

Definition of a Word

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What is the definition of this freedom thing? It means a great deal to us, members of the human race. In a way it becomes our greatest obsession. It is the thing we want the most. Yet do any of us truly know what it is? Does anyone really know exactly what freedom means? I have no doubt that Webster's has come up with some long-winded explanation that says very little to us considering its length. Empty words trying to describe what is very possibly one of the greatest and most valuable things that any member of the human race could possess gives us very little to help understand.

We must begin to learn to look inside ourselves for the answer. Freedom can mean very different things to different people. Perhaps it's the ability to live, love, and learn without restraint. Maybe it's the acting without restraint or fear of repercussions. Freedom to vote. Freedom to speak your mind. Freedom to dream of impossible dreams. What does it all mean?

To me, freedom is a state of being. It is the state where you are responsible for only yourself, and have absolutely no restrictions of laws, whether they are legal ones the government has decreed, or the unbreakable ones set up by nature itself. But because of this no one can ever truly be completely and totally free. To be free you would first have to break the laws of man, and that would probably put you into imprisonment, a thing which is the very opposite of freedom. If you should somehow break those and get away with it the next step would be to break the laws of nature. You would need to defy gravity and physics. You would have to throw the millennia old rules of nature out the proverbial window. And that, no matter what, is impossible.

This does not mean that freedom is unobtainable. Even in the darkest, gravest, most hopeless circumstance a person can still dream. That in a way is the one thing no one can take away from a person. Even through such horrors as slavery and imprisonment a person still never loses the ability to think and dream about whatever he or she wants. As long as they have that, and cling to that truth, they will always hold with them a small spark of freedom. So, just as total and complete freedom is impossible to obtain, it is also true that no matter what the complete absence of freedom is equally impossible.

So what then is the definition of this freedom thing? The answer is nearly indefinable. Just look into your heart for your own answer. And never stop dreaming. It is the one thing that can never be denied to you.