

Hume: sect. 8: Of Liberty & Necessity: Hume's Deflated Compatibilism

"the long disputed question concerning liberty and necessity" (54.1)

Best broken down into the 3 big questions....

1. Do we act freely?
2. Are we determined to act as we do?
3. Is our acting freely compatible with our being determined to act as we do?

Resolving old intractable disputes by accounts of what we can and do mean by key terms: two types of resolution that proceed by clearing up the meaning of the key terms seem promising in general

"the whole controversy has hitherto turned merely upon words" (54.5), is "merely verbal" (62.6)

Background: determinism about the "natural" (54.6) that survives some surprises/anomalies by supposing there are "secret" (57.9) "contrariety of causes" (58.0) at play

63.3: Hume's (Lockean) "hypothetical" def. of liberty

55t: Hume applies his deflated definitions of necessity to the voluntary actions of humans, and sees that in the only senses we can make of "necessity," our actions, including those we would count as free, are clearly all done of necessity, and the only reason anyone would demur is that they are chasing after some phantom non-deflated "necessity" of which they

--Lockean instructions (Essays II.4.6, p. 8) for locating the idea of necessity, employed against Hume (looking at like Hume, p. 54.6)?