

## The Power of Fate

Merriam Webster Dictionary defines fate as, “the will or principle or determining cause by which things, in general, are believed to come to be as they are or events to happen as they do.” The belief in fate has been clung to all throughout human history. The question arises: why do humans embrace this theory of life so enthusiastically? The psychological theory of humans attaining an external locus of control is one possible answer for this question. An external locus of control is one’s belief they have no control over their entire life course: all beliefs and events are predetermined (Ma). Humans who have an external locus of control are generally happier during their life. But why? The escape of blame. When one believes their whole life is predetermined, they escape all blame and condemnation of self (Ma).

The immense influential ability an external locus of control has on a person is displayed perfectly in the book *The Illiad*. In Greek mythology, gods seem to be able to commit any action no matter how beneficial or horrendous. The gods are able to control everything from life, love, death, and greed; however, the one thing the gods have no power over is fate. Once Achilles’ fate was spoken into existence by the prophet, no action, committed by god or human, could alter what was destined. The gods commit horrible sins such as greed, lust, and murder. However, this notion of predetermined life forces ridden the gods of all responsibility and therefore, allows the mortals to continue to view them as a higher power. If fate was not believed in, the morality of the gods would constantly be questioned by the mortals.

In conclusion, the power of fate and the belief in an external locus of control is what allows the gods in the book *The Illiad* to obtain the facade of being ethical and enable the mortals in the book to still revere them despite their heinous actions.

## Works Cited

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