

I wanted to draw a comic
about free will, but I
decided not to.





Free will and Determinism

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- Descartes-Libertarian
 - Spinoza- Determinist
 - Leibniz – Compatabilist, but not really
 - Hume- Compatabilist



Descartes

- Identifies the faculty of will with freedom of choice, “the ability to do or not do something” (Meditation IV)
- Problem of error
- Two faculty theory of mind- will and understanding
- Will > understanding
- Our will = God’s will
- Concludes that “the will is by its nature so free that it can never be constrained” (Passions of the Soul, I, art. 41)

Spinoza



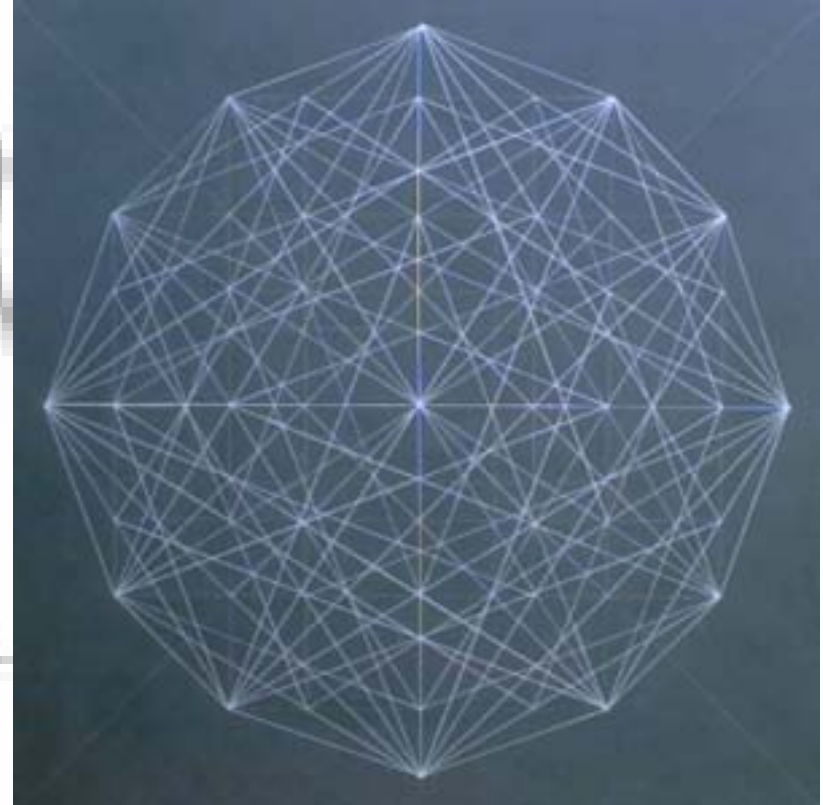
- Determinism
- Universal laws of nature because God assigned them
- Laws of nature not enough: By themselves, the laws are not sufficient for the occurrence of natural events
- Cause and effect- our will determined by certain causes
- Therefore will can not be free
- The only free, uncaused cause is God.

Leibniz



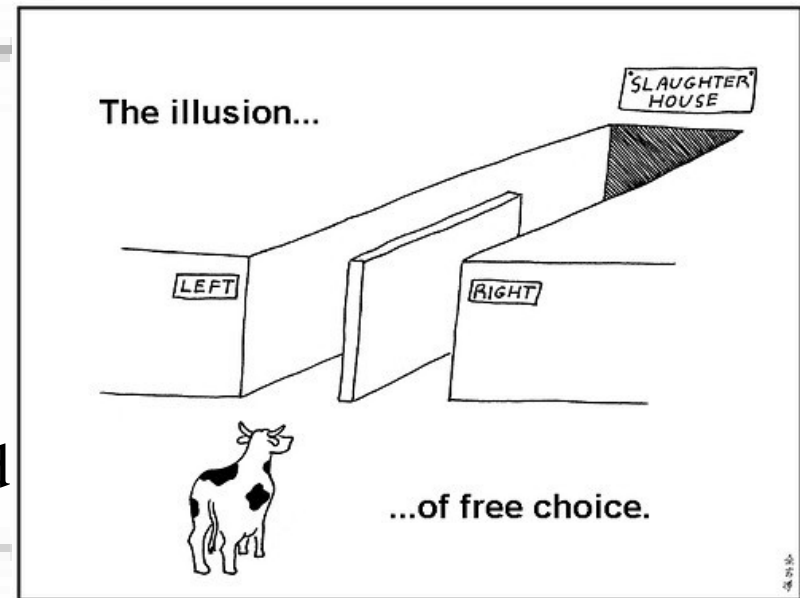
- Pre-established Harmony and Monads

- ✓ Monads contain past, present, future
- ✓ Sequence of events are predetermined
- ✓ Relations among monads are determined
- ✓ Most importantly: causal factors determining the events in the history of any given substance must lie within the essence of that substance itself.

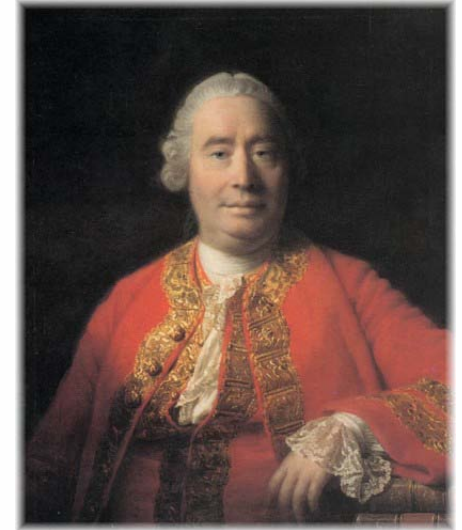


Necessity vs. Contingency

- Necessary Truths: Contrary implies a contradiction
- Contingent Truths: More reason to be true because they are more perfect
- For an action to be necessitated and hence not free, it must be one which the person acting could not have avoided, it would be a logical contradiction.



Hume



- Compatibilist
 - Free and un-free actions
- Two types of Liberties
 - Spontaneity and Indifference
- All bodies are subject to the natural laws of Physics
 - All events occur because of antecedent causes
- Some choices are derived from free will, others are reactions to external causation – Not Free

Objection!!!

- Descartes- How does Descartes **define** free will?
- I think there is a difference between freedom of WILLING and freedom of CHOICE/ACTION
- We may have freedom to will TO FLY but I may not necessarily have a freedom to actually FLY it right now.

Objection!!!

- Spinoza-How about moral responsibility?
- If determinism implies that the actions that I take are the only actions that I could ever take, we seem to be deprived of moral responsibility for anything that we are doing

Objection!!!

- Leibniz
- If whole history of our lives (even if the opposite of my life involve contradiction) is contained in my monad, I cannot act differently without destroying my own essence. Thus even if my actions are contingent and not necessary I am still not called free.

Objection!!!

- Hume
- Are free actions made out of desire and willings really without any type of constraint?
- If our world is determined then how come our will is not determined.
- If our brain functions act and react in a determined way then is there not a mental cause to every decision we make.

Leaving you with:

- Breaking/Abiding laws
- Ethics—moral responsibility
- Drug Addiction
- Consciousness and free will
- Do we need free will? Social construct
- Children and mentally impaired individuals



Mr. Nobody

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVPXBz8a70A>