Free Will

I would like to end this chapter by considering the question of whether the Grandfather Paradox shows that time travel is incompatible with free will.

Let us start with a preliminary question: *what is it to act freely?* The **Control Hypothesis** is the hypothesis that to act freely is to be such that one *is in a position to act otherwise*. A little more precisely:

Control Hypothesis
An agent acts freely in doing *X* if and only if: (1) she does *X* by making a certain decision, and (2) she is in a position to do something other than *X* by making a different decision.

As its name suggests, the Control Hypothesis is meant to capture the idea that someone who acts freely has *control* over the action she performs. As we'll see below, there are good reasons for thinking that the Control Hypothesis is incorrect. But it is a good starting point for elucidating the connection between time travel and free will. So we'll treat it as our working hypothesis for now.

With this as our background, let us turn to the question of whether Bruno acted freely in failing to kill Grandfather. I'd like to consider a couple of arguments purporting to show that Bruno was *not* in a position to make a different decision about how to take his shot. Although they are natural arguments, I will argue that they ultimately fail.

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Free Will of what

Are we talking about free will of an elementary particle or of a living being? Obviously an element...

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