

Lesson 11: Chance, Destiny, Coincidence & Synchronicity

In the past ten weeks I have presented a variety of subject material in the lessons to help us better understand the nature of our personal reality. This week I will continue to progress along the path by discussing the matters of chance, destiny, coincidence and synchronicity. The reason why I have chosen to address these topics is to bring to the reader's awareness that everyone is empowered to create the realities they desire for themselves vs leaving the experiences of life to chance; that we can design our own destiny and we do so with the aid of many sources of information. In this lesson we will examine how we can affect our experiences by avoiding the pitfalls of chance through choice and how we can recognize coincidence and synchronicity as signposts.

As is typically the case in most of the lessons I present I like to begin the discussion by defining the terms before I delve into the meat of the matter. Beginning with the word chance, the dictionary defines chance as the unknown and unpredictable element that causes an event to result in a certain way rather than another, spoken of as a force. Some others are: fortune, luck and fate; an opportunity or occasion, a risk or gamble, even an accident. Lastly is the extent to which an event is likely to occur; a probability. For those of you who have been following the weekly lesson you will recall the discussions about 'likely to occur' probabilities that become desirable or undesirable events we are likely to experience in our lives but not by chance.

Sprinkled among the definitions of chance is a very clear sense that our life experiences are subject to the whims of unknown possibilities that occur as unpredictable events, however, it stands to reason that there could not be something acting in the phenomenal universe that is independent of the laws, order and continuity of nature. If this was the case the laws that govern the universe would also have to be subject to chance which means there would be chaotic disorder and lawlessness.

The dictionary defines the word destiny as a predetermined course of events. It may be conceived as a predetermined future, whether in general or of an individual. It is a concept based on the belief that there is a fixed natural order in the cosmos. This fixed natural order is known as 'natural law' which governs nature as well as human behavior including moral behavior. The fundamental basis of the science of mind is derived from natural laws such as the Law of Cause and Effect or the Law of Reciprocity. Theosophist Helena Blavatsky referred to the reciprocity of action and reaction as being the Law of Attraction in *Isis Unveiled* (c1877). As we make our way through the lesson you will have a much better understanding of how you create your destiny and how destiny does not have to be left up to whims of chance.

A coincidence is defined as an event that might have been prearranged or the quality of occupying the same position or area in space or concurrence: the temporal property of two things happening at the same time.

Synchronicity is defined as the experience of two or more events that are apparently causally unrelated occurring together in a meaningful manner. To count as synchronicity, the events should be unlikely to occur together by chance.

Synchronicities are patterns that repeat in time for very specific reasons, they are not random occurrences but rather they are intended occurrences.

As I begin now to delve into the meat of the matter I want to be sure the reader has a clear understanding that everything we experience in life is always subjective to our concepts, beliefs and expectations via perception (see lesson 10). The philosopher, Immanuel Kant used the expression “Ding an sich” which meant the “thing-in-itself.” What Kant meant is that what exists in its objective state of being; is subjective to how we perceive it - how we understand it, how we experience it and how we explain it. This is important to keep in mind because we will see exactly how we experience chance and destiny as well as how coincidence and synchronicities are experienced.

The branch of psychology that deals with the matters of the mind is known as the science of mind which studies human behaviors as it pertains to our mental processes, i.e. perception, cognition, emotion, personality as well as environmental influences which involve social and cultural influences and interpersonal relationships. Our attempts to process the world we live in begins with how we mentally process our individual experiences and as such no two realities are ever the same although we may share many common threads. We process life using both an inner and outer perception; the outer perception, of course, comes from our sensory experiences. The American linguist, Benjamin Lee Whorf said, “*We cut nature up and organize it into concepts, and ascribe significances as we do....*”

Sometimes we cut nature up and organize it into concepts that do not serve us well. Then we mistakenly think of the results as being something that happened to us by chance and furthermore we believe it is our destiny. So, in order to understand the role chance plays in our personal experiences we must begin by understanding how we subject ourselves to chance from our own behaviors, i.e. our intended thoughts, beliefs and perceptions and the alteration of these. Once an understanding of chance has been established we will move on from there and discuss destiny, coincidence and synchronicity. Finally I will tie everything together so there is no doubt of the role each of these terms plays out in our experiences.

To describe chance without describing the nature of free will ‘choice’ and its relationship to chance is to only tell half of the story. Please bear in mind that we are talking about

chance as it relates to personal experiences vs those that relate to mass events or natural disasters which is a whole other ball of wax. When by the action of your own free will you do not bring into your own reality what you truly desire to experience for all the many reasons that you do, (see discussions in prior lessons) you subject yourself to chance which is really cause and effect in action. We saw above that the dictionary defines chance as being an unknown and unpredictable element that causes an event to result in a certain way rather than another. The operative word in the definition is *cause*. The cause of that event which results in a certain way rather than another is not as unknown, uncertain or as unpredictable as you may think it is. If you truly understood the framework of your own thinking, your beliefs, your expectations and your perceptions you can see how events are destined to be experienced such as they are. These causes are usually the result of your own philosophies of life, i.e. the way you think, feel, believe and perceive yourself and your environment – they are self-made or as author James Allen says, they are self-erected fences.

These philosophies of life are a mixture of many ideas, feelings and actions that contain a number of beliefs and decision-making processes. The beliefs come from your childhood as well as from your environment. From time to time your beliefs really do need to be scrutinized to be sure they are serving your best interest, not the interest of others especially when it comes to decision making. I used to think there was a perpetual black cloud that loomed over my head for years until I realized it was my own thinking, my beliefs and my perceptions that were behind those so-called unknown and unpredictable events of perceived chance that inevitably became my destiny over time. The good news is that destiny can always be changed.

Everything that exists is subject to cause and effect one way or another because everything has its polar opposite. You have the capability to affect unknown and unpredictable events from occurring and furthermore the events you desire to occur can even exceed your own expectations once you set the wheel of destiny turning in the right direction. The mind of man is described as manifesting itself subjectively as a stream of consciousness but that does not mean consciousness has to be subjective to the whims of chance because if that was the case then there would not be freewill. In the science of mind it is said that nothing happens by chance but that everything happens for a reason. People often confuse that reason to be something that occurred by chance rather than understanding that the event was caused by a cause and that cause is the reason for the event which is the effect.

What makes chance appear as a distinct unexpected event or experience is that unless you involve yourself in some measure of self-analysis or self-examination it is very difficult to discern which came first, the chance event or what contributed to the event. This is a process that can sometimes require a fair amount of mental and even

emotional unraveling depending on your own philosophical beliefs but is definitely worth the effort because you stand to gain the mental/emotional benefits of knowing what lies behind your perceived 'chance' events: $X + Y = Z$. The law of cause and effect states clearly that you can trace the effects back to its origin and that by doing so you can remove the effects by removing the causes.

The Principle of Cause and Effect (Karma) states that: *“Every Cause has its Effect; every Effect has its Causes; everything happens according to Law; Chance is but a name for Law not recognized; there are many planes of causation, but nothing escapes the Law.”* The Biblical principle of the law of cause and effects is, *“whatsoever a man soweth, that also shall he reap”* (Galatians 6:7).

At this point I will begin to discuss destiny. We recall that destiny is defined as a predetermined course of future events. What this means is that again, through your intended thoughts you set the stage for what will become a destined event to occur. The Secret breaks the process of such future events in a series of three steps:

1. Ask for what you desire with your intended thoughts (teachers of this application suggest that you write your desires down rather than state them in verbal words.
2. Answer: to wait for the answer while the natural laws of the universe are arranging the event to occur in accordance with your frequency.
3. Receive: which is to bring yourself into alignment with what you desire. Aligning yourself means to follow through on an inspired idea or a feeling which will lead you to someone, something or someplace that will be instrumental in manifesting your desire - through coincidence and synchronicity.

The action of asking is produced from an idea formed into a thought, backed by a belief, and thought is a cause that has to produce an effect so when you ask for something you desire you can surely bank on an effect which will manifest itself in your reality only if you continue to believe that it will. The action of asking sets in motion a future event that is not a chance but is a desired destiny which, of course, is in keeping with your continued intended thoughts (cause) and your correlating beliefs and perceptions which results in the manifestation of the event (effect). So you see then that destiny is something you have the capability to control and that you can bring a future event into your reality; something you truly desire to experience and believe you can.

So often people who have failed to realize their dreams and achieve their goals will chalk up the failure as being their lot in life, that it wasn't meant to be, that it was not their destiny or that it was not God's will. Whew! Every one of these mindsets are limiting and restricting in terms of what you would have liked to experience so if you continue to buy into these untruths you will continue to experience more disappointing events that

you will think are the fault of chance or destiny. The simple fact is this, if your desired destiny did not materialize it is because you did not follow through on what you asked for and you did this for any number of reasons. In my second book, *The Odyssey of Self-Discovery*, I am going to extensive ends to peel away every imaginable layer that will reveal why we fail to achieve our goals and realize our dreams. But in the meantime I am trying to get as much of the message out as I can possible squeeze into these weekly lessons.

Now onto describing coincidences and synchronicities so that we can see how they relate to one another. The famous Swiss psychologist, Carl Jung is known for coining the term synchronicity which he did to describe what he called “temporally coincident occurrences of acausal events” (acausal means having no cause or effect). Unlike chance and destiny which rests heavy on the principles of cause and effect, synchronicity falls outside of cause and effect. To describe why this is so is to revisit the definition of synchronicity which as we saw above is the experience of two or more events, that are apparently causally unrelated or unlikely to occur together by chance, that are observed to occur together in a meaningful manner. The operative words here are ‘causally unrelated’ and ‘meaningful manner.’ The reason why synchronicity is causally unrelated is because events are grouped by their meaning as opposed to any causes. ‘Meaning’ is something that we do by intention regardless of whether or not it is a subconscious or a conscious act which sets in motion a series of occurrences that will unfold to assist us in the pursuit of what we intend to accomplish. Thus, the occurrences that unfold are purposeful and meaningful.

What is important to understand about synchronicity is that it lends to the idea that life does not consist of a series of random events. We can experience many signposts along the way to help us get to where we are intending to go. These signposts can be people, places and things but their appearances in our lives are not random events. You may be compelled to go somewhere out of the ordinary and meet someone who is instrumental in realizing your dream or achieving your goal or you could be compelled to read a particular book and there will be something in that book you needed to know about which will set a matter straight for you or help you resolve a matter that has been blocking what you desire to experience. These unusual and very acausal occurrences will unfold in a synchronistic fashion until the purpose or mission is accomplished. However, be forewarned that coincidence and synchronicity works both ways because here too you will attract such experiences in the exact measure of how your mindset is operating.

Jung understood how synchronicity paralleled with Einstein’s relativity theory and quantum mechanics because they each point to the existence of a deeper order in the cosmos – natural law. Jung believed that a person was both embedded in an orderly

framework and was the focus of that orderly framework and that the realization of this was more than just an intellectual exercise but that it has the elements of a spiritual awakening. This is exactly how people describe the unfolding of synchronistic events that help them to raise their conscious awareness - a spiritual awakening. This in itself is the one distinct difference between metaphysical psychology of the science of mind vs mainstream psychology of the science of mind. Mainstream psychology is not prone to taking into consideration the spiritual aspect of an individual whereas metaphysical psychology takes into consideration the whole of the individual, especially the spiritual aspect of the individual. In fact taking the spiritual nature of man into consideration is actually deemed by psychology to belong to the field of metaphysics or ontology (the philosophical study of nature and being) and that the spiritual aspect of man should be kept isolated from psychology, thus only focusing on the mind and its mental processes.

As the series of occurrences unfold in the way of synchronistic coincidences an individual experiences a rising of conscious awareness that contributes to what is described as a spiritual awakening. The reward of course is in the act of putting forth a meaningful purpose and then allowing the coincidences and synchronicities to unfold, thus achieving a desired heightened state of experience. Of course this is not a one-time event but is something that can be experienced all throughout life. This marks the significant difference between chance and destiny as the two relate to cause and effect. This is also the underlying concept of The Secret. Thoughts with intent backed by a correlating belief will manifest in your reality often through coincidence and synchronicity.

Unlike the definition described above, coincidences do not really occur by accident as you can now see but you have to consider that such occurrences are always at the mercy of subjectivity, i.e. beliefs, expectations and perceptions, which can be skewed. A coincidence can be perceived as an accident from lack of understanding why the phenomena occurred rather than as an occurrence that was intended to be purposeful and meaningful. The continuation of Jung's work by others indicates that there is more to coincidences than what meets the eye and that these events should be taken more seriously rather than being held to subjectivity. Some thoughts today suggest that instead of being a "rare" phenomenon, synchronicity is more likely all-pervasive, and that the occasional dramatic coincidence is only the tip of a larger iceberg of meaning that underlies our lives. What this boils down to is that we are all interconnected.

Another point necessary to make would be to explore the reason why some desires manifest quicker than others and some not at all. For the sake of simplicity I will say that there are a variety of behind the scene reasons why we experience fluctuations in what we manifest, when and why. However, I will save elaborating on this discussion for a future lesson – perhaps it will be discussed in lesson 12.

I thank you for the opportunity to bring the matter of chance, destiny, coincidence and synchronicity to your conscious awareness and I hope that this discussion serves to help you understand the nature of your personal reality a little more.

Linda

Resources:

Psychology - The Catholic Encyclopedia.

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12545b.htm>. (I highly recommend this encyclopedia as a tool for thorough research.

Mind - Wikipedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mind&printable=yes>.

Philosophy of Mind - Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Philosophy_of_mind&printable=yes.

Philosophy and Basic Beliefs. Richard Jewell.

<http://www.tc.umn.edu/~jewel001/humanities/book/5philosophy.htm>.

Subjectivity - Wikipedia.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Subjectivity&printable=yes>.

Objectivity (philosophy) - Wikipedia.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Objectivity_\(philosophy\)&printable=yes](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Objectivity_(philosophy)&printable=yes).

Perception - Wikipedia.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Perception&printable=yes>.

The Epistemology of Perception. Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/e/epis-per.htm>.

Relativism and the Constructive Aspects of Perception. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. <http://plato.standord.edu/entries/relativism/supplement1.html>.

Synchronicity. <http://www.crystalinks.com/synchronicity.html>.

Cause and Effect – The Principles of Karma. http://www.thenazareneway.com/cause_and_effect.html.

Carl Jung – Crystalinks. <http://www.crystalinks.com/jung.html>.