



A Conservative View

If God is Loving Why is there So Much Suffering in the World?

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To provide a reasonable answer to this question I need to make a few assumptions:

1. God is omniscient and omnipotent (all knowing and all powerful)



For me “God” is not a personification but a Universal Consciousness that permeates the entire universe and all that is in it.

2. Reincarnation is real (human beings live many lives)

I had a personal experience that convinced me of the truth of reincarnation.

3. We have free choice

We are able to chart our own course, but this entails living with the consequences of our choices. Sometimes our choices are good ones that benefit not only ourselves but others around us. However, sometimes our choices are purely selfish and they hurt others, even those we love.

Our bad choices develop Karma that must be erased, “an eye for an eye” from the Hammurabi's Code, reflects Karma, in that a person (a soul) must suffer in the same way they caused suffering for others.

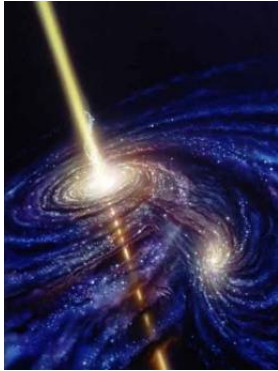


Life is much like a classroom or basic training. An existence where we learn the lessons necessary to achieve enlightenment; a realization of our oneness with the Universal Consciousness.

This is not an easy task, it may take a thousand lifetimes or more.

We probably learn most from our suffering. In my personal experience, I have grown more in the times I have suffered than I have in the times of smooth sailing. Some parents

try to save their children from any kind of suffering, thereby cheating them out of the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.



Each lifetime is no more than a single class hour in school. Some classes are diamonds some classes are stones (paraphrasing John Denver).

Most learning comes from the suffering resulting from our own built up Karma.

In essence we are born again and again until we have learned our lessons, until we finally achieve enlightenment, a sense of oneness with God; with the Universal Consciousness.

Under this scenario, a loving God would not only allow suffering, but might even encourage it. And, in the immense scheme of things, one lifetime is but a fraction of a moment in eternity.

This is my answer to the question, “If God is loving, why is there so much suffering in the world? If one believes in an omniscient and omnipotent Universal Consciousness, all things are possible.



While, if one takes the atheist point of view, none of this makes any sense at all.