

**Should we affirm free will because to say it is fiction is to say morality is fiction?**

Religion will say that if we are merely products of chance then it is okay if we murder and okay if we help the poor. We will just do what we do. We have no free will. Chance is in control and not us. You do not punish your computer for breaking down or reward it for functioning properly. They say you need to believe in God in order to believe that what we do really matters. That is not true. You might seem to need to believe in free will but not necessarily in God. It is said that if you don't believe in free will, it is self-contradictory to argue that there is any ethical standard of happiness and right and wrong. If you don't believe in free will and deny the supernatural then it is inconsistent to preach a moral standard.

If we have no free will anyway it does not follow that we are better off deluding ourselves that we have. We still have no free will deluded or not. If you don't have free will, you are better off without the delusion that you have. It would be like you are trying to be less free than you are for nobody deluded is really free.

Suppose it is true that moral standards are nonsense if we are merely automatons made by chance. Suppose that is bad. Then to invent a moral standard that does not exist and declare it to be an objective and real moral standard is worse. Why for it is adding lies into the equation. If morality is really not morality but just preference then it is bad to deny what it really is.

If we cannot have moral standards or an objective moral standard that does not mean there is no moral standard. It just means we are not equipped for it.

Consider these thoughts.

A baby suffers needlessly. It isn't going to do anybody any good.

This is an objective evil.

Is it more objectively evil if there is a God?

Is it more objectively evil if there is no God?

Is it as objectively evil if there is a God or if there is not?

What about the allegation that faith in God is needed for faith in free and in intrinsic values?

If you are not a spirit in a body, if you have no free will, if there is no God, then believers in God say you must be only a mindless and unimportant collection of material and chemical reactions. Nothing you do is really important. Nothing is important for you are just a thing. There is no point in condemning anybody who rapes or murders you.

Instinct kicks in and says that even if we have no free will there is something wrong with saying it is okay for somebody to rape and murder you. If we have this instinct then nothing else matters.

The religionist won't leave it alone and then asks an atheist can have values based on right and wrong.

But values only appear because you prefer certain things. It is about you feeling something matters. The more it matters to you the more value it is.

Religion makes out that values such as kindness and compassion are valuable no matter what we think or feel about them. It says they have intrinsic worth.

But religion is talking nonsense for unless we give them value they have no value.

Religion argues that if it is up to us to value compassion and kindness and they have no value in themselves then what about the fact that moral values need to be discovered by man not created by man.

Religion says that values are objective and God gives you your values.

God cannot force you to have the values. If he does then you have no free will. He is forcing you to feel that something is important.

What if he persuades you? Does he teach you and help you see for yourself that something has value?

If he forces there is no real value.

If he does not force there is still no real value.

Thus values are about us and come from us. We can have values if there is no God. God is irrelevant.

Suppose we have free will and we have to work out what has value. Or suppose we have to create the values and not discover them/. Then in either case we must take responsibility for the values and their consequences and possible consequences.

When men dislike the fact that it is up to us, they seek to manipulate us by creating the values and pretending they don't and that it is God who is creating.

They fear that if we think we have to create the values that we could end up valuing theft or murder their morality is not very nice. It is judging us in the guise of helping us.

Notice how we do discover the value of taking responsibility. We cannot create it for it have it whether we want values or not.