

The problem of suffering: the Epicurean paradox

Cut out the sentences on the next page from the Epicurean paradox.

Check the students' understanding of all the key vocabulary.

Challenge the students to rearrange them so that it makes sense as an argument against the existence of an all-powerful, good god.

Ask them what they think about the argument.

Answer

Does god want to stop evil, but can't?

Then he is not all powerful.

Can god stop evil, but does not want to?

Then he is not good.

Does god want to stop evil and can stop it?

Then where does evil come from?

Can god not stop evil and does not want to?

Then why call him god?

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