What is Fate(front page)

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Do you think that there is fate? Do you believe that the fate can never be changed?

This is actually the concept of Fatalism, which stresses the subjugation(征服) of all events and behaviors to fate or destiny. In other words, everything is inevitable or settled.

Someone think that this can be easily refuted(反驳), because everything that will happen in the future is unpredictable, so they are not settled ahead of the time it happens.

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So, let’s explore this issue on logical aspect.

I’d like to introduce Aristotle's argument: The Sea Battle Demonstration (海战论证), which can be concluded into this common form.

Premise 1: For any event A, it either occurs or does not occur; ——Excluded middle law(排中律)

Premise 2: If A occurs, then A must occur;

Premise 3: If A does not occur, then A must not occur;

Conclusion: Regardless, any event is inevitable and predetermined.

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There’s another argument made by Richard Talor: Necessary Condition Demonstration(必然条件论证)

Premise 1: If any of the necessary conditions for A to occur are not met, then its not occurrence is predetermined; ——Definition of necessary conditions

Premise 2: One of the necessary conditions for the occurrence of A is the occurrence of A itself; ——A basic mathematical theorem

Conclusion: If A does not occur, then it is predetermined that A will not occur.

Decades past and there are many logicians who refute these two demonstrations. Whether you are persuaded by them, we have to consider about the influence of Fatalism on our daily life. Should we just let it rot(摆烂) or keep on reaching for our goal since whether we can achieve our goal is inevitable?

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Here are some of my opinions on Fatalism.

First, the fate has decided whether our goal can be achieved, but for now and for us, the fact is still unpredictable because the action that should be necessarily made towards the goal hasn’t been made already, and we don’t have the power to predict such a complex problem, due to the connections of everything in the world. So, if we believe that we can never achieve the goal and think that it’s our fate, and you don’t make any improvements, the fact that you don’t achieve the goal really occurs. But if you think that you can make your it come true, and you put every effort into it, your efforts might really pay off.

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Second, your every idea and action are actually the phenomenon of the event ‘you have this idea’ and ‘you make this action’, and they have also been decided by the fate. So the really-matters question is not whether the fate says that you can achieve your goal or not, but whether the fate says that you have the courage to make everything better.

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In a word, fate is the one who decides everything, including all the events, people’s thought and actions. So let’s just believe, if it makes us to believe, that we can always make the world better.

Thank you.