Augustine II

A) The Problem of Evil

The problem of evil is a problem for someone who believes there is a God who is both omnipotent and wholly good.

So in its simplest form the problem is this:

1) God is omnipotent.

2) God is wholly good.

3) Yet evil exists.

In order to tighten this up we actually need to add some additional rules:

1) Good is opposed to evil in such a way that a good thing always eliminates evil as far as it can and there are no limits to what an omnipotent thing can do.

2) It follows that a good omnipotent thing eliminates evil completely and then the proposition that a good omnipotent thing exists and that evil exists are incompatible.

There seems to be a contradiction between these three propositions, so that if any two of them were true the third would be false. At the same time all three are essential parts of most theological positions. Hence, it seems that the theologian at once must adhere to these but cannot consistently adhere to all three.

B) Justinian’s Decree

C) Averroes (Moslem Philosopher)