



S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

Tel: [020 8909 9899](tel:02089099899) Fax: [020 8909 9897](tel:02089099897) Email: bym@sksst.org

Free Will or Destiny?

Debate Guidelines

What is free will?

Free will is the apparent ability to make decisions which influence what happens in the future. In its purest sense it is the ability to make decisions free from any constraints.

What is Destiny?

Destiny is a pre-determined order of events or outcome. It's a belief that there is a fixed order to the universe and that no-one or nothing can alter it. What do you think? Do you have the power to change the universe?

How many decisions do you make which are unconstrained?

There are 3 main constraints:

- Physical e.g. being chained up or not having wings.
- Social e.g. threat of punishment or bringing shame to your family.
- Psychological e.g. fears or phobias

Do the decisions you make change the future?

- What if you chose to learn French rather than German at GCSE or took Physics at A-Levels? Would that have changed your future?
- What about if you decided to stay at home today instead of come Mandir?



S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

Tel: [020 8909 9899](tel:02089099899) Fax: [020 8909 9897](tel:02089099897) Email: bym@sksst.org

Who determines destiny?

- If our lives are already mapped out then who determines what happens and when it ends etc...?
- If its God then why does he give some people loads of money and make others poor, why does he make some people religious and others not?

Can you have free will AND destiny?

- Does it have to be one or the other? Can't you have both?
- Is it possible to choose from a set of predetermined outcomes? You need to get to Bolton Mandir, you can take the train, the car, a Plane or even walk, either way you are destined to reach Bolton Mandir but you are able to choose how and when you do so.
- Could you know the destination but make choices along the way? Like being on an aeroplane, once you've boarded you know where you are going, what time you'll get there but whilst on the flight you can decide to do what you like; listen to kirtans, read the Vachnamrut or watch a film.

Karma

The concept of Karma will be covered in depth in another session; however Karma is heavily linked with destiny and free will. Many aspects of our lives are dictated by past deeds, whether in this life or previous ones. Maharaj has said in Vachanamrut Gadhra 1 chapter 13 and Vadtal Chapter 6 that the body you get is determined by your past Karmas, even who gives birth to you is decided by your previous deeds. Throughout your life you will receive the fruits of your karmas, but you can accrue more Karmas (both good and bad) as you do good and bad things. If you imagine that a human is like a cow tied by a rope to a post in the middle of a field. Karma is the post, it fixes you to a point in the field and free will is the length of the rope, which determines how much you can move around, but by progressing in Satsang and gaining spirituality the length of the rope increases and thus you become more and more free until we eventually are no longer tied to the post; Salvation!!!