

## Is Evil Necessary in God's World? (Part 1 of 2): Varadaraja V. Raman

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### Transcript - Short

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

I would love to believe in God. Evil is a major impediment. How does Hindu philosophy and theology deal with evil?

**Varadaraja Raman:**

From the Hindu perspective God is beyond the categories of good and evil, up and down and so on. So, from one perspective there is no such thing as good and evil such as we perceive them from the gods' perspective. And at the same time, the view of God that we have, that most religions have, is one of absolute goodness, absolute mercy, absolute charitable feelings and so on. Now these qualities cannot be there without their opposites. By the very nature of picturing God in these terms we are creating the opposite also. And, therefore, if there is to be a God with these attributes and who is the creator of everything, then such a God cannot but help create the other things also. But we need to distinguish between evil as wrought by nature and the suffering that individuals experience. That is explained in terms of the law of karma. That means actions which have an impact either on one's self.

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