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Free Will?

The power of acting without the constraint of necessity or fate; the ability to act at one's own discretion.

Information is whatever causes a computer or human to act. Computers act as directed by parameters in response to physical inputs. Humans act as directed by ideas, based on ideas.

In every human psyche there is a personal view of the universe, consisting of ideas that are analogous to reality, if such there be. The physical forms and contents of Ideas are not their meanings.

In a computer the meaning of the program is not found by inspecting the code. The meaning is in the story of what the computer program is designed to accomplish.

In humans, the meanings of programmatic behavior are not found by inspecting brain activity. The meanings are in the stories we tell ourselves, our ideas.

For example, in the Aesop fable of the Fox and the Crow, a fox spies a crow high up in a tree with a sprig of grapes in its beak. "Oh, crow", says the fox, "you have such a beautiful voice! Please sing for me." The crow sings. The grapes fall to the ground. The fox picks them up and trots off.

The meaning of this story does not appear in any of the words or sentences. Its physical form and content are not its meaning. The story is an allegory, an analogy.

Ideas are 'stories' the psyche tells itself to understand the universe and to decide how to act. Free will is acting on your sense of self, and of right and wrong, and of all other value-based ideas.

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