Does God exist?  
(part two)
Argument from Evil
Theodicy

Leibniz, *Theodicée* (1710)

Greek:
- theos = God, the divine
- diké = justice
The Lisbon Earthquake

Lisbon Cathedral
November 1, 1755
Yet Another Theodicy …

“I have the whole universe to look after, so I’m putting you in charge of this planet.”
Brueghel, “The Fall of Icarus”
(1) An omniscient being *knows how* to produce a world with no evil in it.
(2) An omnipotent being *is able* to produce a world with no evil in it.
(3) An omnibenevolent being *wants* to produce a world with no evil in it.
(4) Knowledge, ability, and desire suffice to attain a goal.
(5) ∴ If there is a being with these three properties, then there is no evil in the world. [1-4]
(6) God is a being with these three properties. [by definition]
(7) ∴ If God exists, then there is no evil in the world. [5, 6]
(8) There *is* evil in the world.
(9) ∴ God does not exist. [7, 8 - MT]
A Free Will Defense

(1) The good of human free will outweighs all human evil.
(2) The good of Satan’s free will outweighs all natural evil.
(3) All evil is either human or natural.
(4) \( \therefore \) Good outweighs evil. [1-3]
(5) If God exists, then good outweighs evil.
(6) \( \therefore \) God’s existence is compatible with the existence of evil. [4, 5]

Augustine
354-430 CE
**Evidential Argument from Evil**

(1) An omniscient being *knows how* to produce the best of all possible worlds.

(2) An omnipotent being *is able* to produce the best of all possible worlds.

(3) An omnibenevolent being *wants* to produce the best of all possible worlds.

(4) Knowledge, ability, and desire suffice to attain a goal.

(5) ∴ If there is a being with these three properties, then this is the best of all possible worlds. [1-4]

(6) God is a being with these three properties. [by definition]

(7) ∴ If God exists, then this is the best of all possible worlds. [5, 6]

(8) This is not the best of all possible worlds.

(9) ∴ God does not exist. [7, 8 - MT]
Marilyn Adams on Evil

(1) A successful theodicy must make possible each person saying at the end of their life: “My life was worth living.”

(2) The kinds of suffering and goods found in this world make this impossible or unlikely.

(3) \[\therefore\] A successful theodicy must appeal to “transcendent goods” available in the afterlife that can compensate for suffering in this world.

God’s reason for allowing some evil is hidden from us. We could understand the reason, except that…

(a) we have not been informed of them [or]
(b) our memory or attention span is too short [or]
(c) we are spiritually, emotionally, or cognitively too immature.