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On the Freedom of Will: a Reflexive Concept of the Self-determination of Will

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Abstract: Will refers to a psychological or mental function, and an attribute of acts intentionally committed, which is present for agents in their mind to act decisively agents, considered as free because agents determine their own acts. In intellectual history, the ancient Greek philosophy of rationalism, Christian theology, German idealism, and even existentialism in post-enlightenment era all argue for the notion of the freedom of will related to the self-determination and the self-discipline of will. However, all the arguments fail to rule out the possibility of determinism, sociol-cultural determinism in particular. Therefore, the concept can only be discussed with the framework of a broad compatibilism. The freedom of will is both the reflection and the counteraction of the self-determination of will, so it should be understood in the sense of reflexivity of the self-determinism of will.

Keywords: will; the freedom of will; the self-determination of will; reflexivity; determinism