**Proportionalism – Strengthening Knowledge**

**Read the descriptions of ontic (or, pre-moral) evil below and then answer the questions:**

As used mostly in Catholic moral theology, and influenced by Thomas Aquinas, ontic evil refers to the lack of perfection that exists in the created order and in human social structures by virtue of the reality of sin that permeates everything. Ontic evil, including natural disasters, accidental harm or damage, or even the potential negative effects of all human actions, including those whose intent was good, reflects the moral ambiguity of the universe, where notwithstanding humanity’s best intentions, suffering does happen and is endemic to the human condition. Contrary to moral evil, however, the evil or suffering that is caused is not directly intended, even if a proportionate reason i.e., the intent of a greater good) makes us tolerate it. For example, the effects of a surgery always include pain and discomfort, but that negative effect or ontic evil is to be preferred to the greater harm of disease or even death.

# From, Nadia Delicata, ‘Ontic Evil(or Physical, Nonmoral, or Premoral Evil)’ in Anne L. C. Runehow ed., Encyclopaedia of Sciences and Religions Vol. 2 (Springer) pp. 1556.

**Questions:**

1. **Using your own words, what is ontic/premoral evil? (use a sentence or two - also include examples of ontic evil)**

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1. **Using your own words, what is moral evil (ensure that you describe how this is different than ontic evil)**

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