

# A World-view based on Agency

by Craig Paardekooper

## What can we infer based on our experience of mental events

- **Agency:** freewill is a prime movement. Each act of freewill originates without prior cause, so is irreducible to matter. This anchors our participation in eternity.
- **Afterlife:** agency is irreducible, so the agent persists beyond temporal cessation – beyond decay and death.
- **Community:** plurality of agents. You are not alone. There are other agents like yourself.

## What can we infer based on our experience of physical nature

- **Prime Mover:** Creation requires an Agent (Prime Mover) with vast knowledge and power, who created all life, so preceded all life.

We know all this empirically, from our own everyday experience.

1. We have immediate and direct knowledge of our own agency
2. We can infer agency as the origin of biological systems in nature.

## Agency is Origin

So, absolutely everything originates with agency, whether we are referring to chains of causation started by our own acts of freewill, or the origin of life. All chains of causation begin with a prime mover. Mental events are primary, and physical events are secondary.

Afterlife is evidenced

1. **during life:** by our daily experience of freewill and free thought
2. **before life:** by a Creator who existed prior to the first cell
3. **after life:** by medical reports of NDEs; communication with deceased

## 1. Existence before life

- The Creator precedes all living beings.
- This means agency, knowledge, and purpose existed before biological emergence.
- Life is not the origin of agency

## 2. Implication for afterlife

- If agency existed before life, then agency is not reducible to matter.
- Therefore, when matter decays, agency persists — because its source is eternal.
- The afterlife is simply the continuation of agency beyond temporal cessation.

## 3. Multiplicity of worlds

- If one world can be created, then many worlds can be created.
- Creation is not constrained by scarcity or limitation; it flows from infinite agency.
- This implies the possibility of **multiple worlds or heavens**, each with its own order, purpose, and community of agents.

```
[Agency as primitive]
|
v
[Freewill] -- halts regress --> [Causal initiation]
|
v
[Knowledge] -- enables guidance --> [Intention formation]
|
v
[Telos in nature] -- directionality --> [Order against entropy]
|
v
[Persistence beyond matter] -- continuity --> [Afterlife of identity/memory]
|
v
[Community of agents] -- relational duties --> [Ethical resonance]
|
v
[Multiplicity of worlds] -- infinite agency --> [Diverse purposeful orders]
```

## The Reality of Agency

### Freewill

- Agency presupposes the capacity to choose. Without freewill, action collapses into determinism, and agency dissolves.

### Knowledge

- Agency requires awareness and the ability to act on knowledge. Ignorance limits agency, but the capacity to know is intrinsic.

### Necessary beginnings – infinite regress

- Every causal chain demands a prime mover. Agency is the irreducible “first cause” that halts infinite regress.

### Necessary beginnings – self-referential loops

- Agency can initiate recursive processes, sustaining itself through feedback. Self-reference is evidence of intentionality.

### Necessary beginnings – entropy

- Agency resists decay by imposing order. Without agency, entropy dominates; with agency, telos emerges against chaos.

### Intention / Telos in nature

- Agency is revealed in purpose. Natural processes exhibit directionality (growth, reproduction, adaptation), which presupposes intention.

### Descartes’ argument

- *Cogito ergo sum*: the certainty of agency (thinking, willing) is irreducible. Even doubt confirms agency, since doubting is an act of agency.

Agency is irreducible because it is the necessary ground of freewill, knowledge, causal beginnings, recursive self-reference, resistance to entropy, and telos in nature. Descartes confirms that agency is the most certain knowledge we possess, since even doubt presupposes agency.

## Implications for Ethics

If agency survives death, then identity and memory may also survive. Our thoughts and actions follow us. What you do now echoes in eternity.

A Creator can create multiple worlds and heavens.