

Do we have freewill?

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◆ What do we mean by freewill?

If we have freewill, we have personal responsibility, though our responsibility varies with the condition of our body and with the situation.

◆ Freewill proof

Prove indeterminism: reality is indeterministic.

Prove personal responsibility: we are responsible for our decisions.

◆ Reality is indeterministic

Reality is continuous. Knowability principle is true. Knowledge of reality is inherently probabilistic. Therefore, reality is indeterministic.

◆ Personal responsibility

Scale reductionism is false. Scale extensionism is true. Therefore our model of human behavior at the scale of the human body is true, and under this model, we are responsible for our decisions, though the degree of responsibility depends on the condition of our body and on the situation.

◆ Cognitive process of decision-making

Most mental activity is unconscious, the result of innate and learned automaticity. This is ongoing activity from the time of in-utero neural development and is ever increasing in its capability. Consciousness is the control activity of focusing, which serves the purpose of skill development and concept development. Consciousness is like the role of a foreman.

Decision-making is not discrete, like flipping a light switch, but is the result of a continuous activity of building up a propensity for a course of action. Imagine two alternatives, and imagine a build-up of propensity for each alternative. At the time that we must make a decision, the alternative having the most propensity becomes our decision.