Is fate destined?

Future is all we are concerned about, day in and day out. Will I be successful or not?

Are we all in a simulation? If our fate is destined then why are we or were working hard to be where we are now? Was the struggle also a part of destiny?

In the search for a better future we all put maximum effort to secure our destiny. But, is our future truly destined? As per our ancient books and texts our future is well defined and written in advance. My take on this is slightly different, our decisions are controlled by brain and our brain is highly affected by events we witness in our surrounding and what we learn from those events. Indirectly it means that our decisions are on basis of our surrounding and from the point of view we see events. We also know that our surrounding is manifestation of nature, so we can say that our decisions are manipulated by nature. Let’s take an example, think about an ant which is just born and she sees all other ants in the colony following the queen ant. Naturally, the new ant also follows the queen ant. Now we can perfectly see how the nature has decided its future and impacted its life decisions. Michael Jackson describes a trivial yet life changing event in his autobiography. He writes that the night before his scheduled meeting in world trade center, he was on call with his mom till late night. He woke up late, missed his meeting and remained unharmed from that attack that happened the following day. Was it a mere coincidence? May be , maybe not but it was decided by nature that he will not die on that day. We can see that nature creates these type of situations where it manipulates the future. We all have experienced this in our life but we ignore them by calling coincidence or just not giving them enough thought. But in the end nobody can say that our future is destined?