

International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Destiny, Fate, or Free Will/Nature or Nurture

Look at the three images. Describe in your own words what the images suggest about the meanings of fate, destiny, and free will.



Below are some quotes about destiny, fate, and freewill.

Destiny:

“It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.” William Shakespeare

“Men do not shape destiny; Destiny produces the man for the hour.” Fidel Castro

“Every man’s gotta right to decide his own destiny.” Bob Marley

Fate:

“A man’s character is his fate.” Heraclitus

“There is no such thing as accident; it is fate misnamed.” Napoleon Bonaparte

“My fate is in the hands of almighty Allah.” Yahya Jammeh

Freewill:

“You are free to choose what you want to make of your life. It’s called free agency or free will, and it’s your birthright.” Sean Covey

“Genetics play a huge part in who we are. But we also have free will.” Aidan Quinn

“There’s too much tendency to attribute to God the evils that man does of his own free will.” Agatha Christie

Tell which perspective you are inclined to believe and if you can, say what influenced your thoughts.

Do you think it's possible to believe in a combination from those three or not?

How much did your religion influence you when making the choice? Please explain.

Nature VS. Nurture debate

The nature versus nurture debate is about which part of a person is more important; their inherited qualities, which includes genes, or their personal experiences and the way they were brought up. (<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-nature-vs-nurture-debate>)

Which one do you think plays a greater role in the development of a person Nature or Nurture? Explain why.

The Nurture Side: humans acquire all or almost all of their behavioral traits from environmental influences, such as the care given to them by parents and family, and their experiences in daily life including advertisements, media, education, peer influences, and some home environments. (<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-nature-vs-nurture-debate>)

The Nature Side: a person's nature, meaning the traits they got from their parents, have more power in determining a person's identity than how they are nurtured, or raised. These traits are developed before birth, and can be both genetic factors such as eye color, some disorders, and diseases, and non-genetic factors such as wealth and social status. (<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-nature-vs-nurture-debate>)

Are there other factors beyond genes or nurture that make us who we are?