

## **FREE WILL**

Human personality is distinguished by two specific aspects: self-consciousness and relative free will. Self-consciousness is manifested by the intellectual awareness of one's personality and it includes the ability to recognize the reality of other personalities.

Having provided for the growth of the immortal soul and having liberated the inner self of each human being from absolute dependence on pre-determination, the Creator stands aside. Now it remains for each person to foster or to inhibit the creation of this surviving and eternal self which is theirs for the choosing. No other being in the entire universe of universes can interfere to any degree with the absolute sovereignty of the mortal free will, as it operates within the realms of choice, regarding the eternal destiny of the personality. As pertains to eternal survival, the Creator has decreed the sovereignty of the material and mortal will, and that decree is absolute.

Human beings are therefore neither helpless slaves of the inflexible sovereignty of an all-powerful Creator nor the victims of the hopeless fatality of a mechanistic cosmos. People are truly the architects of their own eternal destiny.

We do not have absolute free will, however. There are limits to our range of choice, but within the radius of this choice our will is relatively sovereign.

If personality truly has free choice, then evolving personality must also have the possible choice of becoming self-confusing, self-disrupting, and self-destroying. The possibility of cosmic self-destruction cannot be avoided.

Throughout the universe, every unit is regarded as a part of the whole. Survival of the part is dependent on co-operation with the plan and purpose of the whole, the wholehearted desire and willingness to do the Creator's divine will. The only evolutionary world without error (the possibility of unwise judgment) would be a world without free intelligence. Evolving humans must be fallible if they are to be free. Free and inexperienced intelligence cannot possibly at first be uniformly wise.