

Does God Exist?

by David Barnett

Part II.

Arguments Against
God's Existence

Preliminary: What do we mean by 'God'?

Let 'God' refer to the

- omnipotent (all-powerful),
- omniscient (all-knowing),
- omnibenevolent (all-good)

being, should there be one.

Our World

- Could it get any worse?
 - Are you certain?
 - How confident are you?
- Could it get any better?
 - Are you certain?
 - How confident are you?

The Problem of Evil

1. The logical problem:

☉ Isn't the existence of evil inconsistent with the existence of God?

2. The evidential problem:

☉ Isn't the existence of evil strong evidence that God does not exist?

The Problem of Good:

An argument against Uber-Satan (an omnipotent, omniscient, omni-evil being)

1. The logical problem:

- Isn't the existence of good inconsistent with the existence of Uber-Satan?

2. The evidential problem:

- Isn't the existence of good strong evidence that Uber-Satan does not exist?

The Evidential Problem of Good: An argument against Uber-Satan

1. If Uber-Satan exists, then this is the worst of all possible worlds.
2. This is not the worst of all possible worlds.
3. Hence, Uber-Satan does not exist.

The Evidential Problem of Evil: An argument against God

1. If God exists, then this is the best of all possible worlds.
2. This is not the best of all possible worlds.
3. Hence, God does not exist.

Responses

- Theodicy: A theory of why God allows evil
 1. Free-will
 2. Soul Building
 3. Punishment
 4. Whole picture is beautiful
- ④ Skeptical Theism
 - ④ We can't know why there is evil