

Pozvánka na přednášku v rámci přednáškového cyklu

**Renesance a středověk II**

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(Freiburg im Breisgau)

*... but draw not nigh this tree, lest you be evildoers:*  
**Evil in Medieval Islamic Thought**

“God either wishes to take away evils and cannot, or he can and does not wish to, [...] – whence, therefore, are there evils [...]?” Epicurus’ famous presentation of the theodicy lucidly exhibits the conundrum which kept vexing western thought far into modernity: if God is all-good, omniscient, and almighty, how is it that there is evil at all? One might suspect that the West’s obsession with the theodicy is the necessary consequence of adherence to a monotheistic religion, Christianity, and thus to a cosmology which presupposes a first principle with the above attributes. If this is true and, hence, a specific type of concept of God quasi naturally raises the problem of evil, one would expect to find a similar preoccupation in Islamic thought. As a matter of fact, however, this is not the case: Islamic debates about evil significantly differ from those prevalent in the West. In my talk I wish to bring out some of the most fundamental features of evil, according to medieval Islamic thought.

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