THE DETERMINISM AND FREEDOM PHILOSOPHY WEBSITE

edited by Ted Honderich

INTRODUCTION AND INDEX

On offer here eventually will be a good selection of the most important pieces of writing on the various subjects in the philosophy of Determinism and Freedom. The name of this philosophy might have been Determinism and Free Will, since in this context 'free will' is often used generally to mean the same as 'freedom'. In fact there is such a philosophical custom. It is better, however, despite that disadvantage, to use the term 'free will' in a particular way, for a particular kind of freedom -- for one species included in the genus 'freedom'. This is what is also called origination. The subjects in the philosophy of Determinism and Freedom include the nature of causation, the different kind of freedom that is voluntariness rather than free will or orgination, and so on.

For those who want a guide to the language of it all, some technical, try Determinism, Freedom and Free Will Philosophy -- The Terminology.

Do you ask in what sense the selected and to a lesser extent the selected and the listed pieces are the 'most important'? You should. The answer is a pretty standard one, if not always made explicit. It is not easily given, and not easy to be brief about.

Some things are included or listed because they are well-known or famous to philosophers generally and might be true -- true in the judgement of your guide. Some other writings, not many, are included because they might be true, necessarily again in the judgement of the guide -- without being well-known or famous. If there is something to be said for trying to go by the annointing judgements of a lot of other people, there is also something to be said for presenting one philosopher's more or less coherent view.

There is the necessary and satisfactory upshot of this policy that what is included and listed does indeed include works by Guide that have not become famous.

In the index that follows some pieces, for good reason, are listed in more than one section. In fact a good many pieces have a claim, at least a little, to be listed in more sections than they are. Almost all the pieces, for example, at least touch on the nature of causation and the truth of determinism.

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