



## Prior Identity: A Profound Sense of Common Humanity to Unite Us

The only way that Humanity is going to survive without human-made catastrophe, is if we can unify. This is obvious. But we are so divided, that unity seems hopeless. That's the bad news. The good news is that Terror Management Theory,<sup>1</sup> which as we've seen explains why we are so divided, also posits that an antidote to this division is a shared sense of common humanity.

## Our Prior Identity as a Gateway to Our Prior Unity

Prior Identity offers a powerful sense of common humanity that transcends the plethora of micro-identities tearing us apart, and identifies humanity at a profound and transformative level. While religious belief systems might also offer a profound sense of human identity, those systems are hopelessly divided between each other, creating division, not unity. And they are in the final analysis, rooted in

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1 Handbook of Terror Management Theory, Clay Routledge (Ed), Academic Press, 2018  
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faith and experience, neither of which are adequate to provide a sense of common humanity that everyone can plainly see to be true - theist or atheist.

Prior Identity offers a unifying vision of Humanity that is accessible to those seeking an identity that is both philosophically *and* empirically sound and valid. It doesn't require a metaphysical belief in a transcendent reality, and neither does it challenge those who hold to such beliefs. And in fact, Prior Identity offers religious belief systems, particularly the Abrahamic religions that are currently at war with each other on all sorts of fronts - a set of new and profound dimensions hitherto undreamt of within their theologies.

In his book, *Not Two is Peace*,<sup>2</sup> Adi Da Samraj demonstrates that the reality of nature - that is, the reality of everything - is unity. That everything is really one thing, and that separation is an illusion.

This isn't a novel idea of course, as it has a scientific basis in many fields such as quantum mechanics and general relativity to name just two. Oneness is the true nature of reality, while separation is an illusion created by how we perceive things - not by how things actually are. When I walk past trees, I may perceive them as distinct from my body, but trees are as much my lungs as are those inside my chest. My inside lungs, inhaling oxygen and exhaling carbon dioxide, wouldn't work without my outside lungs inhaling carbon dioxide

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2 *Not Two is Peace*, Pub by Is-Peace 723; 2nd edition (30 October 2019)



and exhaling oxygen. And the space between my inside and outside lungs doesn't separate them – it connects them, by providing a place where this exchange of gasses can occur. What is perceived to be three things – lungs, space, trees – are actually all one thing in physical reality.

What Adi Da does in his book, is to make a compelling case that until and unless Humanity actually starts acting according to this unity that is already here – what he calls our 'Prior Unity' - we are doomed. We don't need to create unity - we need to see that it is the reality in which we already live, and then work to organise human relationships with each other and the rest of nature accordingly. We've been acting as if we aren't already joined at the hip with everything else, and that's why we are in this current mess that Humanity finds itself.

For when we act according to non-reality, that is, according to the illusion of separation, and we imagine that we can do something to one thing and not be doing that to ourselves, then whatever systems we create on that foundation of unreality - whether social, economic, cultural or political - will eventually fail and come back to bite us. Unity is as much the nature of reality as is gravity. Act as if gravity isn't reality, and you will sooner or later fall down.

## *Humanity's Prior Unity is Hard to See & to Sell*

It's hard to see, and not only because we live within the illusion of separation. It is also hard to want to see Humanity's Prior Unity, because of those  
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culturally and socially constructed identities within the Great Improv (human society), onto which we cling and over which we fight for a sense of security in a world where death is in the air. This makes it harder for people to invest in the idea of unity as an abstract concept.

**W**e need a gateway into our Prior Unity that is easier to see and to sell...



## *...And that is our Prior Identity*

**O**ur Prior Identity as the self-aware brain of whatever started banging, offers an identity that is not only incredibly easy to see in its logical validity and simplicity, but it is easy to sell. Our Prior Identity is inconceivably amazing, and infinitely large. It is a super-identity that can provide the self-esteem and meaning that is needed by humans, but on a truly cosmic scale.

It is therefore an identity above the limitations of individual, national, or cultural self-perceptions, that are limited, constantly changing, and which are impossible to actually pin down. Our Prior Identity can trump all other identities to which we attach symbols of separation – like those inventions we call nations, over which we are willing to unleash Armageddon and destroy the existence of the self-awareness of existence itself. Prior identity trumps



even the staunchest nationalist's obsessive need to gaze in the magic mirror and ask, "Who's the greatest of them all?" Once we realise the wonder of what Humanity really is, and see that this unifying identity creates a profound sense of common humanity, such a question would appear as ridiculous as an argument between the heart, lungs and blood vessels over which is the greatest and which should come first.

In short, I've found that it is easier to get people to want to see themselves as this nearly impossible, amazing, grand and majestic structure of the cosmos – its very brain - than it is to first get them to want to lessen their attachment to the only identities they know, for the sake of unity.

That is, identity is a huge existential concern for most people, not unity. So, offering them Prior Identity is the easiest first step to guide them to see their Prior Unity.

*Prior Identity doesn't necessarily eliminate other identities and worldviews, and the subjective meanings they may provide to anyone in the vast social network of humanity.*

**R**ather, it allows us to see them for what they are, and to be able to assess those individualities and distinctions in the knowledge of what we are at the most fundamental level.

Once people see themselves as this majestic structure of the cosmos, the idea of "oneness" with others and all of nature isn't just an ethical call, but a natural outcome of their understanding of theirs and every human being's remarkable place in the cosmos.

The result is a path where unity is not a sacrifice of identity, but a fuller realization of it. It creates the desire to work with each other because we share this common sense of humanity – this profound realisation that what we are saving is the very self-awareness of existence itself. A profound and transformative realization that makes the concept of universal human rights, truly universal.

*"What will unite us?"; asked an Australian journalist at the outbreak of war between the socially-invented identities of 'Russia' and 'Ukraine.'*

*The fulfilling of our Prior Unity, based on the realisation of our Prior Identity.*

