

# I, Robot? [poverty free will versus poverty prede

Okay, I am writing about something I do not believe in. Free will versus determinism. Are we free? Is poverty predestined to visit some of us, temporarily or permanently? And miss others?

Sometimes I feel that we are all robots. Maybe? But I really believe that we are all free! What got me to thinking about this was my lifelong excursion and exploration into matters mystical, mythic, paranormal events, UFOs, etc., past, present and



by Bill Krampe, Vendor and Editorial Contributor

perhaps future?

Mystical events, mythical encounters, the UFO experiences and the paranormal of all kinds

have been with the human race for countless hundreds and even thousands of years. These tales of the ancients especially remind us about the puzzling instructions of the paranormal, but now, as earlier, many messages were and are wrapped in riddles and absurdist messages. In the far distant past, these puzzling messages had meaning only if the recipient of a given message did successfully wrestle with it, to understand the solution. For example, Ezekiel and

the experiences with the flying heavenly host or whatever it was, ancient and contemporary UFO experiences, also the Gordian Knot come to mind as well as the Fatima, Portugal Blessed Virgin Mary vision with the child Lucia and her mates.

Today the paranormal encounters especially like UFO events most reported involves paradoxes and oddly off the wall happenings. With all these recent rational, absurd, friendly, hostile stories that altogether don't really make much sense, some of the scientists and researchers who make it their business to study such phenomena have decided to take another look. What they realized, eventually, was that they were working on the wrong level, trying to get things to fit, by force, into a mold that wasn't right. Finally they did indeed find a workable model, the banal, household

thermostat. The thermostat is linked to a system, they surmised. And this system is one that worked for all the ancient and modern paranormal events. So what they came up with was that a functioning spiritual control system was being used to regulate human beings. Just like a thermostat controls the temperature within a home or a building.

The thermostats that regulate your home or building temperature summer and winter are an example of a control system. In summer, a thermostat allows the air to get warmer until a certain limit is reached, and then the cooling system is triggered. But in winter . . . a different mechanism, the heater, comes into play and warms the house. To understand this one needs to grasp the concept of a control system. One must understand that a control system is all about the functioning of a system which exists because of the dynamic of two opposite principles. Like periodicity versus unpredictability? But I am getting ahead of myself . . .

heavyweights in the scientific community who maintain that a

spiritual control system for human consciousness exists. They assert this after studying all the details of many thousands of paranormal events through the ages. Some of these scientists include Dr. Jacques Vallee, formerly of Stanford University, Dr. Douglas Price-Williams of UCLA, and Dr. Fred Beckman of the University of Chicago. But the referenced material comes from the grandfather of control and management of human beings, himself, B.F. Skinner.

Some of these ideas about control comes from work sponsored by the US Navy, specifically the Office of Naval Research. Much of the following comes from the highly technical volume called *Patterns of Reinforcement* by Charles Ferster and B.F. Skinner. Skinner had been working for half a century on these control ideas and how they relate to human beings, and other animals. His conclusions can be summarized in a few words thusly: "Dramatic modification of the behaviour of an animal [including human] can be achieved by selectively reinforcing certain actions, for instance by giving food to a pigeon, only when he

There are some

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- St. Vincent de Paul, Priest.

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**In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful**  
(Excerpts from the Holy Qur'an)

Have you thought of him that denies the Last Judgement? It is he who turns away the orphan and has no urge to feed the destitute. Woe to those who pray but are heedless in their prayer; who make a show of piety and forbid almsgiving. (Alms 107: 1-7)

Righteousness does not consist of in whether you face towards the East or the West. The righteous man is he who believes in God and the Last Day, in the angels and the Books and the prophets; who, though he loves it dearly, gives away his wealth to kinsfolk, to orphans, to the destitute, to the traveller in need and to the beggars... (The Cow 2: 174)

Give to the near of kin their due, and also to the destitute and to the wayfarers. do not squander your substance wastefully, for the wasteful are Satan's brothers; and Satan is ever ungrateful to his Lord. But if, while waiting for your Lord's bounty, you lack the means to assist them, then at least speak to them kindly. (The Night Journey 17:26-28)

The Evil one threatens you with poverty and bids you to conduct unseemly. Allah promiseth you His forgiveness and bounties. And Allah careth for all and He knoweth all things. (Al-Baqara2:268)

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