

# THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: ISLAMIC THEODICY

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## Abstract

Human nature possesses an innate duality, animality and spirituality. Where there is body being made up of clay enhances the materialistic qualities that urge animality, there is soul too being from divine breath possesses Godly essence that innately urges spirituality. Negligence of any one of the two sides gives rise to inner conflict.

What became to be known as Lucifer, Satan or Iblis, is the chief of evil. Iblis literally means 'one bewildered by despair' and it is despair the source of all illness, direct or indirect. He rivals God against his intrinsic nature. Evil rampant in the world is, therefore, the aftermath of injustice. Lack of justice entails disturbance of balance, which than results in all ailments of body and maladies of soul.

Islamic concept of man thus swings like pendulum between the polarities of exoteric and esoteric aspects that cannot be halved. Where there is body made up of clay that enhances the materialistic qualities that urge animality, there is soul too from divine breath that possesses innate Godly essence that urges spirituality. Negligence of any one of the two sides gives rise to inner conflict. This duality reflects at all levels of human situation. Serene are those who succeed in harmonizing the internal forces without disturbing the necessary discipline. Such people in fact do justice to their selves. In Islamic terminology this is called *adl*, which is *placing something in its proper stead*. It is human responsibility to shun the avenues of the evil within and without, and harmonize one's inner self through hope besides despair. This is the key to God and the criterion is solely based upon intention.

**Keywords:** evil, satan, Iblis, determinism, free-will