

**THE GREAT IDEAS from the Syntopicon**  
**WILL**

*OUTLINE OF TOPICS*

	PAGE
1. The existence and nature of will: its relation to reason or mind and to desire or emotion	1085
2. The analysis of the power and acts of the will	1086
2a. The objects of the will: the scope of its power	
2b. The motivation of the will	
(1) The rational determination of the will's acts by judgments concerning good and evil or by the moral law	1087
(2) The sensitive determination of the will's acts by estimations of benefit and harm, or pleasure and pain: the impulsion of the passions	
2c. The acts of the will	1088
(1) The classification and order of the will's acts: means and ends	
(2) The several acts of the will with respect to ends: their antecedents and consequences	
(3) The several acts of the will with respect to means: their antecedents and consequences	
3. The functioning of will in human conduct and thought	
3a. The role of the will in behavior	
(1) The distinction between the voluntary and the involuntary: the conditions of voluntariness; comparison of men and animals with respect to voluntary behavior	1089
(2) The range of purposive conduct: the relation of habit and instinct to the voluntary	
3b. The role of the will in thought	1090
(1) The distinction between knowledge and opinion in relation to the willful in thought: the will to believe and wishful thinking	
(2) The will as cause of error	
(3) Religious faith as dependent on an act of will or practical reason	
4. The divine will	
4a. The relation of the divine will and intellect	1091
4b. The freedom of the divine will: the divine will in relation to the possible and the impossible	
5. The freedom of the will	
5a. Interpretations of the meaning of free will	
(1) The freedom of the will as consisting in a freely determined choice or a free judgment of the reason	
(2) The freedom of the will as consisting in the freedom of a man to act or not to act: freedom from external constraints or coercions	1092
(3) The freedom of the will as consisting in a totally uncaused or spontaneous act	
(4) The freedom of the will as the autonomy of the reason legislating for itself: the identity of pure will and free will	
5b. Arguments for the freedom of the will	
(1) Man's immediate consciousness of his freedom of choice: reason's reflexive knowledge of its autonomy	
(2) The freedom of the will as deriving from the indetermination of practical reason judging particular goods	
(3) The deduction of free will from the moral law or from the fact of pure practical reason	
(4) Free will as a pragmatic option: the postulation of free will as an indis-	

pensable condition of moral responsibility and action	
5c. Arguments against the freedom of the will: free will as a violation of the course of nature or the reign of causality; the impossibility of proving free will	1093
	PAGE
6. The analysis of the will's range of freedom	1093
6a. The limitations on the freedom of the will: the distinction between acts of the will which are necessitated and acts of the will which are free	
6b. The distinction between the will's freedom of exercise and the will's freedom of choice	
6c. The distinction between voluntary behavior and behavior resulting from free choice: comparison of men and animals with respect to freedom	
7. The implications of free will	1094
7a. Free will as a source of human dignity: its relation to slavery and civil liberty	
7b. The factors of freedom and necessity in the philosophy of history	
7c. Human freedom in relation to the will of God: fate, predestination, and providence	
7d. God as the object of the human will: the quiescence of the will in the beatific vision	1095
7e. Free will in relation to sin and salvation	1096
(1) The freedom to sin: Adam's freedom and the freedom of fallen human nature	
(2) The relation of freedom to grace	
8. The will as a factor in morality and in society	1097
8a. The inviolability of the will: its freedom from external compulsions or constraints	
8b. The goodness or malice of the will	
(1) The conditions of the will's rectitude or disorder	
(2) A good will as the exclusive or principal human good	1098
8c. The will and virtue: justice and charity as habits of the will	
8d. The will and duty: the categorical imperative	
8e. The will and right: the harmony of individual wills in external practical relations	
9. Differences among men in the sphere of will	
9a. The distinction between men of strong and weak will: cultivation of will power	
9b. The pathology of the will: indecision, obsession, compulsion, inhibition	1099
10. Will as a term in political theory	
10a. The sovereign will: the will of the people; the will of the majority	
10b. The relation of law to will	
10c. The general will, particular wills, the will of each, and the will of all	1100