

DETERMINISM. This is one aspect of Stoicism I do not subscribe to. Stoics believed in determinism, where it is said we are destined to perform actions that are determined by previous actions and/or circumstances. Then we do not have free will ... in fact free will is a delusion of the mind. **B**ut they also believed that the illusion of free will is real ... thus they were able to plant virtue ethics into our lives. With virtue ethics we have the choice to do good, which basically is a non-deterministic concept. Stoics in principle believed in fate, which was determined by the gods. **H**owever, while the denial of free will in a philosophical context is one thing, in the context of our daily lives - and our culpability - the notion is a nonsense. Say it is thought free will does not exist in respect of you moving your finger. Ok, well and good ... but your finger is on the trigger of a gun pointed at me!

see also FREE WILL, STOICISM as well as ECLECTICISM

DIMENSIONS. A while ago I used a computer program that generated a very detailed, abstract graphic image. I was able to zoom in on any part of that image; and as I moved closer to its structure, every detail of the original configuration was bearing within itself another image similar to that original one - and I in turn could enlarge it in just the same fashion. **T**he images never were the same - indeed the beauty in the exercise was that the program continuously produced new patterns of astounding colours and shapes. Amazingly - while every few seconds I looked at a ten-fold enlargement of the same ornament - the image I had looked at in the beginning had, an hour later, grown in size as large as our universe. **O**nce I watched a video of a person lying on the ground. It was 'shot' with a viewpoint looking straight down. The picture area was 1m x 1m. Then the image was enlarged 10-fold, now showing 10m x 10m. As the 'camera' was pulling back, it kept increasing the field of view by the factor 10, soon showing 100m x 100m, 1km x 1km, 10km x 10km, 100km x 100km etc.

By the time one looked at an area of 100,000km x 100,000km one saw earth in space, our globe measuring approx. 10cm on the monitor. But our view was still unfolding, quickly taking us beyond our galaxy. In the end our universe was lying in front of us in its entirety, depicted as a mass of dots, where the dots represented planets, stars and galaxies. **N**ow the direction of our imaginary journey was reversed - we zoomed back to our planet, to the person lying on the ground. Next the original field of view was reduced 10-fold, showing an area of 10cm x 10cm. We saw the person's hand in the centre of the screen - and as the camera went closer and closer, each step reduced the field of view by a factor of 10. **W**hen as many reductions had been performed as previously enlargements, we looked at the building blocks of nature. To my surprise the final screen - showing single particles with lots of space between them - was reminiscent of the last screen in the previous part of the video, depicting our universe. Is the micro cosmos of one universe the macro cosmos of another?

The Mandelbrot Set is a graphic expression of fractal geometry, by the French mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot. The video Power of Ten was produced by Americans Charles & Ray Eames for IBM.