

Third paper assignment

Write a paper on **one** of the two following topics:

- 1) Suppose Peter Van Inwagen is correct in claiming that, judged by the criterion of philosophical success he presents, the argument from evil is a failure. Say briefly what Van Inwagen means by this claim. Do you think would follow from the truth of the claim that anyone who becomes convinced that God does not exist because of their awareness of evil is being irrational? Why or why not? (Hint: you may want to consider both cases where a person shares Van Inwagen's view regarding the failure of the argument from evil and cases where a person does not).

- 2) John Hick claims that God's aim in creating the cosmos was 'soul-making', and supposes that human beings enjoy multiple lives in which to 'make' their souls. Consider an interpretation of this hypothesis according to which 'soul-making' is a kind of good that *defeats every particular case of evil*, natural and moral, *suffered or committed by human beings* during the course of their existences. Do you think this interpretation can encompass those evils which Hick categorizes as *excessive* and *dysteleological* respectively? If so, how, and if not, why not?

Length: 4-5 pages

Due date: Monday, April 12, 2:00 PM (in class)

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.