

GOD FORSAKEN

DINESH
D'SOUZA



*Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
Carol Stream, Illinois*

Visit Tyndale online at www.tyndale.com.

TYNDALE and Tyndale's quill logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Godforsaken: Bad things happen. Is there a God who cares? Yes. Here's proof.

Copyright © 2012 by Dinesh D'Souza. All rights reserved.

Author photo copyright © 2010 by Dixie D'Souza. All rights reserved.

Designed by Jessie McGrath

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV and appearing on p. ix are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*,[®] NIV.[®] Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.[™] Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com.

Scripture quotations marked KJV are taken from the *Holy Bible*, King James Version.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

D'Souza, Dinesh, date.

Godforsaken : Bad things happen. Is there a God who cares? Yes. Here's proof. / Dinesh D'Souza.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-1-4143-2485-2 (hc)

1. Suffering—Religious aspects—Christianity.
2. God (Christianity)—Goodness.
3. Christian life. I. Title.

BV4909.D84 2012

231'.8—dc23

2011049946

Printed in the United States of America

18	17	16	15	14	13	12
7	6	5	4	3	2	1

***For Lee and Allie Hanley,
whose love of our country
and our Lord
is a great inspiration to me***

CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1: An Immigrant's Journey: The Paradox of Suffering 3
- 2: Wounded Theism: The Indictment of God 17

PART 2: A UNIVERSAL CONUNDRUM

- 3: The Limits of Theodicy: Why the Usual Answers Don't Work 39
- 4: Atheist Delusions: Contradictions of Unbelief 59

PART 3: MORAL EVIL

- 5: Free to Choose: Omnipotence and Human Freedom 77
- 6: Choices and Consequences: Why a Lawful Universe 93

PART 4: CRIMES OF NATURE

- 7: Acts of God: The Reason for Earthquakes 117
- 8: Red in Tooth and Claw: Evolution and Animal Pain 135
- 9: A Fine-Tuned Universe: The Anthropic Principle 157

PART 5: THE CHARACTER OF GOD

- 10: Create or Not: Does God Hate Amputees? 183
- 11: Rage of Yahweh: Crimes of the Old Testament God 201
- 12: Abandon All Hope: Heaven, Hell, and Divine Justice 223

PART 6: CONCLUSION

- 13: Not Forsaken: Delivering Us from Evil 245

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 261

NOTES 263

ABOUT THE AUTHOR 274

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

PSALM 22:I

CHAPTER 1

AN IMMIGRANT'S JOURNEY

The Paradox of Suffering

That to the height of this great argument

I may assert Eternal Providence,

And justify the ways of God to men.¹

JOHN MILTON, *Paradise Lost*

EACH ONE OF US, at some point in our lives, will find ourselves staring death in the face. None of us can escape that grim reality. Recently, I was reminded of that reality while reading the following e-mail from my friend, Devdas Kamath, who went to school with me in India but with whom I had lost contact over the years.

My elder son Nikhil, a first year student at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, died of a rare disorder, Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP), at Ahmedabad on Tuesday, September 29. On Monday, September 21, Nikhil complained of fever. Since the fever did not subside with Crocin, he visited the doctor. He did not respond to the doctor's treatment. Hence he was referred to a senior physician