

Free Will and the Afterlife: A Philosophical Comparison between Asia and the West



Presented by:

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Philosophers of monotheistic Western cultures have taken great interest in whether determinism rules out free will. They accept that a perfect God created the world, and many accept the existence of an eternal hell. Human free will helps them explain worldly evils and eternal damnation. Asian philosophers who didn't believe in a perfect creator or eternal damnation were not concerned to defend free will against determinism. The philosophical interest of free will is specific to a particular theological framework.