

## CHAPTER SIX

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### Destiny's Deception

Many people believe a force called **destiny** controls human life. Do you have an inevitable **destiny** controlling you? This chapter is going to unravel the empty, twisted logic upon which the concept of **destiny** is based. **Fate** is the grandfather concept from which other “luck theologies” developed. **Destiny**, **chance**, and **fortune** are all actually descriptive enlargements of the fundamental idea of **fate**'s meaning. **Fate**, as we have already studied, expresses a belief in the existence of a god whose power is great enough to control human life. **Destiny** is commonly used by those who believe in a specific declaration by a god-like force, concerning a human life. As with **fate**, **destiny**'s point of reference is the supposed action of a god. Consequently, the meaning of **destiny** projects worthless, idolatrous reasoning and belief. As with **fate**, the meaning of **destiny** stands in direct opposition to the Word of God.

## No Such Thing As Luck

For the Lord *is* great, and greatly to be praised:  
*He* is to be feared [respected] above all gods.

For the gods of the nations *are* idols: but the  
Lord made the heavens.

Psalms 96:4-5

Earlier, we saw devilish deception operating within the concept of **fate**. In this chapter, we are going to see the continuation of that deception operating in **destiny's** concept. Before we get into that deception, we need to look at the background and development of **destiny's** meaning.

What we really have in the development of **destiny's** meaning is the emergence of a lying claim. Clearly, ancient gods were powerless, but the idolaters who bowed down to them said, "They have power." They announced a lying proclamation. They falsely claimed, "The power of the gods we worship is great enough to determine what is going to happen in our lives." This is the sense of meaning for the Latin word, *dēstināre*. **Destiny's** meaning took root in this Latin word. *Dēstināre* proclaims the force of action by a god to "fasten down," i.e., to determine a given outcome in a human life; to set its boundaries and to determine its ends.

The definition of **destiny** set forth by *Webster's New World Dictionary* is as follows:

1. The inevitable or necessary succession of events.
2. What will necessarily happen to any person or thing (one's) fortune?
3. That which determines events: said of either a supernatural agency or necessity.
4. [D-], in Greek and Roman Mythology ,The goddess of destiny. The Three Fates – Syn. see Fate. <sup>1</sup>

## Destiny's Deception

A brief examination of the above definition will help to reveal **destiny's** close relationship to **fate**. Every essential idea used by *Webster's New World Dictionary* to define **fate** is employed here in its definition for **destiny**. As stated earlier, the key elements in the idea of **fate** were summarized to be: that which is predetermined, declared, and actuated by a god or gods upon human life. This summation fits **destiny** perfectly.

Finally, in *Webster's* fourth sense of this word, we get to the heart of **destiny's** origin - Greek and Roman mythology. Please note that the oldest sense of **destiny** is given last. This is a reversal of the guiding principle that dictionaries normally observe. Here, in the last listed sense of this word, we learn **destiny** is a goddess. The three mystical sisters, earlier called "The Fates," are here called the goddess of **destiny**. The concluding aspect of *Webster's* definition gives **destiny** a synonym. What do you suppose this synonym might be? You are absolutely right; it is the word "**fate**."

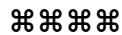
In *The Oxford English Dictionary*, there are five senses of **destiny** listed. It is especially noteworthy that "see **Fate**" appears at the end of all five. For example:

5. *Mythol.* The goddess of destiny; *pl.* The three goddesses held in Greek and Roman mythology, to determine the course of human life; the Fates: see FATE *sb.* <sup>2</sup>

**Destiny**, as we are beginning to see, is clearly not distinct from **fate**. These two words are simply different words that describe the same concept. They are words that have the same range of applicability. What can be said of one can be said of the other. They both denote and connote the same idea. Both *fātum* (FATE) and *dēstināre* (DESTINY) refer to the presumed force of a god, to control, and thusly to

## No Such Thing As Luck

determine the outcomes of a human life. What we actually have in the concept of both **destiny** and **fate** is the projection of a distorted reality. Both words set forth the lying claim that man-made gods have power. They project the identical absurd meaning.



Next, we are going to examine the difference in meaning that has developed between **d-e-s-t-i-n-y** and **d-e-s-t-i-n-e**. (In order to fathom the corrupted meaning of **destine** we need to be adventurous enough to tackle a short word study. This will require a little time and two pages worth of patience to get the job done. We need to buckle down and stick with it! It will be a rewarded effort.) *Roget's Thesaurus* gives the following three forms for destiny: verb, adjective, and noun.

Word and meaning	Synonym
Destine <i>verb</i> To determine the future of in advance.	FATE <i>verb</i>
Destined <i>adjective</i> Governed and decided by or as if by fate.	FATED
Destiny <i>noun</i> That which is inevitable destined.	FATE <i>noun</i>

3

## Destiny's Deception

All three forms come directly from the identical root word, *dēstināre*. Any variation of meaning between these words has to be a corruption of *dēstināre*'s original concept. This is essentially what has happened with the word **destine**. Its present-day meaning is a corruption of *dēstināre*.

*The Oxford English Dictionary's* definition of **destiny** is helpful because it shows the weakened variation of meaning between **destiny** and **destine**. *Oxford's* third sense of **destiny** is:

In weakened sense (cf. DESTINE v.2): What in the course of events will become or has become of a person or thing; the ultimate condition.<sup>4</sup>

Today, **destine** refers almost exclusively to an ultimate condition or the end result of what is happening to a person or thing.

It is also important to understand that words such as *designate* and *intend*, have crept into the definition of **destine**. They have changed its emphasis away from controlling gods, and thereby have weakened its original meaning. The usage of these superfluous words is actually a corruption of **destine's** original concept. We need to examine these words briefly.

The word "designate" is derived from the Latin word *designatus*, which means to point out; mark out; indicate; specify. Its basic meaning refers to what, in the course of events, will become of a person or a thing. Designate deals with an ultimate condition, but it does not deal with the actual cause for that condition. (No gods are presumed to be causing the outcome of anything here.) The emphasis for designate is assignment, but it does not name the assignor.

## No Such Thing As Luck

Our word “intend” is derived from the Latin *intendere*. Its basic meaning is to stretch out, or to aim at. Its first sense is purpose or plan. It implies having something in mind.<sup>5</sup> Even though the word “intend” deals with purpose and design, it implies nothing about the cause behind the purpose and design. The actual cause behind the action for this word is not denoted.

By selecting words like designate and intend to define **destine**, we have moved away from a theological context. Remember though, the genuine meaning of **destine** must be defined within its theological context. The original concept for **destine** had no meaning whatsoever, apart from the force of a god controlling the outcome of a human life. This alone is the exclusive origin and meaning for **destine**. Any other meaning has been construed in a later time, and this is exactly what has happened!

In the more modern, corrupt meaning of **destine**, there is little or no reference to a god. For example, look at how *The American Heritage Dictionary* defines **destine**:

1. To determine beforehand; preordain: *a foolish scheme destined to fail; a film destined to become a classic.*
2. To assign for a specific end, use, or purpose: *money destined to pay for their child's education.*<sup>6</sup>

Although theology was originally the main thrust of **destine**, this is no longer true. The modern definition has altogether dropped the theological context.

With the introduction of legitimate terminology that has a similar meaning, the bogus concept of *dēstināre* begins to take on a new legitimacy. By dropping *dēstināre*'s theological context, the modern definition for **destine** now has the

## Destiny's Deception

appearance of a credible meaning. The subtle change of emphasis in the modern definition places the actions of this word upon what is chosen, and away from the chooser (the god). This “slight-of-hand” emphasis change is significant.

Now this word simply refers to an ultimate condition or to the end result of a prior decision. It should be perfectly clear by now, the modern meaning of **destine** is a perversion of *dēstināre*, and consequently, a corruption of **destiny's** original concept. The original lying claim of **destiny** (the action of a god) now safely hides behind the new, seemingly legitimate idea of **destine** (to designate a purpose or make an assignment). Maybe someone will ask, “What is so significant about all this?”

**Destine** has become a “trickster” word. Its modern-day meaning shadows and conceals the force responsible for determining the end result. The description of who it is that is responsible for the action in this word remains unnamed, and even masked by obscurity. The one who is operating the “force of determination” is left to the surmising of the individual hearing this word. It is the masked, obscure forces in the modern meaning of **destine** which makes room for the devil to operate his intentions.

Often we hear people make simple statements like: “He is **destined** for greatness,” or “She is **destined** for stardom.” Well, just WHO is it that has determined the successful outcome for his greatness or her stardom? The force or entity determining their outcomes remains cloaked in obscurity. It is not named. Do you care to guess what that force might be? Actually, there is no need to guess. The implication is abundantly clear. It is that “great power of determination” we saw in the last chapter popping up again.

## No Such Thing As Luck

When the May 14-16, 2004 “USA Weekend” magazine article, (Who’s News), reports that Oprah Winfrey said, “She realized why she never had children: she was **destined** to care for neglected or needy kids.” What does the phrase “she was **destined**” suppose to mean? Who was responsible for the decision to care for neglected and needy kids? The implied meaning of **destined** is clear. Some mysterious, supernatural power was at work, determining the outcome for her.

The fictitious power of **fate** is now called by its updated name - **destiny**; and the meaning of **destiny** is concealed behind the respectable appearance and cleverly disguised modern definition of **destine**. When the phony concept of **fate** gets exposed for the “laughing-stock” that it is, its new name **destiny** appears. When the ridiculous concept of **destiny** gets exposed for the “laughing-stock” that it is, the mask of obscurity worn by the word **destine** pops up to continue **destiny**’s deception. The original devilish deception of **fate** was that idolatrous gods have the power to control human life. The deception of **destiny** only projects a new name for the same lie, and the modern-day concept of **destine** has provided a means to continue the original deception of **destiny**’s meaning. The implied meaning of “it was meant to be” or “**destined** to be” needs honest confrontation. When the implied power in the meaning of **destine** is fully named, then we are able to grasp its deviant idolatrous meaning.

