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***Free Will
and
Predestination***

***A Synthesis
in the Light of the
Consciousness Paradigm***

Drs. Frans Langenkamp

***My conclusion on
free will and predestination:
they are identical.***

~ Sir Winston Churchill

***The distinction between
past, present and future
is only a stubbornly
persistent illusion.***

~ Albert Einstein

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Foreword

Sooner or later, everyone encounters the question: what about free will and predestination? If chance does not exist, as many people believe, and if everything is already predetermined, do I still have free will? How far does my free will actually extend, and if predestination does exist, to what *extent* is my life predetermined? It is very likely that these kinds of questions have also occurred to you, otherwise you would not be holding this book in your hands right now.

However, in my experience, it is almost impossible to find a satisfactory answer to these questions. This small book is a big exception to this rule. The life-sized puzzle of free will and predestination is solved here in a profound but surprisingly simple way. In my opinion, the usual answers to these questions are inadequate and only raise more questions. This book was written with the intention of once and for all, cracking the nut of free will and predestination, which has preoccupied humanity for thousands of years.

The ultimate solution to the paradox of free will and predestination offered in this book not only satisfies your intellectual curiosity, but also familiarises you with a holistic view of life, in which you can harmonize and reconcile all apparent contradictions! It shows you the way to a new and more cosmic *self-image*. It shows you the way to a new and more cosmic *image of God*. It shows you the way to a new and more cosmic *world view*. And all this in one all-comprehensive vision! This universal philosophy of life shows you the way to the integration of the masculine and feminine aspects of your personality. It shows you the way to integrated functioning of both hemispheres of your brain. It shows you the way to an integration of your feelings with your intellect.

Humanity seems to have reached a point in its development where an integrated and universal view of life can no longer be ignored. Developments are accelerating. Uncertainty is growing. Old certainties are falling away. The traditional pillars of support that religion, science and government seemed to offer are crumbling day by day be-

cause they simply cannot withstand the critical test of time ... they are all too superficial, too limited and fragmented.

Despite the anxiety and problems associated with this breaking down of old certainties, I still believe it is a fortunate development. If a new vision is to emerge, one that is better than the one with which we have organised life on this beautiful planet until now, then old and outdated ideas and structures must first be cleared away. For many of us, this global process is accompanied by a feeling of disorientation. There is a growing demand for true and reliable knowledge about life. Many are intuitively searching for a kind of all-encompassing insight that reveals the essence of life and reality as such.

I believe that the insights offered in this book meet precisely this global need. The knowledge offered here is of an eternal and universal nature. It lifts you far above your daily concerns. It focuses your attention on eternal and universal matters, without resorting to belief or religious dogma. It has the power to expand your mind to an all-encompassing level of insight. The 'Copernican revolution' that this new vision could bring about in your consciousness is precisely the transformation for which global consciousness has gradually become ripe.

By enjoying this universal wisdom and taking it into your heart, you become a pioneer of a new phase in human development. A new insight is dawning on the horizon, making all awakened people increasingly aware of the common basis of all branches of science, religion, philosophy and art. This book will familiarise you with a comprehensive view, a holistic vision. An integrating view that can serve as a guide throughout your life for the full development of your innate potential.

It seems that you are destined to read this book. Nevertheless, I assume that you are doing so of your own free will. I can assure you that from now on, your sense of true freedom in life will only increase!

Introduction

For many years, I have noticed that I am not the only one interested in the question of how free will can be reconciled with predestination. Everywhere I go, I notice that people are searching for a satisfactory answer to the question of whether free will exists at all, or whether it is an illusion. People puzzle over the extent of free will that we are granted and the extent to which the events in our lives are predestined. Sometimes we have an intuitive feeling that a certain encounter cannot be a coincidence. A Chinese restaurant in my Hometown calls itself *Yuan*. The day I finished writing this text about free will and predestination, I treated myself and my life partner to an evening meal there. At one point, my gaze wandered over the decorative walls of the dining room. There was written what the name *Yuan* actually means. What do you think? *A predestined encounter*. Is it any wonder that at that moment I felt that it was meant to be? In other words, at such a moment one inevitably gets the impression that some cosmic Intelligence has ‘planned’ this visit to this specific restaurant.

Swiss psychologist Carl Jung gave a name to such experiences or events. He called it *synchronicity*. By this he meant that reality essentially functions on the principle of simultaneity. After all, everything happens in the Eternal Now! Now and then, we are granted a glimpse into the principles that underlie the functioning of reality. The discovery of the laws of Nature shows us that there is an orderliness underlying seemingly disorderly and random events. To what extent do these inherent and partly still unknown laws of Nature determine our life experiences? *God does not play dice with the world*, said Albert Einstein, who throughout his life resisted the so-called uncertainty principle formulated by his colleague Werner Heisenberg. Einstein was convinced that if we only had a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of creation, this uncertainty – which seems to accompany the observation of the speed or position of an electron – would disappear. The brilliant mathematician and physicist, Nobel

Prize winner Paul Dirac, shared the same opinion. He too believed that Heisenberg's probability principle was not the ultimate insight into reality. It is a pity that neither of them had heard of the consciousness paradigm...

There are people who report an increase in the number of *synchronicity experiences* after undergoing an inner transformation. Personally, I know several people who have had a 'near-death experience'. They all report that their lives have taken on new meaning and that they feel their lives are unfolding according to some kind of *cosmic or divine plan*. Not only are they convinced that their *own* lives are unfolding according to a cosmic plan (in which the accident or the disease that caused them to be clinically dead was a crucial part), but that *all our* lives are unfolding according to a cosmic plan! Could these people be right? The difficulty is that there is no scientific evidence to support this claim. At least not in the materialistic sciences taught at universities and colleges.

Materialism

The conventional sciences are based on a certain worldview. The prevailing worldview, on which the regular, international community of scientists works, is based on so-called *materialism*. This philosophy assumes that matter is primary and that mind or consciousness is secondary. Only that which we can actually perceive with our senses is real. It assumes that reality consists solely of energy and matter. Mental activity and the existence of consciousness in general are seen as the product of electrochemical activity in the brain. No statement is made about what consciousness as such might be. At most, it is claimed that it is an *epiphenomenon* of the brain, which has no independent reality.

The subjectivity of the scientist himself is in fact regarded by science as a kind of nuisance, which must be kept out of scientific thinking and research as much as possible. The ever-changing states of the researcher's individual consciousness must not influence or disrupt the objectivity of accurate and systematic observations. At least, that

is the ideal that is pursued. Of course, this overlooks the fact that without consciousness, no thought is possible, let alone observation. Not to mention any form of creativity.

Apart from this logical impossibility inherent in materialism, there are also increasing practical problems with the materialistic world view. The aim of science is to be able to explain everything, to shed light on everything so that it becomes clear. But if we are unable to explain what the scientist's own consciousness is, we will never close the circle. If we cannot explain a 'near-death experience' in any materialistic way (at that moment there are no electrochemical impulses in the brain, as research has shown), then something seems to be fundamentally missing in the materialistic world view. The above-mentioned phenomenon of synchronicity cannot be satisfactorily explained by the prevailing world view either. In fact, more and more of these so-called *anomalies* are being discovered.

Things that are actually impossible

Anomalies are phenomena for which the prevailing form of science has no explanation. At first, these observations are denied. They are simply not seen because of the psychological mechanism of cognitive dissonance. This is a fancy word for the simple fact that people tend to forget what does not fit into their world view and pretend it does *not* exist. As Simon and Garfunkel sing: *A man hears what he wants to hear, and disregards the rest*. When it is no longer possible to ignore it, people try to fit the inexplicable phenomena into the prevailing world view, which usually does not do them justice. In the past, a person who brought up an anomaly was ridiculed or declared a heretic. Many wise men and women ended up at the stake. In the name of God or Allah, millions of people have been liquidated, as it is euphemistically called nowadays.

Isn't it about time that a science emerged that can demonstrate that God and Allah mean exactly the same thing? Yes, that's right, the greatest anomaly for the current scientific world view is the fact that there are several billion people for whom the concept of God, or Al-

lah, or Shiva, or Brahman, or Paramatma, or Adonai, or Yahweh, or Tao, or cosmic consciousness refers to a certain level of reality.

Shouldn't we expect, even demand, that our scientists conduct serious research into what these words mean? Nikola Tesla is known for taking this abstract level of reality seriously. He said: *The day science begins to study non-physical phenomena, it will make more progress in one decade than in all the preceding centuries of its existence.* He also spoke of a cosmic source of knowledge and inspiration: *My brain is merely a receiver; in the universe there is a core from which we obtain knowledge, power and inspiration. I have not penetrated the secrets of this core, but I know it exists.* If we understand God as the source of creation, then every child can see that there can only be *one* source, whatever we want to call it. Why don't the followers of different religions see that? And why don't learned scientists see that? The answer to this question is that people use a certain *paradigm* in which there is no place for anything that is completely abstract.

I love the word paradigm. It is so comprehensive and so meaningful. It stands for the framework within which people try to understand reality and find solutions to existing issues and practical problems. In the broadest sense of the word, it stands for the world view that people consciously or unconsciously adhere to. If, during your formative years, you have constantly heard that life is a struggle, then you will find it only logical that people in different parts of the world fight each other. War is then seen as natural and inevitable. You can be sure that the people involved in such a struggle, especially those who direct it from their offices and council chambers, adhere to this philosophy of life. These people do not consider that life does not necessarily have to be a struggle. Or if they do consider it, they dismiss it as naivety, a dream.

The paradigm in which one lives determines the type and extent of the blinders one wears. The more unaware one is of the specific worldview or paradigm one adheres to, the more strongly one is in-

fluenced by it; the more strongly all one's actions are guided and determined by it. Mechanisms of this kind have been brought to light in psychology and psychiatry. Once again, it is the wise scientist Carl Gustav Jung who succinctly expressed this mechanism: *What you cannot face becomes your fate*. If we want to make the most of the greatest 'gift from God to man' – our innate freedom – then we would do well to become aware of the worldview that has been instilled into our hearts and minds during childhood. This has the benefit that we become increasingly aware of the anomalies that have surrounded us all this time, but which we have ignored or rationalised away.

The inexplicable Life

Isn't it remarkable that modern Western science is unable to explain many everyday phenomena? I'm not even talking about UFOs or near-death experiences. What about life itself? Can life be explained scientifically with the current state of science? No. Even if you put a thousand biologists together with another thousand chemists and another thousand physicists... they would not be able to produce a single living blade of grass. Now, that's not necessary, as you know, because Mother Nature effortlessly produces millions and billions of them every day. But this simple fact is worth noting. The average scientist does not understand life. But anyway, perhaps I'm making it a little too difficult for scientists with this example. Let's keep it even closer to home.

Take our own consciousness, for example. Or the consciousness of a dog or cat, or of an ant or a bacterium. We all agree that all these creatures possess a certain degree of consciousness. But can current science understand and explain the phenomenon of consciousness, the source of our thinking, feeling and willing? No. Our own consciousness appears to be a major anomaly for the prevailing paradigm! Another example. What do they actually mean in churches, temples and mosques when they talk about 'God', 'Shiva' or 'Allah'? Unfortunately, no mainstream science can shed enough light on

this to provide a clear and satisfactory answer to this simple, legitimate, if not important, question. Perhaps you are one of the many who have come to *believe* that these kinds of questions simply cannot be answered. Do you see what I mean by paradigm? **In this essay on free will and predestination, I hope to show you and help you experience that these kinds of questions can really be answered satisfactorily and rationally! All that is needed is a broadening of the framework of thought within which we operate.** A broadening of our world view is necessary in order to answer these kinds of essential questions.

An all-encompassing frame of reference

This book will familiarise you with a new frame of reference, a new paradigm, a new world view, in which you can easily answer these globally asked questions yourself. It is all just a matter of insight. In this ‘new’ paradigm, we start from the big white spot on the map of mainstream science. What is the biggest white spot on the map of materialistic science? Yes, you could even say: what is the biggest white spot in human knowledge? *Consciousness*. The ancient wisdom, which is coming to light again in this ‘new’ paradigm, assumes that there is only one consciousness in the entire universe. Whose consciousness is that? *Our* consciousness. Our common consciousness, the consciousness of you and me. It is the consciousness of the Chinese and the Tibetans. It is the consciousness of the Russians and the Americans. It is the consciousness of the Greeks and the Italians. In short, all people share the same consciousness, simply because consciousness is our *common essence*! Here we run into another word with which modern science does not know what to do: *essence*. Doesn’t *essence* have to do with Being? Yes, it does. *Esse* is Latin for *to be*; it has everything to do with the simplest fact of life, namely that we all *exist*. *Being* is our most intimate inner and at the same time most objective life experience.

What is Consciousness?

According to the ancient wisdom of humanity, what makes Being special is that it exists in its own right and is conscious of itself. That is why our wise ancestors called it *consciousness*. **According to mystics from both the East and the West, this consciousness is the omnipresent essence of all that is, was and will be.** Let me put it another way: **Everything is. Everything that exists is a specific form or manifestation of Being. Simply put, everything that exists is a form of Being, a form in which Being has expressed itself.** And since the omnipresent Being is conscious of itself, this omnipresent ‘field’ of *Being* is also called *Consciousness*. This self-aware Beingness, referred to as Consciousness for short, is, according to mystics from both East and West, the essence of everything and everyone. **Just as all forms of pottery are a design or manifestation of clay, so everything that exists is a manifestation or design of consciousness. From this perspective, we are not primarily a body or even a thinking or feeling mind, but we are primarily consciousness.** We *are* consciousness and we *have* a soul-mind-body system, through which we can express our *selves* (our consciousness) and through which we can gain experiences of manifest, objective existence. Does this perspective sound familiar to you? Do you feel a kind of resonance with this view deep in your soul? Probably so, otherwise you would not have picked up this book and read it so attentively.

If you cannot spontaneously endorse it from within, simply view it as a new kind of scientific hypothesis that you can investigate further for yourself. There is nothing unscientific about this hypothesis. It is logical and precise. Although it stems from wisdom traditions associated with gnosticism or mysticism, it is logical and rational. It views reality from a logical and clear perspective from which suddenly a great deal becomes clear. This allows you to immediately understand what is meant by the beautiful words God, Allah, Shiva, Brahman, etc. Indeed... consciousness, omnipresent consciousness!

Unfortunately, most dignitaries of the various religions are unaware of this universal point of view. Otherwise, the situation in the world would not be so sad. For thousands of years, religion has been more of a divisive force than a unifying one. **This is because even the average ‘religious’ people did not understand the *essence* of their own religion. Therefore, they could not recognise this universal essence in other religions.** But now *you* can. You realise that all religions, by definition, refer to this one universal essence. Congratulations, this is not only extremely beneficial and healing for you, but also healing and harmonising for humanity as a whole. You are now at the level of a very simple but nevertheless comprehensive insight that the founders of the many religions had when they formulated their wisdom. Their whole intention was to make their fellow human beings *aware* of this one essential point: **We are all the manifestation of one and the same omnipresent *consciousness*.** The *name* that people wanted to give to this cosmic consciousness is hardly relevant, if at all. After all, Being exists beyond all names and forms. All names and forms are names and forms of that one omnipresent consciousness. Of course, each of us, including you, is also a manifestation of this omnipresent, universal Being.

We are all unique expressions of one and the same cosmic consciousness. In this cosmic view, which is very logical and scientific, our common essence comes to light spontaneously. **That is why the founders of all religions said that we are all *essentially* one!** The founders of the various religions further pointed out to their fellow human beings that not only we humans are the expression of the one living consciousness, but that everything and everyone is its expression! **We humans are special manifestations of the omnipresent consciousness in that we are potentially capable of consciously experiencing and understanding our own essence! *After all, we humans have the ability to be aware of our own consciousness!*** The founders of the various religions have experienced and understood that we are all *essentially* one with cosmic consciousness. The one, universal intelligence that underlies the orderly and creative func-

tioning of the cosmos is our origin and essence. This is the essence of all religions. Let the physicists and other scientists follow Nikola Tesla's advice and begin to subject these insights to in-depth and serious research. They will then quickly come to the conclusion that this *consciousness hypothesis* is as scientific as any other logical and rational hypothesis.

A new Copernican revolution

Then a second Copernican revolution will occur in the consciousness of humanity. And this revolution will have even more far-reaching consequences than the realisation that the Earth revolves around the Sun and not vice versa! This revolution will represent an even greater step forward in gaining insight into the nature of reality. **The Copernican revolution was already a paradigm shift of the highest order. It literally made humanity's consciousness much more cosmic. It made our world view much more adequate.** The paradigm shift that will take place through the understanding of the common essence of all people, animals and things is also a step towards a more adequate world view. Yes, you can safely say that it will make the world view much more scientific. The materialistic paradigm – which is already beginning to show cracks and fissures as a result of discoveries in modern quantum physics – will then be expanded by a consciousness-based world view. After all, consciousness is the common element in all branches of science. All knowledge is, by definition, structured in consciousness. All sciences are structured and built in consciousness. Without consciousness, there is nothing to know. Only when consciousness becomes alive or awake can we gain knowledge and experience.

The main qualities of consciousness are intelligence and creativity. All branches of knowledge are an expression of intelligence and creativity. Naturally all *religions* are also an expression of intelligence and creativity. The founders of the various religions were not necessarily religious people; they were wise people. They did not want to promote *a certain believe*; they wanted people to become wise and