

# Meeting of Minds



## Prior Identity and Theism

*Neither theistic, atheistic or anti-theistic, the concept of Prior Identity is just an obvious observation of what a human brain is.*

In a world where faith is deeply intertwined with human identity and purpose, introducing a concept as vast as Prior Identity can stir concern among theists. After all, the idea that humanity is the universe's brain, and that our consciousness is the universe's self-awareness, might appear to some as a challenge to the belief in a Creator who imbues human life with purpose.

After all, being the emergent brain of whatever started banging carries within itself, a profound purpose and

meaning. However, rather than conflicting with theistic beliefs, the concept of Prior Identity has the potential to deepen the reverence for divine creation and offer a transformative understanding of humanity's role in the cosmos.

To begin with, the concept of Prior Identity does not negate the existence of God or diminish the divine agency that many theists attribute to the universe's origin. Instead, it can be seen as an awe-inspiring testament to the wisdom and complexity of the Creator. The idea that, from the singularity that began 13.8 billion years ago, a process of evolution unfolded so intricately that it produced its own self-aware brains—brains that could contemplate the universe—elevates the significance of human life in the grand narrative of the universe. Far from being an accident or an insignificant occurrence, humanity's emergence as the conceptual brain of the universe can be seen as part of a divine plan, unfolding over cosmic time.

*No longer just an individual brain having a relationship with its Creator, it is now the universe itself having that relationship.*

Theologically, the idea of Prior Identity aligns with and enriches doctrines found in many religions. In the Abrahamic traditions, for instance, the concept of humanity being made in the "image of God" (Genesis 1:27) can take on a profound new meaning through the lens of Prior Identity. If we are the universe's conceptual brain, tasked with self-awareness and creative capacity, this could be interpreted as humanity reflecting the creative power of God. Our ability to reason, create, and shape the world aligns with the divine mandate to "fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28), while reminding us that our role



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is not one of domination but stewardship over Earth, the life-support system of this cosmic brain.

Likewise, in the Qur'an, humanity is described as a khalifah, or steward, of the Earth (Qur'an 2:30). The concept of Prior Identity aligns with this role, as it emphasizes the interconnectedness of all life and the responsibility humanity has to preserve and nurture the planet. This perspective can deepen the spiritual imperative to care for creation as a divine trust, rather than simply as a resource.

For Hindu traditions, where the notion of the Atman (soul) being one with Brahman (the ultimate reality) is central, Prior Identity serves as a natural extension. The realization that humanity is the universe's self-awareness echoes the teachings of Advaita Vedanta, which emphasizes non-duality—the idea that individual consciousness and universal consciousness are ultimately one. Prior Identity can thus be seen as an accessible framework through which modern audiences can appreciate ancient spiritual truths.

It is important to understand that Prior Identity does not aim to supplant faith. Instead, it offers a framework that encourages deeper reflection on humanity's role and potential. By viewing our consciousness as the universe's brain, we are invited into a profound realization of the responsibility that comes with this awareness. In a time when humanity faces ecological and existential threats, this realization could be the very revelation needed to save us from self-destruction—a wake-up call from the Creator that we must embrace our role as stewards of Earth and each other.

## *In conclusion....*

Prior Identity need not be feared by theists, but embraced as a profound realisation. It invites believers to see their faith through a new lens, one that elevates the majesty of creation and clarifies humanity's essential role within it. By integrating the insights of Prior Identity with the wisdom of religious traditions, we can foster a shared sense of purpose and responsibility that transcends division and leads us toward collective well-being.





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