

Second paper assignment

Assume that God has middle knowledge-- that is, that God knows, concerning every creature that God might create, what that creature would do in every possible situation in which that creature would have a morally significant choice. Assume, further, that in the actual world it is *not* the case that all creaturely essences suffer from transworld depravity, as described by Plantinga.

First, make a case for the idea that given these assumptions, God could create a world containing moral good but no moral evil.

Second, say what sort of reason(s) God might plausibly have for creating a world that contained some amount of moral evil given the above assumptions. Make the strongest case you can for the notion that God might have some such reason(s).

Third, say whether you think God would have decided to create a world containing some amount of moral evil for the reason(s) you have described, and why. In other words, say whether you think that creating a world containing moral evil for the reason(s) you have described would be consistent with the qualities of omniscience, omnipotence, and omnibenevolence, and why.

Length: 4-5 pages

Due date: Friday, March 12, 12:00 noon

Requirements and recommendations:

Double-space your paper. Use 1" margins and a 12-point font. Number your pages.

Write clearly and concisely; avoid excess verbiage.

Where relevant, back up your claims with references to the texts we have read.

Make sure your writing is grammatically and syntactically correct. Make use of the Writing Center if you need help doing so.

Check your paper over carefully for spelling and typographical errors before turning it in.

Make sure your paper addresses the assigned questions.

Papers are to be turned in to my office, 208 Chapin Hall (under the door if I am not in).