

## Why does God permit evil to exist?

In order for God to be truly omniscient, He must be acquainted with both good and evil. In order to be acquainted with good and evil, they both must exist, at least in the mind of God. And just what is the mind of God? It is us and everything else that exists. Everything that exists exists only in the mind of God. The only true reality is divine consciousness. The physical universe and everything we observe, as spiritual conscious beings (ie. individual aspects of the collective consciousness, which we call God) is not technically “real.” It has no actual substance to it. It exists in our present moment only in a super-positioned state of quantum potential. Technically, good and evil also do not exist, only our experience of them.

Although I do not believe the creation accounts in Genesis to be literal truth, I find it fascinating that divinity is associated with the knowledge of good and evil. Part of being divine is to know and experience both good and evil. Also included in our divine nature is the power, ability and desire to overcome evil with good. During our individual sojourns here on earth we are quite literally the body of Christ, who is God. We are the hands, feet, eyes, ears and brain, through whom God experiences alienation from Himself, resulting in all sorts of grief and mischief. Through it all, we remain connected to God, the source of our being, despite the fact that we have for the most part lost our conscious awareness of this connection. Although we may experience extreme forms of suffering and evil as we pass through “the valley of the shadow of death,” God, our loving Heavenly Father and shepherd is constantly by our side, guiding us from behind the scenes. He never leaves us. We are never left completely to ourselves.

Our ability to love cannot grow in the absence of its opposite, which is hatred and indifference. In the same way that light has no meaning unless contrasted with darkness, true “agape” self-sacrificing love has not meaning unless contrasted with the experience of suffering and evil. Suffering and evil provide us with the opportunity of expressing divine love. It is counterintuitive that our loving Creator God would be the author of both good and evil, but in reality one cannot exist without the other.