

True Freedom - “choice”. - St. Thomas Aquinas says it best:

“Choice results from the decision or judgment which is, as it were, the conclusion of a practical syllogism. Hence, that which is the conclusion of a practical syllogism, is the matter of choice. Now, in practical things, the end just stands in a position of principle, not of conclusion... Wherefore, the end, as such, is not a matter of choice.”

In other words, we will the end but choose our means. The end will be there whether we will or choose it or not. The awareness of this is elaborated further by Peter Kreft:

“God, our final end, is not avoidable, not an “option” like a movie or meal, not something for religious people (whoever they are) but “the only show in town” or, as C.S. Lewis puts it, “The only fruit (good) this universe can grow - the only fruit any possible universe can grow.”

We cannot choose our final end, but only the means to get there.

True freedom is a function of the act (A) of whatever nature. That act may be given a quantitative value on a scale of life **significance** (S) (digging a hole has lesser significance than delivering a baby). This significant act (A) is multiplied **by number of choices** (C) available (the greater the number of choices available, the greater the freedom for the act). Freedom is reduced by the **conditioned reflexes** (Cr) promoting the act further reduced by the **physiological reflexes** (Pr) impelling the act, and reduced more so by **social pressures** (Sp) conditioning the act. The entire freedom calculation has been taken to the power of the number of **transcendentals intended**. (Ti) in outcome of the act (the more the transcendentals intended, the greater the freedom).

$$F = \left(\frac{A \times S \times C}{Cr + Pr + Sp + 1} \right)^{Ti}$$