpose of religion?

Answer : It is to purify our hearts and put us on the straight path to eternal salvation in God.

Question : What is īmān?

Answer : It is a deep relationship of trust with God

Question : What does “deen” mean in Arabic?

Answer : It comes from the old Persian word dā’ina, meaning “way of life”

Question : What is the purification of the heart?

Answer : It is the purification of the heart from spiritual diseases such as pride, arrogance, anger, hatred etc.

Question : What is the point of Islam?

Answer : To create a system and grounds whereby īmān can grow.

10.9

Jahl and Spiritual Ignorance in Islam

Question : What is ignorance in Islam?

Answer : Ignorance of God

Question : What is jahl and who is the jāhil?

Answer : Jahl is foolishness when it comes to truth. The jāhil is the fool.

Question : Can a jāhil have knowledge?

Answer : Yes, he can have a lot of information, but still be a fool, like the Devil.

Question : What are other words similar to jahl in Islam?

Answer : Safaahah is one, which means foolishness or idiocy.

Question : What is wisdom in Islam?

Answer : Wisdom is to be able to put knowledge to relevant use to the benefit of the greater good.

10.11

Do Non-Muslims Go to Hell?

Question : Do non-Muslims go to hell?

Answer : Only God knows, but Allah is just. He only sends to hell people who are evil or who reject the truth knowingly.

Question : Do all Muslims go to heaven?

Answer : No, Muslims who are evil may go to hell.

Question : Does hell last forever?

Answer : Only for those who do not truly and sincerely want God's love and forgiveness

Question : Can a non-Muslim enter heaven on the Day of Judgment?

Answer : If the non-Muslim is spiritually pure and sincere, and accepts Islam on the Day of Judgment, God may let him or her enter heaven.

Question : What can I do if my family doesn't convert to Islam?

Answer : Be kind and pray for them.