

Free Will, Destiny and Arrogance

By

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When you finish this short essay you could be free. Free from trying to be something you are not. Free from trying to live up to other's expectations and from your own relentless quests to be more than you are. Free from thinking you should be more. You will understand that you are exactly where you are supposed to be in life. And you have arrived at this particular place in time because you have had no choice nor will you have a choice in the future. You are supposed to be here. I will prove to you that life is simply Chaos with an illusion of free will, a definite destiny and that arrogance is nothing more than an empty emotion revealing an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities.

The basis of the concept of free will is that we are capable of influencing the future based on our decisions. However, the truth is that most decisions we make can turn out any number of ways. Without a doubt this is true. And then when we combine the myriad decisions we make over time, one can easily see the inability for anyone to predict, without luck, everything, indeed anything, about one's life. Yes, we hope for a particular outcome in time but we cannot predict what will ultimately result. One decision then another then another. More and more each day. The decision tree is thus leafed with innumerable possible pathways that are completely unpredictable. Therefore, if the outcome of most of our decisions is unpredictable and not under our control, then the outcome of our lives has nothing very much to do with our decision making. The outcome is strictly the result of Chaos.

And how does this relate to my stating that a person has a Destiny? The immutable path of a person's life that zigs this way and that, completely at the caprice of Chaos, defines each person's destiny. But it is only until death will our complete destiny reveal itself. Yes, your past at any point in time is your destiny, unchangeable and uncontrolled, but the complete picture will not be known until this visit is over. And precisely because the future is unknowable, and at the same time inescapable, is why we have this dim perception that each of us does indeed have a destiny. No matter what one tries to do, you are on a path you cannot predict in any way. What will be, will be. And of course, we can never ever predict our Destiny for precisely the reason that the future is in actuality completely unknowable.

And if the outcome of those decisions we make each day on our Destiny path is unpredictable, especially in combination with the innumerable decisions we make throughout our life, then what of Arrogance? Because we have shown that control of your life's path is nonexistent, Arrogance must then be totally unfounded because a person really has nothing to do with where he or she is in life. You simply are exactly where you are supposed to be. And you might as well be resigned to your current status. Such is life. But then remember, everything changes and things might just get better.

But then, of course, you must move forward. Go for what you want without expecting to get it. Make provisions for detours. Ultimately though for me, the only thing I really try to do is be a better person than I was the moment before. I know what I want to be and the direction I would like my life to take... it is possible things might just work out for awhile.