



DIALOGUE 18. Life is a question of choice - or chance?

([tʃ] chin, watch)

CHARLES: If you could recapture your childhood, Richard, would you change much?

RICHARD: Life is a sort of arch. Arrival to departure. You can't switch direction, Charles. Each century brings changes but actually, Nature doesn't change.

CHARLES: But you can reach different decisions. With television, you can choose which channel to watch, switch to another picture. You could catch a different train. Given the chance, Richard, would you change trains?

RICHARD: Life is a rich adventure and largely a question of chance. You don't choose your future as you choose a chocolate or a piece of cheese.

CHARLES: But, Richard, you *do* choose. You forge your own future – a butcher? a 'cellist? a teacher? a merchant? Each choice suggests a further choice - *which* tree, *which* branch, *which* twig?

RICHARD: Let's adjourn to the kitchen for chicken and chips. No choice for lunch, you see, Charles!

CHARLES: But *you* actually *chose* chicken and chips! Chops would have been much cheaper!