

# what did epicurean actually mean by free will ? i think the article on the main page is confusing determinism with fatalism

Post by "Root304" of December 22, 2024 at 2:24 AM

I take the doctrines on Free Will more practically as you did in the last comment Cassius:

["All sensations are true"](#) style argument...

1) I perceive myself and others to have some degree of "Free will" though obviously within what I have observed of human behavior and capabilities, as well as some things behave by chance and other things are indeed fated. My perceptions must be true and it is really the only way I can proceed with life reasonably.

And more practically and from my own experience of leaving a job that felt impossible to leave:

2) I should not use the notion of Fate, determination and destiny to refrain from altering my course in life to pursue something more pleasant or otherwise less painful. Making a big change can certainly *feel* like an overturning of everything some times when yours and others' routine and sentiments seem settled in and do not want to be disrupted. You may resign yourself to fate or God's will or what have you; but none of that is actually the case.

This may seem a bit low-brow and I suppose it is, but my Epicurean philosophizing has recently taken a huge turn towards the notion of philosophizing "relationally" or with other folks and their desires, emotions and reasoning in the mix. If their perceptions meet your perceptions and contrast, there must be a new way forward - perhaps not being attached to outcomes but rather to fulfilling mutual desires - that we can create. I only take this approach, or describing it as "relational" from the closing remarks in a Catherine Wilson article. Otherwise I wouldn't have gone down the rabbit track of viewing this sort of relationship reasoning as an expression of Epicurean philosophizing.