***Louise wrote "If everyone on earth woke up tomorrow not believing we have free will, nothing regarding reward and punishment would change as a result."***

***BanJoIvie replied "I don't think that is true."***

**Banjo, good start. I would even go so far as to say, she couldn't have been more wrong.**

***"Our beliefs do have consequences for our behavior. They represent a link in the causal chain like any other, and if they were miraculously changed somehow, this would have an effect on subsequent links."***

**Banjo, why do you offer a goofy supposition: 'if they were miraculously changed' and then basically admit that you don't even know how that could happen: 'somehow'?**

**Can you give an example of how miraculous changes could *somehow* be produced? And if not, why did you even mention it?**

***Louise wrote "We would still reward and punish as we were determined to do."***

***BanJoIvie replied "Yes, reward and punishment behaviors would remain equally deterministic, but that doesn't mean they would be unchanged."***

**Banjo, on what grounds could you punish someone who had no control over their actions?**

**If human actions are predetermined, and therefore, out of our control, it would be immoral to punish anyone for anything.**

**Anyone could do anything they wanted to anyone without fear of punishment. Society would return to the Stone Age (square 1).**

**That has no bearing on whether or not, free will exists, but Determinism does eliminate *any* justification for punishment.**

***Louise wrote "Whether we agree that free will exists or not has no bearing on our thoughts"***

***BanJoIvie replied "This is self-evidently false. How could a belief have no bearing on our thoughts? Agreement is a thought."***

**Banjo, she obviously didn't think that one out first, did she?**

***Louise wrote "Nothing in our conscious mind has anything to do with our determined responses."***

***BanJoIvie replied "Again, I disagree. determinism does not imply that our beliefs have no causality."***

**Banjo, I disagree too, but for a different reason: I disagree because she supplied no evidence to support her assertion.**

**Also, you misread her claim. She didn't say anything about beliefs. She said "nothing in our conscious minds." She could have just as well been referring to intentions, not just beliefs.**

**Nice Straw Man, Banjo.**

***Louise wrote "But whatever caused us to stop accepting free will might also temper our ideas about how we punish people and make us more humane."***

***BanJoIvie replied "Yes. And it might create this effect indirectly by causing thoughts to arise which in turn lead to more humane actions. This is still a deterministic scenario."***

**Banjo, you blew that one. She talked about "how" we could punish people, while she simultaneously holds a belief that eliminates the possibility of punishment. That is a pure contradiction.**

**You missed it because you hold the same lame position.**

**She also assumes that her position is more "humane." I think a better description would be "insane."**

**As for your reply "And it might ...."**

**Please explain what you mean by "it."**

**And how will "it" cause thoughts to arise?**

**Why do you only indicate that the effect could lead to more humane actions? Why couldn't "it" lead to inhumane actions?**

**What do you find humane about watching a rapist finish his attack, and then walk away, unmolested?**

**What if you are not predetermined to intervene and help the rape victim? How, in your mind, is that "humane?"**

***Louise wrote "Our conscious mind has no influence because it is also fully subject to determining influences."***

***BanJoIvie replied "The conclusion does not follow from the premise."***

**Banjo, her premise "a conscious mind is fully subject to determining influences" *does* imply her conclusion "our conscious mind has no influence." You should know that because it is the same position you claim to hold.**

**Her error was that her conclusion was based on an unsupported premise that is still being debated, which she wants to assert as true. That was her mistake.**

**What's interesting is that the person you were debating, Louise, agreed with your wacky Determinist beliefs ... and yet you still couldn't get along.**

**You remind me of someone who could start a fight ...**

**in an empty room.**