

The Script, Seen Anew by Amy Barrington

The age-old debate between free will and determinism vexes us in this world, doesn't it? Is it determined that I am asking this question right now? Am I free to choose the answer? Is it determined for me to BELIEVE that I am free to choose the answer?? Am I free to determine my freedom? ACK!

A Course in Miracles to the rescue... Perhaps free will and determinism need not be mutually exclusive!

It hit me one day to consider it like this:

Given what ACIM tells us, we're never actually aware of being in the present. The Revelation transcends time, thereby being an exception. However, it is fleeting and quite literally indescribable. The real "present" is slightly ahead of our awareness. Where our awareness rests is actually in reviewing the past. Lesson 8 says, "No one really sees anything. He sees only his thoughts projected outward.", and, "My mind is preoccupied with past thoughts." So, ok then! What we are "looking" at is the past. We are reviewing pictures of the past, rolling by, as a script. Since we are never in the present, and we are only looking at the past as the script ACIM describes, then our life, when driven by the ego, is "determined". It's the ego who is looking merely at the past. It is the ego who cannot be in the present. Therefore, it is the ego who lives within a script.

However, when we wake up to the realization that the script is just a dream – that we aren't actually SEEING anything at all and are simply reviewing pictures of the past – it is then that we are able to begin to consciously listen to our Guide Who has been given to us. It is then when we can make the CHOICE to lift that needle off of the record player that was stuck so deeply in that worn-out groove and allow a new record to drop down (though kids today won't know what the heck I'm talking about, will they??)... But this time, we're allowing J (Jesus) to be the DJ! J chooses what record will play, because since we have actively chosen to hear his Voice and to respond accordingly, the script itself shifts into an OPTIMIZED position for the all. By choosing to listen to His direction, we chose to learn to forgive, to hear and respond to the call for miracle, to possibly hear and respond to his call to be Teachers of God, and hence by way of the miracle, thousands upon thousands of years of effort (lots of piled up records) are bypassed, and the script itself literally changes. J has taught us a new way of seeing, but it is our choice in each moment to see each image which rolls by as miracle or grievance -- still as thoughts projected outward, but nevertheless, we're now in a highly accelerated learning process. When we see the images as grievance, the needle on that record continues to spin in the same groove. But when we allow J to help us see it differently and shift the seeing into miracle, recognizing our oneness with one another, a new record can drop into place..

So, it's the marriage of free will and determinism. Our script is determined in that the pictures from the ego's OCD preoccupation with the past continue to roll by – UNTIL the conscious choice is made to side with J to see the images differently and hence CHANGE the script by saving thousands of years of effort. What rolls our way is determined, simply by our past thoughts projected outward, but how we see it is the result of free will. It's the training of how to see with free will rather than ego which J teaches us to do with vigilance, requiring a "doing", leading to an actual shifting of time and script. J tells us on page 449 in the ACIM Workbook, "Pray that the Second Coming will be soon, but do not rest with that. It needs your eyes and ears and hands and feet. It needs your voice. And most of all it needs your willingness." With a conscious choice, we can answer his call and allow J to choose the music, because I don't know about you, but I feel that the world has grown quite weary of the same song. Let s hear the call together.