

Freedom and Determinism: Hume's Reconciling Project

The University of the West of England

- (THIS PLAN) -
Was begun to be carried into Execution -
Anno 1797 -
The Right Honour. Gilbert Laurie Esq.
LORD PROVOST. -

Queen Street, Prince Street, Frederick Street, Banner Street, and Cattle Street are 50 Feet in Breadth 1/2, 50 Feet for a Carway, and 10 Feet on each side, for a Foot path. —

§ 23. The Area between the Foot path and buildings is 5 Feet

L. Hughes Secy

By His Sacred Majesty, **GEORGE III.** The Munificent
This **PLAN** of the New Streets and Squares, intended for His ancient **CAPITAL** of
Liberty his People enjoy, under his mild, and unspurious Government, **IS**, with the strongest Humility

Patron of every POLITE and LIBERAL MIND
NORTH BRITAIN; One of the happy Consequences of the Peace, Security, and
Inscribed By - Miss M. Raper's Most devoted Servant and Subject
 JAMES CRAIG.

Sceptical Problems

The Uniformity Principle

- P1) The sun has risen every day in the past
- P2) The future will be conformable to the past
- C) The sun will rise tomorrow (The future will be conformable to the past).
- The Fallacy of Begging the Question

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Causation

- Necessary Connexions?
- Constant Conjunctions?

Sceptical solutions

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- 5 Belief depends on custom.

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- 6 **An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding.**

Enquiry Section 8 - Of Liberty and Necessity

Can Liberty and Necessity be combined?

- Libertarians
- Hard Determinists
- Compatibilists (there is a genuine distinction between actions that are free and those that are not).

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- ⑤ Traveller's Tales.
- ⑥ Cause & Effect - A Broken Clock - A Person of obliging disposition giving a peevish answer.
- ⑦ Human Behaviour: We infer from past events to future events. 'Have we not reason, therefore, to affirm that all mankind have always agreed in the doctrine of necessity according to the foregoing definition and explication of it?' (E 89).

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- 7 'By Liberty, then, we can only mean *a power of acting or not acting, according to the determinations of the will*' (E 95).

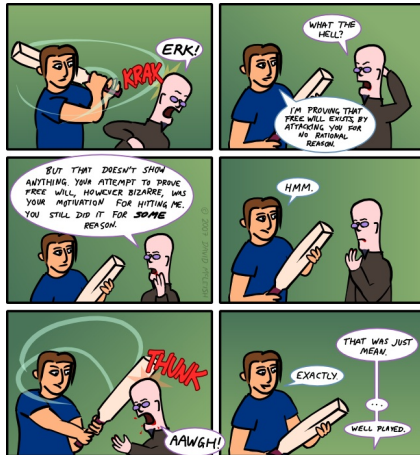
3 Definitions of Liberty

- **Liberty 1:** Libertarian liberty - opposed to necessity.
- **Liberty 2:** A person is an agent in respect to what they do and are therefore responsible for their actions. (Intentional actions, as opposed to Snoring).
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- 'Whatever definition we may give of liberty, we should be careful to observe two requisite circumstances; *first*, that it be consistent with plain matter of fact; *secondly*, that it be consistent with itself.' (E 95)

Free Will



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- ③ Objection - Necessity all the way down?
- ④ Is the ultimate author of our volitions the Creator of the world?

The Problem of Evil



Augustine (c.354-c.430)

- Evil is a 'Privation of Good'
- Free will is a supremely valuable capacity

The Problem of Evil



Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716)

Leibniz 1646-1716

- The Best of All Possible Worlds

Hume's Dilemma



① THIS WEEK: Hume's *Enquiry* Section VIII

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- 2 NEXT WEEK: Hume's *Enquiry* Sections X & XI