

Fate

Is my path in life destined by Fate/God?

In this lesson we will:

Begin to explore the concept of Fate

Learn about evaluating arguments

Continue to challenge your classmates

Most of us have had an experience that some greater force is at work in the universe, which is governing the course of events in our lives. Many of you will probably relate to one of the following examples:

- You are really looking forward to an important event in your life. Perhaps you've made plans to go out on a first date with a person you're attracted to, or maybe you have had an interview for a job that you really hope to get. For some reason, this anticipated event doesn't happen; the person of your dreams decides that they'd really rather watch the paint dry or someone else gets that job you were after. Have you consoled yourself with the thought, **"Oh well, it just wasn't meant to be"**?
- To give a slightly different example, perhaps things aren't working out in your life as you'd hoped. You feel that you have all this potential: you could be "the next big thing". You feel you are destined for fame, glamour, red carpets and flashing lights. Soon enough you'll be on stage performing while the crowds are screaming and cheering for you. Perhaps you feel, for some unknown reason, that the life that you are destined for is just not happening at the moment. You might ask yourself: **"Why isn't my destiny unfolding as it should be?"**.
- Or, to reverse your fortunes, perhaps in your life you've had moments (even just one day) when everything just seems to click into place. A new, but wonderful friend at school invites you to go on a fantastic holiday, which leads you to meet a person who feels like your 'soul mate'. Have you ever had the feeling, "This was meant to be" or **"This is my destiny"**? There is a particular wonderful feeling that the universe is helping to make life unfold easily for you and things are just the way that they should be.

People have experienced these kinds of feelings for thousands of years. Even the Ancient Greeks who lived 2500 years ago, believed in fate. The Ancient Greeks believed that every person and thing had a particular purpose or function in life which was consistent with a universal order (Bertrand Russell, *History of Western Philosophy*, pg. 130).

If a person tried to overstep their purpose in life, or to change their fate,

there would be inevitable strife or punishment for that person. That punishment was necessary to restore the eternal order of the universe. Thus, when making important decisions in life, about politics or personal matters, the Ancient Greeks would consult the **Oracle of Delphi**.

Delphi is an actual place in Greece (see map). The Oracle was an older woman, who was chosen because she had a good character and had lived a moral life. She would sit on a tripod seat (a seat with three legs) over a particular crack in the earth where vapours were rising. These vapours would affect her mind and she would fall into a trance. This trance like state would allow the God, **Apollo**, to speak through this Oracle. She would start talking in poetic gibberish, which was considered to be a prophecy, from Apollo, about their future.

The Ancient Greek person would then make important life decisions based on their prophecy about their fate. You might remember that in the film *The Matrix* (1999), Neo consulted a modern day Oracle in order to find out whether or not it was his destiny to become 'The One'.

Activity 1:

Your experience of Fate

In your blog, write **one or two paragraphs** about either of the following (if you want, you can answer them both):

1. Tell your classmates about your experiences of fate. Share an experience either where things felt they were "meant to be" or that some event, either good or bad, just "wasn't meant to be"; For example, perhaps you feel you've found your soul mate. You could tell us about it. Or tell us about a time that someone has said to you, "Oh well, it just wasn't meant to be". Perhaps you feel you have a particular destiny in life. You could tell us about that instead.

OR

2. Do you ever consult the daily horoscopes in the newspaper? What star sign are you? Do you think that has an influence on the kind of person you are and are destined to become?? Why? (Giving reasons why is very important in this response)

Click on the following link and have a look at your horoscope for today.

<http://www.theage.com.au/horoscopes/>