



Research Paper

Investigating the effectiveness of inferring the best explanation in explaining evil

Reza Mohammad Ali Zadeh

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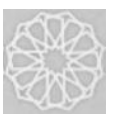
Keywords:

evil, inference of the best explanation, God, belief

Abstract

The problem of evil is one of the most important issues in the philosophy of religion, and it has been one of the most important issues of religious philosophers since ancient Greece until today. Since the inference of the best explanation has been presented as a new deductive method, some have discussed the effectiveness of this method in the issues of the philosophy of religion, and one of the issues of the philosophy of religion is the philosophical explanation of evil. In the explanation of evil recently, theists and those who have violated the belief in God have both tried to use the inference of the best explanation to explain evil as they want. For this reason, it is necessary for the philosopher of Muslim religion to enter into this issue and examine the effectiveness of this type of inference in explaining evil from the point of view of Islamic philosophy. Based on this, in this article, after describing the problem of evil, we have tried to examine the structure of the inference of the best explanation, and after presenting the viewpoints of the philosophers of religion on this issue, we have tried to examine and present the correct viewpoint. The result of this investigation is the inefficiency of this conclusion in explaining evil for the benefit or harm of theism.

***Corresponding Author:** Reza Mohammad Ali Zadeh**Address:** Official high school teacher, Esko, East Azarbaijan province. Iran.**Email:** mirzaalizadeh7@gmail.com



Introduction:

The problem of evil is one of the most important topics in the philosophy of religion, and from ancient Greece until today, it has been one of the most important problems faced by philosophers of religion; because the problem of evil provides the main reason for not believing in God, and throughout human history, lots of people have doubted the sovereignty of God's absolute power and knowledge in the world. Therefore, in order to explain the problem of evil in a way that is compatible with the existence of God, different answers have been presented by philosophers of religion, many of which have been questioned.

In the contemporary period, inferring the best explanation as a new deductive method to solve the problem of induction and the process of scientific discoveries has been of great interest. According to some philosophers, this method of inference, which is a combination of induction and the method of probabilities and explanatory considerations, has provided a new way to solve philosophical problems. Therefore, some philosophers of religion have discussed the effectiveness of this method in the topics of the philosophy of religion, and one of the main issues of the philosophy of religion is the philosophical explanation of the problem of evil.

In the explanation of evil recently, theists and those who have violated the belief in God have tried to use the inference of the best explanation to describe evil as they want. For this reason, the philosopher of the Muslim religion must enter into this issue and examine the effectiveness of this type of inference in explaining evil from Islamic philosophy's point of view. Based on this, after describing the problem of evil, this study aimed to examine the structure of the

inference of the best explanation, and after presenting the religious philosophers' points of view on this issue, this paper tried to examine and present the correct viewpoint.

1. Method

This study was carried out through the library method, using a descriptive and analytical approach to express and criticize the efficiency of inferring the best explanation describing the problem of evil.

2. Findings

This study tried to describe the inference of the best explanation based on the main texts of its claimants. Then, it described the method utilized by those who used the inference of the best explanation in describing the problem of evil, and finally analyzed and criticized the effectiveness of this method in explaining evil.

3. Result:

The result of this study shows that this conclusion is the best explanation for describing the problem of evil to the same extent that the deniers of God have used this method to prove their claim. In other words, this type of inference makes this method inefficient for explaining the problem of evil due to its heavy reliance on induction, integrative explanatory considerations, and contextualism. Because on this basis, from a Muslim's point of view, the divine explanation of evil will be more coherent in the context of his religious and scientific beliefs, and for the deniers of God, the explanation of evil without referring it to a divine command is more coherent and more accurate in their religious and scientific context. In addition, this type of inference cannot be a reliable base for relying on religious beliefs.

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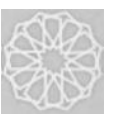
The author of this article, Reza Mohammad Alizadeh, is a graduate of the Islamic philosophy field and a professor of philosophy and logic.

Conflict of interest:

The author declared no conflict of interest

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References

The sources that have been used and referenced in the examination of the inference of the best explanation are Peter Lipton's book, as well as the article of Timothy Day and Harman. Moreover, in the examination of the function of the inference of the best explanation for the

problem of evil, references were made to Swinburne's articles and books as well as Philip Malabent's.

Swinburne, R. (2010). *Is there a God?* (Vol. 1, first ed.). Translated by Javdan, M. Qom, Mofid University Publications