

God, Evil, and Suffering in Islam

In this volume, Salih Sayilgan explores the problem of evil and suffering in Islamic theology along with the questions that both religious and nonreligious people alike perennially ask: Why is there evil and suffering? What is God's role in both natural and moral evil? If God is loving, just, and powerful, why is there innocent suffering? Do humans have free will or are they predestined to act in a certain way? Examining both theoretical and practical theodicy in Islam, Sayilgan provides Muslim perspectives on natural and moral evil in light of Islamic theological concepts. He interrogates several specific topics related to evil and suffering, including death, sickness, aging, disability, climate change, and pandemics. These topics are explored through case studies from the lives of Muslims, with particular attention given to the American context. A comparative and dialogical study, this volume also engages with Zoroastrian, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, and Christian approaches, as well as nonreligious perspectives.

This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

SALIH SAYILGAN is an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Georgetown University. He is the author of *Exploring Islam: Theology and Spiritual Practice in America* (Fortress Press, 2021).

SALIH SAYILGAN
Georgetown University

God, Evil, and Suffering in Islam





CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009377317

DOI: [10.1017/9781009377294](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009377294)

© Salih Sayilgan 2024

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant
licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which
is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009377294 under a
Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution
and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit
to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission.
To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.
Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties
directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009377294](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009377294)

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMEs: Sayilgan, Salih, author.

TITLE: God, evil, and suffering in Islam / Salih Sayilgan.

DESCRIPTION: 1. | New York : Cambridge University Press, 2024. |
Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2023030695 | ISBN 9781009377317 (hardback) |
ISBN 9781009377294 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Good and evil – Religious aspects – Islam. |
Suffering – Religious aspects – Islam. | God (Islam)

CLASSIFICATION: LCC BP188 .S335 2024 | DDC 297.2–dc23/eng/20230712

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023030695>

ISBN 978-1-009-37731-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-37732-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.