



Can God Be Free

Kevin Timpe



Can God Be Free:

Can God Be Free? William L. Rowe, 2004-04-22 In the three major religions of the West God is understood to be a being whose goodness knowledge and power is such that it is impossible for any being including God himself to have a greater degree of goodness knowledge and power This book focuses on God's freedom and praiseworthiness in relation to his perfect goodness Given his necessary perfections if there is a best world for God to create he would have no choice other than to create it For as Leibniz tells us to do less good than one could is to be lacking in wisdom or in goodness But if God could not do otherwise than create the best world he created the world of necessity not freely And if that is so it may be argued that we have no reason to be thankful to God for creating us since as parts of the best possible world God was simply unable to do anything other than create us he created us of necessity not freely Moreover we are confronted with the difficulty of having to believe that this world with its Holocaust and innumerable other evils is the best that an infinitely powerful infinitely good being could do in creating a world Neither of these conclusions taken by itself seems at all plausible Yet each conclusion appears to follow from the conception of God now dominant in the great religions of the West William Rowe presents a detailed study of this important problem both historically in the writings of Gottfried Leibniz Samuel Clarke Thomas Aquinas and Jonathan Edwards as well as in the contemporary philosophical literature devoted to the issue Rowe argues that this problem is more serious than is commonly thought and may require some significant revision in contemporary thinking about the nature of God

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Free Will in Philosophical Theology Kevin

Timpe,2013-11-21 Free Will in Philosophical Theology takes the most recent philosophical work on free will and uses it to elucidate and explore theological doctrines involving free will Rather than being a work of natural theology it is a work in what has been called clarification using philosophy to understand develop systematize and explain theological claims without first raising the justification for holding the theological claims that one is working with Timpe s aim is to show how a particular philosophical account of the nature of free will an account known as source incompatibilism can help us understand a range of theological doctrines

God's Problem Bart D. Ehrman,2008-02-19 A top Bible scholar and New York Times bestselling author of *Misquoting Jesus* challenges the varied and contradictory biblical explanations for why an all powerful God allows suffering

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