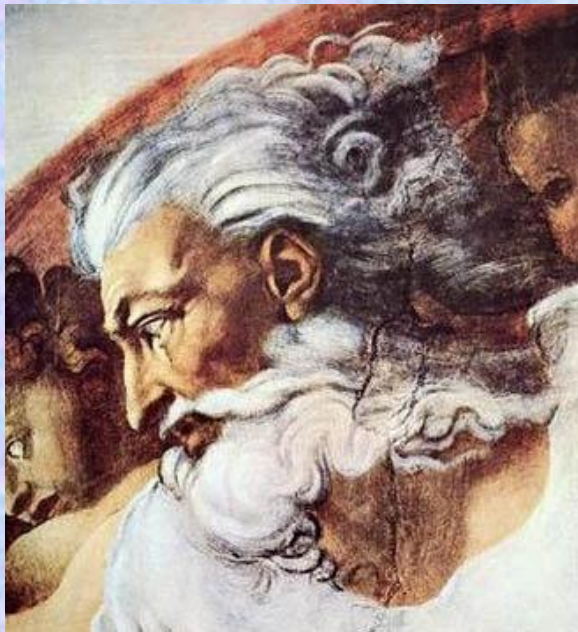




PHIL 107

Winter 2007



Self, World,

& God

The Problem of Evil

- **Positive and negative evidence**
- **Difficulty in finding best explanation**
- **Inevitability of reasoned disagreement**
- **Limitations of the human cognitive condition**
- **Modest natural theology**
- **Theism as an explanation**
- **Secular naturalism as an explanation**
- **Pluralism as an explanation**

Putting the Evidence Together

- E₁. The physical universe exists.**
- E₂. The biological world exhibits great structure order and purpose.**
- E₃. The physical universe exhibits an exceedingly “fine-tuned” structure and order. The precise structure and order seems to be a precondition for the evolution of conscious intelligence.**
- E₄. The world contains vast amounts of *moral evil* -- human pain, suffering, and misery caused by the actions, choices, and oversights of other human agents engaging in (free) human actions.**
- E₅. The world contains vast amounts of *natural evil* -- human pain, suffering and misery caused by non-human natural occurrences like disease, genetic defects, and natural disasters.**
- E₆. The world contains -- and has contained for millions of years before the evolution of humans -- vast amounts of *animal pain*.**



Where Was Hume?

- **All the characters have strengths**
- **Cleanthes**
 - The power of the teleological argument
 - Natural selection as a rival
 - “New” teleological argument
- **Philo**
 - Value of skepticism
 - Power of the problem of evil
- **Demea**
 - Weakest, but ...
 - Case for anti-anthropomorphism
 - Limitations of the human cognitive condition
- **Hume**

Some Exam Hints

- **A history class**
 - Theory about slavery
- **A geology class**
 - Theory about the Grande Ronde valley
- **A philosophy class**
 - Inference to the best explanation
 - The teleological argument
 - The theory of common descent
 - The theory of natural selection
 - The “new” teleological argument
 - The problem of evil

Some More Exam Hints

- **Strategic regurgitation**
- **Inference to the best explanation**
 - **The theorist's explanation**
 - **Your rank ordering**
 - **Perhaps, a justification for your ordering**
 - **Plenty of room for you own views**
- **Allocate plenty of time for the strategic regurgitation**
- **Be prepared!**