



A Case of Cosmic Identity Theft and Stockholm Syndrome:

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Why is it so hard to see who and what we really are? Because a name is the shortest spell ever cast.

“Ignorance refers to a misperception of the true nature of the self...” The 14th Dalai Lama

All life is the universe (defined here as all material existence) experiencing itself. All intelligent life is the universe trying to understand itself (learning), whether any particular intelligent lifeform has the capacity to be conceptually aware that this is what is happening, or not.

Human life is the universe trying to understand itself, and which has the capacity to be conceptually aware that this is what is happening, but is mostly not aware at all, or at least not aware of the profound implications.

And therefore, in not knowing what's actually happening, most humans remain ignorant of their fundamental or, “Prior Identity” as the universe’s brain – and therefore as the universe itself - their identity prior to being given a name. They are mistaken about the identity of the entity

that is doing the thinking: Mistaken about the identity of the one who has the brain that is doing the thinking.

An almost comical but ultimately tragic and unjust situation

So in essence, the universe evented its own conceptual brains, and what do those brains do? They give each other names! Names that are repeated over and over and over in spoken word, in writing, in thought; until the brains believe that they belong to the names that were given to them by other brains with names. The brains grant ‘ownership’ of themselves to the names they were given, instead of to the original ‘owner’ of the brains - the universe itself - which did all the hard work in crafting its own conceptual brains through 13.8 billion years of cosmic and biological evolution involving inconceivable happy chance.

And so a great injustice is done. This is a clear case of identity theft on a cosmic scale. And it’s a case of Stockholm Syndrome as well, since the brain that has been taken captive by its name, identifies with its captor, and forgets whose brain it really is.

But the brain is both perpetrator and victim in this injustice. For in identifying with the name that it was given, and not with the universe that crafted it, human brains cheat themselves out of the grand vision of what

they fundamentally are – the very self-awareness of material existence. The brains see themselves as brains IN the universe, instead of seeing themselves as brains OF the universe – Its brain – which of course makes them, it.

This is the fundamental ignorance in which most human brains live: ignorance of the true nature of what they are at the fundamental level of material existence. And so we remain unawakened and caught in the small invented identities into which we were born or later obtained, whether personal, social, cultural or national.

And within these prisons, all of our troubles are born.

"A human being is part of a whole, called by us the "Universe." He experiences himself and his feelings as separate from the rest; this is an optical illusion of his consciousness. The quest for liberation from this prison is the only objective...."

Albert Einstein

