

**FREE-THINKING.** Free-thought maintains one should neither accept nor reject ideas as true without reason. Free-thinkers' beliefs are based on fact and logic, devoid of authority, tradition, prejudice and dogmatic principles. Hence free-thinkers are often found among freewheeling artists, writers, musicians, film-makers and philosophers. As regards religion, the philosophy of free-thinking holds there is scarce evidence for supernatural phenomena. Since many popular beliefs are based on dogmas, free-thinking is often at odds with established views.

*The term Free-Thinker emerged toward the end of the 17th century to describe those opposed to organised religion and literal belief in scriptures.*

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**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\*.*

*Those in touch with their spirit, their heart, their divine energy, will choose good; those who are out of touch with their spirit may well choose evil. Meditation unites us with our spirit.*

*\*I deem it paramount 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 ... and are in a state of sin since birth.*

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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 product 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 neuroscientist, and in Free Will his arguments seem to come rather from his background in science than philosophy.*

*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.*

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*Free will comes to the fore in the fifteenth century tapestries The Lady and the Unicorn, deemed one of the greatest artworks of that time. One of the pieces is called A Mon Seul Désir.*

*The translation My One Soul Desire can be interpreted as By My Will Alone. Then the desire of free will becomes - in the context of these six tapestries - the sixth sense, alongside the other five.*

*see also my blog 912*