

**Theological Determinism & Free Will: A Philosophical Approach**

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**Abstract**

Theological determinism challenges Free Will, an important part of the theistic view. Determinants claim that free will is incompatible with God's omniscience and that God is responsible for everything that happens. I argue in this paper that so-called theological determinism never denies free will and that free will is compatible with God's omniscience

Keywords: Theological Determinism, Free Will, Divine Foreknowledge...

**Introduction:** Theological determinism; has been used for hundreds of years as a strong theoretical argument against free will. That man does not have an independent will. In fact, what are our basic thoughts about God in general? He is omnipotent, omniscient, and the creator of the universe. If there is an all-knowing God, then his knowledge is infinite and he knows everything. If God knows everything, then surely He also knows the future, the Almighty, the all-seeing God knows everything that will happen in the future. This is the root cause of the problem of free will. This is called Divine Foreknowledge. If God knows the future in advance, it means that He knows it before any event takes place. That is, the event that will happen is predetermined by him. For example, X, Steals or will steal money from Y's bag, now the creator but before stealing X's money he knows that X will steal the money. Now the Creator knows when X will steal the money when he is 10 years old, and the Creator knows when X will be a thief when he is 10 years old or when he is 2 years old, even before the birth of X the Creator knows that X will be a thief. Now, where is the fault of X here? It was decided before he was born that he would steal after 10 years and the creator knew it and then how could he decide not to steal X? Because God already knows about X being a thief. How can we have free will if all is well before we do anything? If the Creator knows what you will do when you grow up, how do you maintain your free will? If everything is predestined before we are created, then the Creator knows everything, then everything is predestined and we have no free will, We can't decide anything. That is, the Creator deliberately made X a thief because the Creator knew what to do after the birth of X

before the birth of X. So here the work of X (Human Act) is directed and determined by the creator. And X has no independent will.

Well if we think of Divine Foreknowledge here, God would be aware of every possible possibility to come in the future but not on any specific outcome? As I came out this morning, the creator knows about the various possible outcomes of the future like maybe I can go to the market or go to a friend's house or playground, I have not made any decision yet and already the creator knows about the different possibilities of future results of my work. In this case, he does not know the specific data i.e. the creator knows exactly about the future but he does not know what I will actually do until I decide. And my free will was maintained? In this case, I can make decisions independently. Basically in this case the creator is being limited or limited, If the creator does not know what the specific event of the future is, then he does not have Omniscience, which is impossible. So God must know about the future as He is omniscient and He will also know about the specific consequences of the future. Of course, the Creator is not only aware of the possibility of future consequences but also knows exactly what will happen in the future and has control over the matter.

**(i) Time & Divine Foreknowledge:** Where is the problem? On what is the theological determinism based? Which is why we are repeatedly blaming God? The main problem is the understanding of our timeline and the limitations of human knowledge. We first said we don't have free will because God knows what we will do and how we will do it before we are born and long before we make our decisions. Our idea is a bit misunderstood and we don't think that God can surpass the time in linear sequences like us, that is, go from the past to the future like 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9 ..... .. One incident after another.

Expressing the matter in the form of a premise is,

P1. God already knows that "X" will steal at the age of 10.

P2. Necessarily God knows since "X" must steal.

P3. So stealing "X" is destined and there is no free will of "X" here.

Their argument is not rational at all but full of fallacy.

God is above time by definition. That is, he is not subject to time, so he can know the future. While it is possible and vital to know his future, it is ridiculous to claim that he is responsible for what people do because he knows the future. Secondly, God knows that this will inevitably happen. Rather the event has already taken place and God knows in advance that the event is ahead of time

But the main thing is that he is the creator of the universe. He will never have to follow this linear sequence of time like us. Since he is outside the universe, he is above time. He can see by combining all the dimensions of time very easily due to his being above time. Since he is above time, my inner timeline of your universe (past, present, future) is the same as theirs. He is simultaneously transcending the past, present, and future. So when we say that God sees the future, it means that He is at the same time past, present and future. For the convenience of understanding, he sees our three-dimensional universe in a 1-dimensional division 1 Dimensional View. So in this case you must have free will. Because you decide that God is not freely restraining you, Rather, he sees you when you are 5, and he sees you when you are 10. He knows it when you make a decision, and he writes it down after you have done it since he is at the same time in each case. So the Creator created you with free will, and He wrote them after you did the deeds, and when we see in the divine book that everything we do is written, we panic about our limitations. You are making the same decision independently and the Creator is recording your work and letting you know about it before you do it. Determination and free will seem mysterious and controversial because of the complexity of our thinking about time and the complexity of thinking without the time and the limitations of human knowledge. Although Islam chooses moderation over extremism. And He wrote them after you had done them, and when we see in the Scriptures that everything we do is written, we are terrified of our limitations. You are making the same decision independently and the Creator is recording your work and letting you know about it before you do it. Determination and free will seem mysterious and controversial because of the complexity of our thinking about time and the complexity of

thinking without the time and the limitations of human knowledge. Although Islam chooses moderation over extremism.

**(ii) Playing the master Card:** If God is omniscient it means He is aware of my future and what I will do after 10 years. So my future is predetermined. In other words, "God has fated everything to happen by being Omniscient." He is the cause of all future events, even the worst. So the creator wrote everything down before I did anything so how can I have free will? If an omniscient God knows in advance what will happen next, then the Creator is responsible for everything or because He does not make it so. The omniscient means that he did not cause all the events at all, but the opposite is true. For example, I have a time machine. I went to the future 1 day and came to see what is happening or will happen. Then I came back to my present time. Will my future know what will happen in the future? Or will I be the cause of them? Of course not. So God is never forcing us to know the future, but in every case, we are using our free will. Let's go back to our previous argument again. God knows he will steal before X steals. According to our argument, X also has the free will power which we have explained earlier. Now think, you will not do any work for ten days, I have traveled in a time machine every day for ten days 10-9-8-7-6-5--4-3-2-1 How many days I have traveled in these ten days I will never know about your activities because you did nothing. Now that the Creator knows the future, and knows what X has done in the future, he has written that if he sleeps for 2 days without doing any work

after giving X free will, then it is also written. And the Creator knows. The point is, after creating "X" with the power of free will, the creator knows "x" before he does an act. Basically "X" has always done everything possible with his free will. In this case, the first example of a good time machine and the example of human activities are both to understand the content of our proposed short knowledge only as we understand it. However, the time machine example will not work in the case of the creator because he is above time. And the subject of a human act is the same. Since we do not even understand the reality of a straight line above time, it is very difficult to understand the Creator's command. There is no such thing as Divine Foreknowledge from the Creator's point of view. Because his nature as God and our nature as his creation are completely different. It does not have the slightest resemblance.

**Conclusion:** We have a kind of blurred view of determinism and free will due to the limitations and narrowness of our understanding. If we try to understand and understand the subject properly and be intellectually honest, we will succeed in dispelling our misconceptions about every subject of knowledge like theological determinism & free will.

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