Term: Necessity


(1) The state or condition that cannot be otherwise than it is; that must be just as it is.

(2) The principle in virtue of which the condition of the universe as a whole, or any particular part of it, is rendered, both as to its existence and quality, inevitable. Opposed to both freedom and chance, but especially, in its strictly philosophical use, to chance [...] or contingency. That which has the property of necessity is said to be necessary.


References: DPP 2:143

Date of Quote: 1902

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-necessity