

## IF GOD IS MALIGN THEN WHY DOES HE ALLOW GOOD TO HAPPEN?

All of the excuses for why God can let terrible things happen to innocent people and still be perfectly good fail and are themselves evil.

The good side of unbelief in God is how the unbeliever does not have to risk accepting and approving a God who is to blame for evil. Even if we believe that if there is a God then he is good we only believe it meaning we admit we could be wrong. So believers risk worshipping a God who is evil or partly evil. Taking such a risk is evil for the reason vowing unconditional obedience to somebody who sometimes lets bad things happen would be bad. And if God does not care that makes him in fact worse than a bad God for all bad people have to do some good and they mix evil and good together. So an evil God could seem likeable to some. The risk is incompatible with the believer's doctrine that complete opposition to evil is necessary in order to love a perfect God.

If no possible answer works when we ask why an all-good God would allow so much innocent suffering and evil to happen, then many say you might as well assume that God is evil and there is no possible answer for why he lets good happen. In principle, that is correct. What can be asserted and that hangs in mid-air can also be denied in mid-air. To assert something without reasons means you can deny it without reasons too or assert something different.

In fact faith in the love of God is evil and selfish in principle because it has to permit the worship of an evil God. The believer in God has to give people a real choice between a good God and a demonic one.

A cop out, whether intended to be or not, is still a cop out. The believer in a good God is worse than a believer bad one for he condones evil in the name of honouring God. The believer in a bad God can feel an urge to help people and defy him. He does not condone. Maybe the humanitarian Christians are in fact not really Christians but secret haters of the malignant God they believe in?

If you believe in a God who is really nice but flawed you wouldn't have to approve of how he lets horrific things happen. Your rage at him could motivate you to do great things. If you rebel then you are going to count on the belief that he can be odd and let you away with it. There is no way of knowing if believers in a God like that would be better at doing good than the believers in an all-good God. But it seems they would.

If you believe in an evil God, you can wonder how he can permit good. Believers in the good God say he allows evil to happen for good can be brought out of it. And some goods have evil as a side effect. With evil God, you could say that God intends evil not good but some evils depend on good so he lets good happen. For example, unless you have a loving partner you cannot suffer at the thought of losing her or him when you are dying.

Even if there is a God, it could be that God made an incredibly powerful being. This being was left to organise the universe. If that being turned away from God and became evil, it would practically speaking be God to us. When believers think they feel a God in them and see his miracles they don't know what is really doing it. They do not know what they have opened themselves up to.

We have seen that if good exists, it is independent of God. For example, if there is nothing at all and not even a God, it follows that this is good in the sense that at least there are no people around to suffer. If evil is misplaced good or parasitic on good, it proves that God may be evil and forced to put up with good. Good would not prove God is good.

It could be said that Evil God could give us free will so that we might voluntarily do evil and considers this worth it at the risk of us doing good. That is as good as the notion that a good God gives us free will so that we might volunteer to love.

Perhaps God gives us good things and assists us in developing virtue because it is more evil to make somebody good and then ruin their goodness than to make them bad in the first place.

God may make his evil less obvious than some people might expect. Evil entities don't generally like to let others know they are evil. Christians are doing his cynical PR for him. Evil is better if it comes in nice parcels. It is more evil and disgusting then.

To say that ultimately Evil God allowing good is a mystery is silly. It reminds us of those who believe that the perfectly good God allows evil for a mystery. But which position is the silliest? Both are silly but one could be worse. Given that evil should be abhorred and battled and no risk, not even a slight one, of condoning a supernatural entity's role in it should be taken, clearly it is the notion that God is good that is the silliest.

If God is evil, many say we are under no obligation to obey his commands. Quite right! But it does not follow that you can disobey them. Or that you will. Though you have no duty to obey a bad God, you may have to obey to avoid pushing his vindictive murderous buttons. You don't want to be the next casualty. What if he takes it out on your baby? Could it be that he demands that we say how good he is and praise him? Do many people believe in this God of evil and go along with him? If you read the Bible and the Koran you get evidence that many do just that!

Those who claim to humbly worship God are lying. We know that human nature can and does worship evil. It does this best when the evil is made to look good. The person who is good but the enemy of the best, does far more long-term damage than the person who is honest enough to be unashamedly evil. They cannot even see how bad they are and they don't care. If God were evil, Christians would try to keep pleasing him in case they encourage him to attack them. They would see obeying him as granting the most hope of getting peace. They boast that they would not worship an evil God. That is what it is - an empty boast. Their prayers are demonstrations of how they humbly worship but what they really demonstrate is their hypocrisy. There would be no moral obligation to worship such a God, but in the sense that it is worse if you don't there actually would be a moral obligation. Morality has to take account of the circumstances.

It does not follow that if God is good that he is good for us. A good parent can still bring a child into a world she knows is evil. Evil could mean the being is evil as far as we are concerned but not evil in himself.