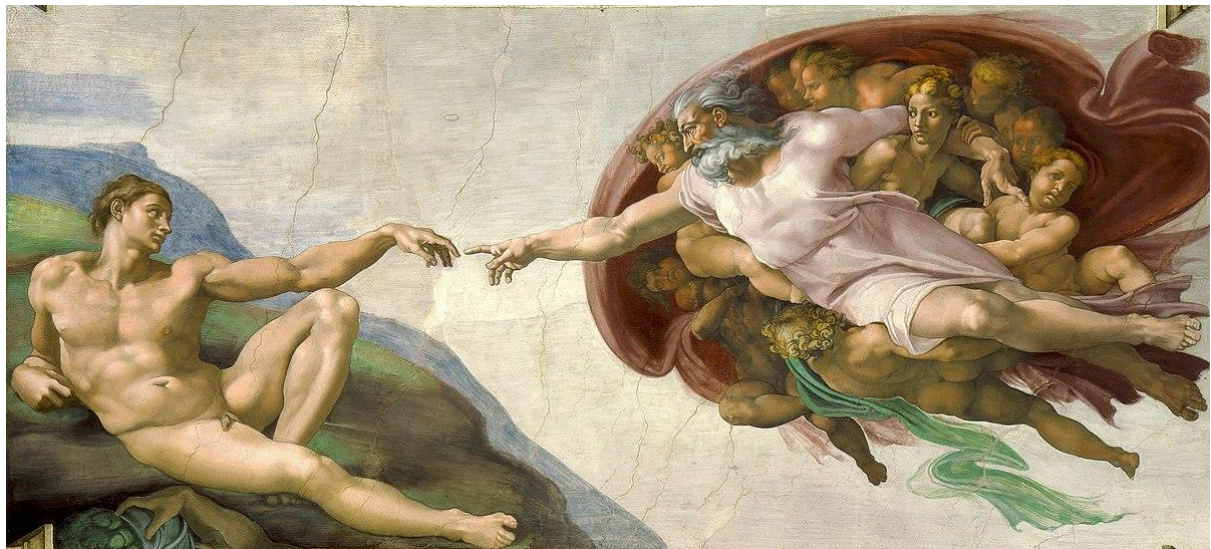


Reading Homework

The Origins of Evil (brief review)

According to the Old Testament of the Bible, which is held in common by Jews, Christians and Muslims alike, the creation of the Universe is explained in The Book Of Genesis, which states that “in the beginning there was nothing (darkness) until God spoke (or thought, or imagined) “light” and the Universe began (something like the Big Bang Theory). God “separated the light from the dark”. God then created Heaven and the Angels, “beings of pure spirit”, (perhaps “spirit” is like energy). He then created the animals (creatures of “body”, but not “spirit”) and finally God created the first human, “Adam”, whom he makes “in his own image” (so God looks like a human being).



Humans are neither angels (beings of pure spirit) nor animals (creatures of body). Humans are made of both body *and* spirit (which we call the human “soul”).

God places Adam in an earthly paradise called the Garden of Eden. God also makes a companion for Adam, Eve (woman). God tells Adam and Eve that in the Garden of Eden they are completely safe because no animal will harm them and they will never become sick or grow old. They are free to do anything

they wish and are invited to eat any of the fruits in the garden **except** one. God points to a particular tree and tells them they must never eat the fruit from that tree.



But Adam and Eve disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit of knowledge.

When God discovers that Adam and Eve disobeyed him he **punishes** them by forcing them out of the Garden of Eden. God tells them that they will now have to work and that they will someday grow old and sick and eventually die.