

**FREE WILL.** What motivates us; what gets us going?  
 Our driving force is our spirit, the fire within, the energy that  
 is part of the universal spirit, which is the creative force in  
 the universe. Our spirit is the creative force in our life.  
 ● Once we discern this spiritual provenance of our will,  
 our actions are steeped in the potential of our higher being.  
 Everything we do will be to further the good in the world,  
 fight evil and do right by every member of the human family.

*But where does evil derive from?  
 The duality of good and evil in our  
 existence is the result of free choice  
 that is given to us along with our will;  
 we have the choice to do good or evil.*

*I deem it paramount that we concede  
 our potential for evil (to sin) by our  
 own free will. This is in contrast to the  
 Christian dogma of 'original sin',  
 where we inherit the guilt of Adam.*

see also KNOW YOUR SELF

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*I finally read the book Free Will by Sam Harris; and I  
 knew full well he deems the idea of free will an illusion:  
 "Thoughts and intention simply arise in the mind.  
 What else could they do? But our thoughts are the prod-  
 uct of prior events that we did not bring into being."*

*I find the book unsatisfying, unconvincing and tiresome.  
 However, Harris is not only a respected author and  
 philosopher (I regard him highly), but also a neuro-  
 scientist, and in Free Will his arguments seem to come  
 rather from his background in science and neurology.*

*He quotes Daniel Dennett - also a scientist, philosopher,  
 author - who says "even if our thoughts & actions are  
 the product of unconscious causes, they are still ours."  
 This makes more sense to me, indeed probably to a large  
 contingent of the public; as well as our judicial systems.*

see also DETERMINISM

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*Free will is a pertinent issue in respect  
 of Abrahamic religions. It is proposed  
 by some that humanity was stripped of  
 free will by sin. Divine predestination  
 rules all activity in the mortal realm.*

*Since God is omniscient & omnipotent,  
 anything happening is the result of  
 God's will; God's foreknowledge brings  
 events into being. However, this raises  
 the problem of the provenance of evil.*

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*"The champions of the metaphysics of hypocrisy say:  
 'Man cannot change his life, because he is not free.  
 He is not free, because all his actions are conditioned  
 by previously existing causes; so whatever he does,  
 this means man cannot be free and change his life.'*

*"And they would be perfectly right if man were a  
 creature without conscience and incapable of moving  
 toward the truth; that is to say, if after recognizing a  
 new truth, man remained always at the same stage of  
 moral development. But man is a creature of conscience.*

*"Thus man is capable of attaining a higher and higher  
 degree of truth. And therefore, even if man is not free as  
 regards performing certain acts because of pre-existing  
 causes, the very causes of his acts, consisting as they do  
 of the recognition of truth, are within his own control."*

Leo Tolstoy

'The Kingdom of God is within you', 1893

also go to the appendix, blog 938

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*Albert Einstein introduced me to the  
 Schopenhauer quote, "a man can do  
 as he will, but not will as he will."  
 This has never rung true to me, until  
 I read the original German wording:*

*"Ein Mensch kann zwar tun, was er  
 will, aber nicht wollen, was er will."  
 This lead Einstein - in a philosophical  
 sense - not to believe in human freedom  
 ... a compromise I can go along with.*