

"You forget," replied Seaton, "that many of the pre-scientific philosophers denied the mind's freedom just as completely as science can. From one point of view it was denied by Kant himself."

"I'm not for the moment," said Glanville, "talking about freedom of the will, except by implication; but I shall perhaps make myself clearer if I deal with the point you raise. Imagine a number of clocks, each with its own mainspring, and each submitted to a separate variation of temperature. The rate of each clock will be different; and it will, of course, be determined partly by the temperature without, partly by the mechanism within; but in each the motive-power will be independent of that of the others. All great philosophers, Alistair—even Kant in his most deterministic moments—regarded our individual minds as a number of clocks like these. The movement of each might be as determined and as necessary as you please; but each had in its mainspring the source of its own activity. This is the central conception which science completely annihilates. It shows us that these clocks, which to Kant seemed separate mechanisms, are really parts of one universal train of wheel-work—that there is no such thing as a private mainspring in any of them—that the power which actuates each is equally external to all, and that it is for all the same. This, I say, is what modern science shows us; and in the light of what it shows us the old conception of the mind as a fountain of self-generated energy not only is seen to be false, but actually becomes unintelligible. And now," continued Glanville, "will you let me go on and explain to you how this new conception of the nature of the life of each of us—a conception which never till our own days has been more than a vague dream, but for us has assumed at last the form of an inevitable fact—affects our entire views of the moral and religious life—of the very meaning of the word religion?"

"To be sure," said Lady Snowdon. "It is this that we are all waiting for."

"Before dinner," said Glanville, "with a view to our present