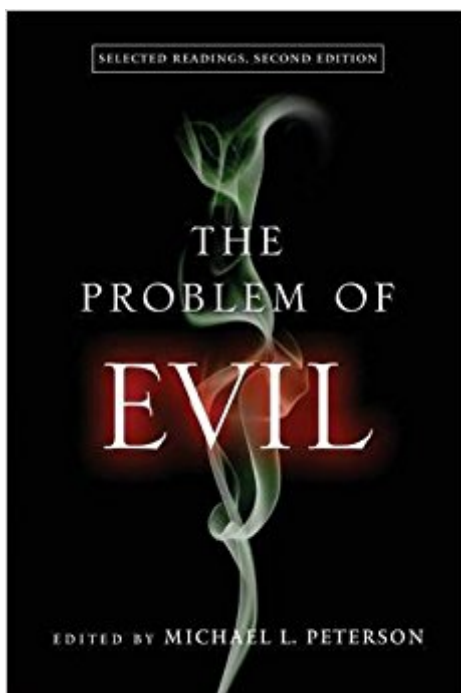


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# The Problem Of Evil: Selected Readings, Second Edition



## Synopsis

Of all the issues in the philosophy of religion, the problem of reconciling belief in God with evil in the world arguably commands more attention than any other. For over two decades, Michael L. Peterson's *The Problem of Evil: Selected Readings* has been the most widely recognized and used anthology on the subject. Peterson's expanded and updated second edition retains the key features of the original and presents the main positions and strategies in the latest philosophical literature on the subject. It will remain the most complete introduction to the subject as well as a resource for advanced study. Peterson organizes his selection of classical and contemporary sources into four parts: important statements addressing the problem of evil from great literature and classical philosophy; debates based on the logical, evidential, and existential versions of the problem; major attempts to square God's justice with the presence of evil, such as Augustinian, Irenaean, process, openness, and *felix culpa* theodicies; and debates on the problem of evil covering such concepts as best possible world, natural evil and natural laws, gratuitous evil, skeptical theist defense, and the bearing of biological evolution on the problem. The second edition includes classical excerpts from the book of Job, Voltaire, Dostoevsky, Augustine, Aquinas, Leibniz, and Hume, and twenty-five essays that have shaped the contemporary discussion, by J. L. Mackie, Alvin Plantinga, William Rowe, Marilyn Adams, John Hick, William Hasker, Paul Draper, Michael Bergmann, Eleonore Stump, Peter van Inwagen, and numerous others. Whether a professional philosopher, student, or interested layperson, the reader will be able to work through a number of issues related to how evil in the world affects belief in God. Praise for the first edition: "No other anthology effectively organizes so many previously published essays and excerpts covering such a wide range of philosophical issues on the problem of evil. . . . For anyone seeking an entry into classical and contemporary philosophical literature on the problem of evil, this book is a great place to start." •The Christian Scholar's Review

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“Edited by one of the most able philosophers in the field, this is simply the best anthology on the problem of evil available. Ranging from traditional texts such as Job, Augustine, Aquinas, and Hume to such contemporary authors as Plantinga, Rowe, Stump, and van Inwagen, there is no significant writer or topic that Peterson fails to include. The selections are both balanced and representative of the important issues and challenges that confront the serious student engaged in contemporary discussions on theodicy. This volume is an essential guide to the field.”

•Craig A. Boyd, Saint Louis University  
“This classic anthology just got even better. Students need not choose between historical perspectives and up-to-date arguments. Here, they get it all in one complete volume.”  
•Trent Dougherty, Baylor University

Michael L. Peterson is professor of philosophy at Asbury Theological Seminary and managing editor of Faith and Philosophy journal. His many publications include *With All Your Mind: A Christian Philosophy of Education*, also published by the University of Notre Dame Press.

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