

The Problem of the Jewish Holocaust

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What do today's ordinary believers think about theodicy and the problem of evil? My democratic principles demanded that I ascertain the views of ordinary people. I immediately threw myself into phoning all the believers I knew and even those unbelievers who might have believing friends or relatives. After that, I immersed myself in every type of Christian website, forum, or blog. What I learned was that the vast majority of ordinary Christians ask no questions at all. This can be attributed to naivety, gullibility, and a complete lack of any critical thinking—along with doubt, its bastard offspring.

Then I read the works of professional believers, priests, and preachers, from which I collected about 300 different viewpoints on god's responsibility for evil. Fortunately, all these views looked like identical twins, so I can reproduce just the three most popular ones:

- You should not question god's responsibility for evil because doing so is a temptation from the devil designed to instill doubt.
- The love of god is altogether different from human love, so the world only appears cruel and unacceptable to us.
- There is no need to torment yourself over the deaths of innocent children. If a child dies, it's a cause for rejoicing because those children are saved and already in paradise. A Christian should not worry when confronted by the suffering of small children because god's wisdom and love are found there too. Usually, god uses the suffering of children to correct their parents, force them to turn away from sin, and repent. If somebody's evil action remains unavenged, it will be answered by his ancestors.

What conclusion did I reach after talking to Christian people and reading their works? Just this: Whether it's traditional theodicies or contemporary defenses, the whole question is senseless. Rather than fighting the evil in the world, it consumes enormous resources in presenting arguments exonerating god from any blame for it. I see no reason to justify god in the face of the evil in the world. I have always thought that this task is beyond anyone; how can a weak