

Determinism and Faith

A determinist believes that every event is caused by a previous event, implying that if you knew the positions and velocities of every atom in the universe, you could theoretically predict all future events. Physicists tell us though that events in the quantum world are indeterminate, that there is no way to know *both* the position and velocity of a particle at any given moment. They tell us further that instead of a cause, there is a “probability cloud.” Only when this probability collapses can we know a cause, and only when there is a measurement does this collapse occur.

This makes the measurer part of the cause-effect chain.

Does quantum indeterminacy mean that determinism is false and that free will exists? Even inside the probability cloud, it is *inconceivable* that there is no causation. We just cannot know it. The existence of causeless events is the issue. Are they within the bounds of science to explore, to conceptualize, to theorize about, or even to measure? If there are no causeless events, then determinism is true, and all our beliefs about free will and morality are ultimately untrue. Causeless events exist only if we have faith that they do, and this faith ultimately requires belief in a higher power.