

# Is Life Predestined?

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This morning, as you know: "Is Life Predestined?"

It's a very important subject, because, if we do not have the right approach to this subject, we're apt to be fatalists, and think, "Oh, what's the use? It's gonna happen anyway." So let's discuss it and see if we can answer that to our satisfaction.

I find the definition for predestination is that it, it means "preordained results, or fate." But the whole question of fate and destiny lies on the understanding of the Law of Karma – the Law of Cause and Effect – and this is very important. If you'll just realize that we live in this world according to certain laws, and subject to those laws, and those laws will go on. But it is your action, according to your approach to those laws, that determines whether it is your fate and destiny or not. Always realize a simple illustration. If I raise this book, there's a cause and the book will fall. Now that's preordained. You do not have to worry about that. The thing you have to worry about is that you do not lift the book, and lay up the cause. If you do, that's surely gonna happen, and there's nothing that can prevent it. Realize that. That's predestination.

And so, we find predestination in Physical Law, in Mental Law, and Spiritual Law. One illustration perhaps about Physical Law; you know about electricity. It is preordained that electricity follows certain laws, and will react in a certain way. Now you, you can use that electricity to light this building, or heat this building, or you can use that electricity to get killed with. So the preordination is that electricity follows Physical Laws, or electromagnetic laws. But you can act with those laws, or against those laws. You have free will. There is no question about that, to do certain things. But the laws of electricity remain the same. They are preordained.

Likewise in the Mental Realm; if you don't use your mind, you become an idiot, through atrophy. Well, of course that's preordained. But do you think it's preordained that you be an idiot? No. Realize these simple truths. People try to make these questions complex. They're very simple, if you'll use your head, as they say. Realize, that you're subject to certain Mental Laws, and if you don't

use those Mental Laws, you become, you atrophy. Also, in the body that applies the same way.

Now, in the Spiritual Realm – this is very important – if you slant your activities toward the High Frequency of God’s Omniscient Love, you tend towards sainthood. Realize that. If you slant your activity toward the High Frequency of God’s Omniscient Love, you tend towards sainthood. Do you realize that? That is all there is to preordination. We must realize that we have free will, because we’re made as God has been made. We have the free will to accept Him or reject Him.

Predestination is a matter of how we approach it, if we realize that. That is up to us. The laws are there, the Physical, Mental and Spiritual Laws are there. That’s God’s Cosmic Dream. That’s preordained. But even that can be changed, once in a while. But it is of a sure fact that our approach to these laws is subject to our own free will, according to dictates of desire and conscience. We are subject to desire, but through conscience we know how to use that desire, to be a saint, or to be a sinner.

Now the Law of Karma, or the Law of Action, as I have said, is an exact law. Whatever cause you set in operation will be fulfilled – the reaction will take place. Now realize that. If you meditate regularly, you are setting certain causes into effect, putting them into effect. The reaction will take place. And what’s the trouble? We don’t meditate, that’s all. And so we say, “Oh, I guess...fate is that I don’t get anywhere.” And that’s not so. The fact that you don’t do anything is the cause. There’s no predestination in the fact that you have free will to do or not to meditate. Realize that.

Now, Emerson states a certain thing about the Law of Karma, and I hope that you will remember it. He says these words, wrote these words: “The world looks like...a mathematical equation...which turn it how you will, balances itself...” Now this is the important part coming now. “Every secret is told...” Be careful of those secrets you whisper to one another. “Every secret is told, every crime punished, every virtue rewarded...” he rewarded, “every wrong redressed in silence and...” what? “...certainty.<sup>1</sup>” (Sic) So, that much is

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<sup>1</sup> Essays, V. Compensation, 1841, Paragraph 15, “The dice of God are always loaded. The world looks like a multiplication-table, or a mathematical equation, which, turn it how you will, balances itself. Take what figure you will, its exact value, nor more nor less, still returns to you. Every secret is told, every crime is punished, every virtue rewarded, every wrong redressed, in silence and certainty.”

predestined, but what you do is not. You have free will. Realize these wonderful words of Emerson.

Also in Galatians we find these words in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter, 7<sup>th</sup> Verse, and I'm sure you're familiar with these words: whatever, "...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."<sup>2</sup> If you, knowing what electricity is, deliberately go against the law, and so, [Doctor pounds on the podium to make a loud noise] – delusion – and use that force of electricity in the wrong way, you're gonna reseed, reap the reaction, that's all. You're going to reap what you've laid up. The cause is going to react. So therein lies predestination.

Master used to tell a story, I think it's about time for a story now. Master used to tell a story about this Law of Karma. And as I remember it, this young man was minding his own business, looking through a hole in the fence at a ball game. He wasn't hurting anybody at all. He was just enjoying the ball game, looking through a little hole in the fence. And suddenly, somebody came up behind him, and gave him a good hard kick, and knocked him over. And then that person ran away. Well, the boy had reason to be hurt. Then he said, "Lord," he said, "why does this happen to me? Is this predestination? I was doing nothing but looking through the little hole in the fence, minding my own business, enjoying the senses, through the senses, which you gave me, the ball game. Then look." Then the little boy's conscience said to him, "But you remember last life, you did the same thing to that fellow?" So, the Master used to tell that story.

The Law of Karma is exact. So where, wherever you find yourselves, don't be alarmed. Don't feel too bad. You know who put yourself there? Yes, that's right. You did. So the Law of Karma is exact.

But I think the best Bible reference, which I'll give you at this time, those of you who wish to read it, is in Ecclesiastes, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter. Now when people do not treat you in the right way, realize this much of predestination: "For God shall bring every work unto (*sic*) judgment..."<sup>3</sup> You do right, that's all you have to worry about. Let the predestination take care of itself. You are a free agent to do right. So it says here: "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

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<sup>2</sup> Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

<sup>3</sup> Ecclesiastes 12:14, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Don't cha see the point is, whether, whether your free will is good, or whether it's evil – that's the point – that's the thing to realize. God takes care of the predestination of the fulfillment of things – the rewarding of virtue and the punishing of those who do not do right. But we get mixed up in it. If we would leave it to God and mind our business and do right, then there'd be much less trouble in the world, and the result would be right. God is the judge. He made the whole universe. He made each one of us. He sustains each one of us. Why, why do we not trust Him? Because of our ego consciousness. We want to get in the middle of things – and we do; and what a mess. What a mess.

A little story comes to my mind at this time. I think we need another one to get loosened up here. Cause I hope I tell them right now. Sometimes I make a mess of them, but we'll try.

This young man came from Spain, and his name was José. Isn't spelled as it sounds – but that's his name, José. And so he came over here, and he wanted to go to the ball game, the World Series. So he came down there. But they said, "Why there are no seats. No one can get in. It's all sold out." But, somehow, he pestered them so that they, they let him in, and they had a flagpole in the ground, and it was across the street, part way up. So they heisted him up on the flagpole, and there he was. And so he saw the ball game. And he went home later, back to Spain. Somebody asked him how he liked America. He says, "Wonderful!" And they, they talked about various things about the ball game, and he told them that he saw the World Series, and he said, "You know, those Americano's are wonderful people." He said, "They gave me a seat up on the flagpole." "And," he said, "it wasn't long before they all stood up and say, said, 'José, can you see?'" I think you'll remember predestination by that little story.

Now going on; realize this one thing, now, about predestination – now we got loosened up a little bit – that God has created all things, and that all things will return to Him. That's predestiny, because the whole must contain all its parts, and we're part of God, and creation is all a part of His Great Self. And so, all things will return to Him. The great Ramakrishna said, "All will be saved." Isn't that wonderful? "All will be saved." That much is preordained, predestined. But the point is this; that we, having free will, have the power to accept God, or to reject Him. Now, if we accept God, we can get out of the Cosmic Dream, which is predestined according to the laws of time and space. We do not have to stay in that. That's the important thing to realize about predestination. Everything will go back to God. But who wants to wait a long time that ego

consciousness be disrupted, and we have the ability to know our oneness with God? Who wants to wait that time?

We can, without question of a doubt, get out of this delusion, get out of this preordained Dream of God, in an instant, if you have the deep desire, and your wanting to know God is strong enough, you will be able to rise above, supersede, this consciousness, this duality of consciousness, wherein predestination operates. Do you realize that – how important Self-Realization is – that we have the power to overcome predestination, because we're made in the Image of God, and we have that power to accept or reject Him? But whatever we do, realize, whatever we do, we have to pay for it. Whatever cause you lay up you have to pay.

Now you may be born – and this is very important – we are predestined in a certain way, because we have laid up causes. Some people have, for instance, a tendency of...to have ulcers. That seems to be a common subject. They have the tendency to have ulcers. All right; let us say we are predestined and subject through latent impulses and weakness of our digestive system to have ulcers. But the point is this, if you keep on eating fried food, and those foods that are hard to digest, and keep irritating the membrane of your stomach, the ulcer will continue. But, having free will, can't you see that you are not predestined to keep on breaking the health laws? You can change your mode of eating. Eat scientifically. Keep away from those things which irritate the membrane of your intestine and stomach; and then don't cha see, nature will heal that ulcer.

We have the power within us, because God has created us, to heal all things, even though we have laid up causes which make us subject to ulceration, and so forth. But in us is the power to heal those things, if we stop doing those things which keep the condition as it is. That's what you must realize about predestination. You may be subject, as, as Mr. Layton read about the Master – he was subject to weakness of his digestion – and it's a peculiar thing, I was the same way. Everything I ate – pain. One day the Master took things in hand, and now I can eat and enjoy anything.

So you see, it is up to us. If we will obey the law according, and slant our effort toward the realization that we're not just human beings subject to this Cosmic Dream, but that we're children of God. If we will do that, then we can rise above the law of preor, predestination. Realize that.

And another thing that comes to my mind. Say for instance, you have an inferiority complex. Now, you do not have to stay in that inferiority complex. Perhaps it is your predestination to be subject to that. Sometimes our parents have those weaknesses. But, if you turn your attention toward God, and merge in His Omniscient Presence within you, His Glorious Omniscience, you have such a confidence that inferiority complex cannot remain. You are not predestined to stay in the condition in which you find yourself. Although it is your destiny to be where you are because you have laid up causes – but, it is not your destiny to stay there. That's the important thing. Realize that.

God could not be such an unjust God to keep us in the condition in which we have found ourselves or which we have laid ourselves. He could not be Just and a Loving God to keep us there. He has made His Laws; He does not like to break them. But He has given us the power to rise above, to supersede, this consciousness of predestination and fate. Unless we realize that we are nothing, still nothing but human beings.

And finally, one other thing – pain – pain is terrific. Those of you who have suffered pain, especially excruciating pain, it's difficult to rise above it, isn't it? But, you can rise above it. You are not predestined to be subject to pain. You can, if you can lift your consciousness by the power of will – which is God's Will in you – if you can lift it from outward duality of consciousness to this point [the Christ Center], and keep it there – pain cannot exist. Therefore, predestination does not bind us, as far as our Souls goes.

Perhaps, when you come down, the pain will be there, but you can immediately get up, and in the Omniscience of God's Presence, in His Great and Glorious Omniscience, no pain can exist, because there's a Unity of Consciousness. And where do we find pain? Because of predestination we find pain in outward consciousness, the consciousness of likes and dislikes – the opposites. Pain is simply the opposite of pleasure. We're so attached that it feels excruciating, that's all, in some cases. But, realize, we're not subject to stay there. That's the important thing to realize about predestination.

And always remember, please, the illustration about the book. Another thing is this; your karma, which binds you, can be lessened or alleviated. That's the important thing. Karma must be fulfilled. The Law of Karma is exact. You lay up a cause and it must be fulfilled. The reaction will take place. If I lift this book, as I have said, it falls. That's the Law of Karma, that's all. But karma can be alleviated and lessened. For instance, as I drop this book I can put something in

the way, cannot I not? Doesn't that lessen the blow of karma? And so it is in our lives, the effect of karma can be alleviated, or lessened. Do not forget that.

I know one case, I think of a lady, who had a serious coronary thrombosis; very serious. That was her karma. She had laid up that cause somewhere, either in this life, or a previous life. It doesn't make any difference. It's gonna be paid. But, I remember distinctly, that the Master lessened the blow of that karma. That karma had to be paid, but he lessened it. And by so doing he took on that heart condition himself. This I know to be a fact.

And so, do not think, no matter how serious your karma is, it can be alleviated, it can be lessened. And the greatest thing is you can rise above the effects of all karma, even to the greatest pain, or even death. You can overcome the Law of Karma which brings to us death. How? By realizing that consciousness within you that does not die; realize that consciousness within you that never had a birth; realize the Presence of God within you that does not die. That's predestination. But that's the real predestination we wanna know about. Know that consciousness within you – that Bliss Consciousness. Knowing that, when you can be in that, and when the heart slows down through the practices of Self-Realization – and the breath slows down and as far as people on the outside world would say, "You're dead," but you're not dead. Your consciousness is intact. It is sharper than when you're in worldly consciousness. Now, when you can do that, don't cha see, you have overcome the predestined death. Once overcoming that, through the practices of Self-Realization, it can never touch you again. So, predestination is really not for us children of God.

And so, finally, if you automatically follow the Laws of this Cosmic Dream, which predestine you to be in delusion and ignorance, you'll be there. Now, if you follow like an automaton – Master used to say, "Breakfast, lunch, and dinner...sleep...get up...breakfast, lunch, and dinner...talk a little bit...sleep...breakfast, lunch, and dinner..." Well, if ya do that, if you're automatically pushed along in this Cosmic Dream, then you're gonna be subject to the laws of that Dream so predestined.

But this is the point: bow, bow to no predestination. Realize that. Say within yourself, "I will bow to no predestination, except, perhaps, one that Jesus did when he said, 'Father, Thy will be done.' That we will bow to. But we will not bow to the predestination of this Cosmic Dream, which says to us that we are born humans and die humans. No. But we bow to that predestination, the real predestination that says we may be born humans, but we die children of God in

His Consciousness.” These are the realities of predestination. Bow to none other than that. That although you’re born a human being, by the grace of God you can know your oneness with Him, and die, not as a human being, subject to this Cosmic Dream, but you die as a child of God, born in Christ Consciousness.

That’s what we must remember about predestination. We are not just human beings. We are far greater than that. We’re not children of darkness. We know, if we follow this Cosmic Dream, we’ll stay in darkness and delusion. We’ve had enough of it. We are not that. We are children of God, children of Light in the exact sense of the word. God’s Consciousness is Light, tremendous Light. And God’s Consciousness, as Light, melts into the One Great Love of Divine Joy and Bliss. That’s what we really are. We are children of Light. We will accept nothing but that – not as children of this Cosmic Dream.

Now these things are so, and we have as a testimony, the words in the scriptures; in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Psalm, the 6<sup>th</sup> Verse. “...Ye are gods; all of you,” all of you, are gods, “...children of the most High.”<sup>4</sup> (*Sic*)

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<sup>4</sup> Psalm 82:6, “I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.”