


## Week 1



**Natural evil-**  
Suffering due to non-human agents.

- Humans were made in God's image and later we would develop into his likeness.
- Being in God's image meant we have **intelligence** and **moral compassion**, but we lacked completion.
- Evil is necessary for this transformation.


**The emperor moth story**

- The emperor moth story teaches that sometimes suffering is necessary in life.
- The story goes- A man finds a moth; he watched it appearing from its cocoon. It stopped and appeared to be struggling. The man helps the moth from the cocoon, but the moth's body is swollen and shrivelled.
- The tiny opening was necessary to force fluid from the body of the moth into its wings so that it would be ready for flight upon achieving its freedom from the cocoon.
- Freedom and flight would only come after the struggle. By depriving the moth of a struggle, he deprived the moth of health.

**Week 1**

**Soul making theodicy.**

**Evil and suffering exists in the world because this is the best way for humans to develop.**

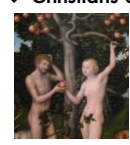


**Moral evil-**  
Suffering caused by humans.

## Week 2

**How do Christians explain our suffering?**

- ❖ Christians explain evil and suffering in various ways.



**The fall of man- Genesis 3**

- Christians believe evil and suffering came into the world because of Adam and Eve doing what they knew was wrong.
- God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of knowledge.

➤ Satan disguised as a serpent tempted Eve to disobey God by eating from the tree.


➤ Eve gave the fruit to Adam who then ate it.

**As punishment:**

- **God threw them out of the Garden of Eden.**
- **Eve and any future women will suffer in childbirth.**
- **God punished Adam (and humankind) by cursing the ground, meaning he would have to work hard to get any food.**

**Week 2**

**Original Sin** The first sin committed by Adam & Eve when they disobeyed God.



## Week 3

**Christian view continued...**

**Suffering can be a test of your faith**

Job was a wealthy and successful man who was very loyal to God.

Job questioned God why he suffered. God reminded Job he was human without the knowledge of God.

**Week 3**

**Suffering can be a test of your faith**

Satan suggested to God that Job was only faithful because he was wealthy and successful.

Satan took everything from Job, but Job continued to worship God.

'All right,' the Lord said to Satan, "everything he has is in your power, but you must not hurt Job himself." So, Satan left.

**Summary- How do Christians explain our suffering?**

Some Christians believe there is suffering in the world **because of the Fall of Man. Some Christians believe we have suffering because Adam and Eve broke our relationship with God in the Garden of Eden.**

Some Christians believe there is suffering in the world **but God gave humans free will, meaning we can make our own decisions. This might help to explain moral evil in the world.**

There is suffering in the world **so perhaps we can grow from necessary suffering as life can be a test. For example, the story of Job.**

# Year 9: Topic 2 Theodicy

## Week 4

**How do Muslims explain suffering?**

- **Allah has a plan-** Evil and suffering is part of Allah's great plan. It is impossible to understand this plan, but we must have faith.



➤ **Humans have freewill-** We are responsible for our actions. Using Allah's guidance and avoiding the temptations of the devil we can choose to do the right thing. When we go wrong people suffer.

**Week 4**

**What's the plan?**



➤ **Suffering is a test for the next life-** Suffering is a preparation for the next life. God will reward those more highly for how well they respond to suffering and those that remain faithful.

➤ **Good can come from suffering-** Suffering can remind people to turn towards Allah. Suffering is the result of unbelief. Good acts can relieve pain and suffering e.g. giving to charity.


➤ **Shaytan(the devil)-** evil originates from the refusal of **Shaytan**, to bow down to **Adam** when ordered to by Allah. For his disobedience Shaytan was cast out of Heaven by Allah, and he vowed that in revenge he would spend eternity trying to tempt humans to do evil.




## Week 5

**How do Hindus explain natural evil?**

- Natural disasters are the result of the 'play of the Gods' and beyond our understanding. For example, the fertile soil results from volcanic eruptions and rivers in a flood may help grow crops for food.



**Week 5**




➤ There is potential for a person's atman (soul) to gain merit in helping victims of natural disasters.

**How do Hindus explain moral evil?**

- Most Hindus believe that **moral evil** is caused by other people. They feel that Hindus should act with kindness and non-violence to all living things.

- ❖ Evil is when good is not present or ignored.
- ❖ Evil is a result of our own actions.
- ❖ We learn from suffering.

**Ahimsa** – Meaning non-violence; the ethical principle of not causing harm to other living things.



**Suffering is a part of life and real, but not permanent.**

## Key words:

- Allah-** God in Islam.
- Brahman-** God in Hinduism.
- Original sin-** The first sin committed by Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God .
- Ahimsa-** non-violence; the ethical principle of not causing harm to other living things.
- Free will-** Freedom to make your own choices.
- Natural evil-** Evil caused by non human agents.
- Moral evil-** Evil caused by humans.
- Shaytan-** The devil in Islam
- Atman-** Soul in Hinduism

## Week 1

Questions	Answers
What is the difference between natural and moral evil?	Natural evil is due to non-human agents and moral evil is suffering caused by humans.
What is the soul making theodicy?	The idea that evil and suffering exists in the world because this is the best way for humans to develop.
What does the emperor moth story teach?	The emperor moth story teaches that sometimes suffering is necessary in life.

## Week 2

Questions	Answers
What happened in Genesis 3 story the fall?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Christians believe evil and suffering came into the world because of Adam and Eve doing what they knew was wrong.</li> <li>➤ God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of knowledge.</li> <li>➤ Satan disguised as a serpent tempted Eve to disobey God by eating from the tree.</li> <li>➤ Eve gave the fruit to Adam who then ate it.</li> </ul>
How did God punish Adam and Eve for disobeying him?	As punishment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God threw them out of the Garden of Eden.</li> <li>➤ Eve and any future women will suffer in childbirth.</li> <li>➤ God punished Adam (and humankind) by cursing the ground, meaning he would have to work hard to get any food.</li> </ul>
What is original sin?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The first sin committed by Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God.</li> <li>❖ Everyone is born sinful.</li> <li>❖ We have a built-in urge to do bad things and to disobey God.</li> <li>❖ Some Christians believe that original sin explains why there is so much wrong in a world created by a perfect God.</li> </ul>

## Week 3

Questions	Answers
What does the story of Job suggest about evil and suffering in the world?	Suffering can be a test of your faith
How would Christians explain evil and suffering?	Some Christians believe there is suffering in the world <b>because</b> of the Fall of Man. Some Christians believe we have suffering because Adam and Eve broke our relationship with God in the Garden of Eden. Some Christians believe there is suffering in the world, <b>but</b> God gave humans free will, meaning we can make our own decisions. This might help to explain moral evil in the world. There is suffering in the world <b>so</b> perhaps we can grow from necessary suffering as life can be a test. For example, the story of Job.

## Week 4

Questions	Answers
Is suffering part of God's plan according to a Muslim?	Yes. Evil and suffering is part of Allah's great plan. It is impossible to understand this plan, but we must have faith.
What part does free will play in evil and suffering?	When we do wrong people suffer. If you don't follow Allah's guidance and avoid temptations of the devil, then suffering will be the result.
How can suffering help people in the next life?	God will reward those more highly for how well they respond to suffering and those that remain faithful.
Why would Muslims say suffering can be good?	Muslims would say good can come from suffering because it reminds them to turn to God. They might do good acts to relieve suffering.
How do Muslims use Satan (Shaytan) to explain why there is evil and suffering in the world?	evil originates from the refusal of <b>Shaytan</b> , to bow down to <b>Adam</b> when ordered to by Allah. For his disobedience Shaytan was cast out of Heaven by Allah, and he vowed that in revenge he would spend eternity trying to tempt humans to do evil

## Year 9: Topic 2 Theodicy

## Week 5

Questions	Answers
How do humans explain natural evil?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Natural disasters are the result of the 'play of the Gods' and beyond our understanding. For example, the fertile soil results from volcanic eruptions and rivers in a flood may help grow crops for food.</li> <li>➤ There is potential for a person's atman (soul) to gain merit in helping victims of natural disasters</li> </ul>
How do humans explain moral evil?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Most Hindus believe that <b>moral evil</b> is caused by other people.</li> <li>➤ Evil happens when Good is not present.</li> </ul>
What does Ahimsa mean?	<b>Ahimsa</b> – Meaning non-violence; the ethical principle of not causing harm to other living things

## Key words:

**Allah**- God in Islam.

**Brahman**- God in Hinduism.

**Original sin**- The first sin committed by Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God .

**Ahimsa**- non-violence; the ethical principle of not causing harm to other living things.

**Free will**- Freedom to make your own choices.

**Natural evil**- Evil caused by non human agents.

**Moral evil**- Evil caused by humans.

**Shaytan**- The devil in Islam

**Atman**- Soul in Hinduism