



The Philosophy  
Foundation  
THINKING CHANGES

## The Book of Life

From Peter Worley's *The If Machine*



Watch the story of *The Little Old Shop of Curiosities* on our vimeo channel: <https://bit.ly/2LjF457>

**Task question:** So, would you turn the page? If so, why, if not, why not?

If you liked thinking about this, why not contact [kim@philosophy-foundation.org](mailto:kim@philosophy-foundation.org) for further information on joining online philosophy sessions or Q&As with a philosopher.

**Task Question 2:** If you were to turn the page do you think there would be something on the next page?

- a) Would the book already be written right to the end?
- b) Would it write itself as you did things?
- c) Would it be blank?
- d) Would it already be written but change as you did things differently?
- e) Would you find something else?

**Choose one of the above and give a reason why you think it would be this...**

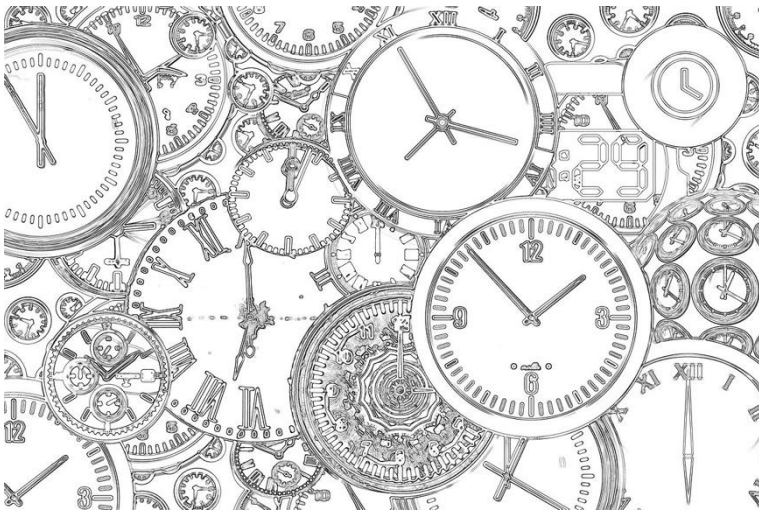
**Think about it another way:** what would someone say if they disagreed with you, and why?

**Other questions to think about:**

- Who is the author of the book?
- Can you change your future?

## St. Augustine and Time

If you liked thinking about this, why not contact [kim@philosophy-foundation.org](mailto:kim@philosophy-foundation.org) for further information on joining online philosophy sessions or Q&As with a philosopher.



**Biography:** St. Augustine (354–430) was born in North Africa, converted to Christianity in his 30s and eventually became the Bishop of Hippo. He was hugely influential in the establishment of the early Christian church and is probably most famous for his prayer about his early life: *'Lord, make me chaste, but not yet.'*

**Big idea:** *Time* – 'So what is time? If no one asks me, I know; if they ask me and I try to explain, I do not know.' St. Augustine.

**Main publication(s):** Confessions (400 CE).

**Useful quote:** 'If the future and the past do exist I want to know where they are. I may not yet be capable of such knowledge, but at least I know that, wherever they are, they are not there as future or past, but as present. For if, wherever they are, they are future, they do not yet exist; if past, they no longer exist. So wherever they are and whatever they are, it is only by being present that they are' (Confessions, Book 11, Chapter 14).

**About:** As with many ideas that we look at in philosophy, the idea of time begins by seeming simple but, when we stop to think about it, time is remarkably difficult idea to make sense of. It is a complex idea that we take for granted. Philosophy is good at exposing these ideas. For Augustine, then, only the present exists. This view of time is known as 'presentism'.

**Food for thought:**

- What if . . . ? Assuming that tomorrow I will get up in the morning, is my getting up tomorrow true now? Or is it only true when I actually get up in the morning?
- Could time exist in an utterly empty space?
- What relationship do time and change have to one another? Can you have time without change?

If you liked thinking about this, why not contact [kim@philosophy-foundation.org](mailto:kim@philosophy-foundation.org) for further information on joining online philosophy sessions or Q&As with a philosopher.