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Philosophy

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D’Holbach’s Costly Expectations of Free Agency

In *The Illusion of Free Will*, Baron D’Holbach states that in order for a man to be a free agent, he must exist without motivation. For every action is driven by preconceived notions of satisfying a person’s needs and desires, and these thoughts and feelings precede and drive our actions. He states that even when we make a choice, it is based on careful considerations, and that due to these circumstances, the choices and actions we take are not liberated but yet determined by what we already know or perceive or consider. In order for man to be a free agent, he would have to make decisions based on random with no inclinations or leanings; merely instead picking at random with no attachment to results or no needs to fulfill such as survival of self.