

# Creation and Evil

## 1. The theistic God must create the best of all possible worlds.

The first version of the argument:

- (1) God created the actual world @.
- (2) God is as the theist says (all-powerful, all-knowing, all-good).
- (3) All-powerful implies that God can create any possible world.
- (4) All-knowing implies that God knows which one is best.
- (5) All-good implies that God wants to create the best world.
- (6) If an agent can do something, knows how to do it, and wants to do it, then the agent does it.
- (7) Therefore: God creates the best of all possible worlds.
- (8) To say God creates a possible world means God makes a physical model of it.
- (9) Therefore: God creates a physical model of the best world.
- (10) So, the best world actually exists.

The second version of the argument:

- (1) God exists.
- (2) There are some possible worlds.
- (3) The possible worlds are ranked by value.
- (4) Exactly one possible world is the best.
- (5) For every possible world W, if W is the best, then God creates a physical model W\* of W.
- (6) Therefore: God creates a physical model of the best world.
- (7) So, the best world actually exists.

## 2. The Argument from Evil

- (1) Premise: The actual world @ is full of suffering.
- (2) Premise: The suffering is unnecessary.
- (3) So: There are better possible worlds than @.
- (4) If there are better possible worlds than @, then @ is not the best.
- (5) So: @ is not the best of all possible worlds.
- (6) Premise: God created @.
- (7) Premise: God is as the theist says.
- (8) So: @ is the best of all possible worlds (see above).
- (9) There is a contradiction between 5 and 8.
- (10) So: we have to reject either 5 or 8.
- (11) The reasoning in steps 1 to 4 is undeniable; so 5 is undeniable.
- (12) Since we can't reject 5, we have to reject the statements about God.
- (13) Conclusion: God does not exist.

### 3. The Multiverse Response

*Initial Rule for Numbers:* The initial number is 0.

*Successor Rule for Numbers:* Every number  $n$  is surpassed by a greater number  $n+1$ . The number  $n+1$  is the successor of  $n$ .

These rules imply that there does not exist any biggest number.  
(Even if we go to infinity, there is no biggest infinite number.)

*Initial Rule for Worlds:* There are some least good possible worlds. These are the initial worlds.

*Successor Rule for Numbers:* Every possible world is surpassed in at least one way by some better possible world. These are its successor worlds.

These rules imply that there does not exist any best world.  
Hence it is logically impossible for God to create any best world.

### 4. One God Creates Many Worlds

Initial Rule for Creation: God creates every initial world.

Successor Rule for Creation: If God creates any world, then God creates every successor of that world.

Initial Rule for Creation:

There exists a God  $G$  such that  
for every initial world  $W$ ,  $G$  creates  $W$ .

Successor Rule for Creation:

There exists a God  $G$  such that  
for every world  $W$ ,  
if  $G$  creates  $W$ , then  
for every successor  $W^*$  of  $W$ ,  $G$  creates  $W^*$ .

### 5. Many Gods Create Many Worlds

Initial Rule for Creation:

for every initial world  $W$ ,  
there exists some God  $G$  such that  $G$  creates  $W$ .

Successor Rule for Creation:

for every world  $W$ ,  
if there exists some God  $G$  such that  $G$  creates  $W$ , then  
for every successor  $W^*$  of  $W$ ,  
there exists some God  $G^*$  such that  $G^*$  creates  $W^*$ .