

Core Curriculum

2 Foundations of Islam - Theology

2.11 **The Problem of Evil, Suffering and Pain**

In this lesson, we look at two aspects of the problem of evil in the world. the first is the intellectual problem of evil and suffering. The second is the emotional problem of evil and suffering.

The intellectual problem of evil sees God and evil as mutually incompatible. If God is all-good and all-loving, then He would naturally want to alleviate suffering from us. Since there is great suffering and evil in the world, then God is either

1. powerless to do anything about suffering and evil
2. or careless and callous about His creation
3. or He does not exist

The emotional problem of evil is about people's dislike or even hatred of God who is seeing as permitting suffering in the world. People lose their loved ones, their health, their jobs or see their societies around them fall apart as a result of evil like wars and crime. They are angry that God doesn't do anything about all the injustices they see.

In order to learn how Islam responds to these two problems, please tune into the full version of this lesson.