

Fernando Pessoa

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In the first case we determine a thing be itself, in which case that thing is said to be indeterminate or, in other words is said to determine itself. But this expression is bad, inasmuch as it gives the idea of a thing being the «determining» whereas it is we that determine, all determination *being done by a subject*. Determination is the work of an intellect.

Being is determined as being and not-being because the principle of negativity is the centre of our intellect. From that basis the principle of contradiction, which only can be when a thing has a contrary.

The only thing really free is the Absolute Will or Universal Will which, being indetermined, is thereby absolute or free. Only power can be free, because it is not *act*. All acts are determined and necessary. *Quidquid fit necessario fit*. (Schopenhauer?)

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Textos Filosóficos . Vol. II. Fernando Pessoa. (Estabelecidos e prefaciados por António de Pina Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1968: 90.