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Activity

True or false: suffering and evil

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Once you've read the article on pp. 10–15 of the magazine, see if you can identify whether the following statements are true or false.

- 1 The removal of the self as a focus for the mind lessens the importance we often attach to suffering, although harmony in existence is sought by Buddhists. Buddhism places such teaching within a dualistic framework that assumes the nature of ultimate reality is monistic.
- 2 The creating act of God can be seen as a risk that went wrong but that will find final salvation in Jesus, who in restoring humanity to fellowship with God will also redeem the created order at the end of days.
- 3 Following Christ's example, humanity should also actively oppose suffering and evil wherever it is found. The righting of injustice is not only to be left to the next life but actively pursued in the here and now.
- 4 Islam commonly asserts that the existence of evil in the world is down to the activities of Iblis/Shaytan, a fallen angel who rebelled against his creator Allah.
- 5 According to David Griffin, admitting that God is not all powerful 'dissolves the problem of evil by denying the doctrine of omnipotence fundamental to it.'
- 6 John Hick modifies the position of Augustine by suggesting that the world is a place of 'soul making' through which God gave to his creation the power to evolve over time toward its ultimate spiritual destiny.
- 7 Following the Genesis story, Irenaeus argues that humanity has been created in the image of God but must now develop into the likeness of God. This process of moving from immaturity to spiritual maturity is encouraged by the way human beings meet the challenges of life.
- 8 Within Christianity the main types of response to the challenge of suffering and evil for theistic belief are:
 - Augustinian theodicy and the free will defence
 - Irenaean theodicy
 - process theodicy
- 9 Job, like Ivan in *The Brothers Karamazov*, complains against God, and like Ivan judges God.
- 10 Sigmund Freud (1856–1939) suggested that religion is 'wish-fulfilment' — that faced with a harsh and often unforgiving world, humanity creates, through the medium of religion, a means of appeasing our psychic stress.

- 11** Panentheism entails that while God extends beyond the created order, creation is contained within himself. God is therefore involved in a dynamic relationship to that which he has created while also being limited by its nature. For panentheism, God is not all powerful.
- 12** Feuerbach saw belief in God as a projection of humanity's desire for justice, happiness and love.