

Delphi: Self Assessment



Led by	Reflection Freenote
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INTRODUCTION

Today's topic is **Self-Awareness and Second Life as the ultimate Projective Test.**

Self awareness might be said to come in three forms:

- ≈ **Subjective** self-awareness is to be in conscious observation of my thoughts and feelings. That is, to be aware of the stream of my mental processes.
- ≈ **Objective** self-awareness is to observe myself as an object, or as I would observe others. So, I can note my responses, thoughts and feelings as objects and compare these with those of others. Psychological tests of the sorts which we display at Delphi encourage this sort of self-exploration.
- ≈ **Projective** self-awareness is to observe the process and pattern of my behavior to explore the "unconscious" dimensions of my nature.

So the famous "ink blot" tests, for example invite us to project our impressions onto an abstract stimulus and this can then tell us things (when compared to others) that may not be clear through other methods. Of course my behavior over time, especially in unstructured circumstances is also a projective manifestation of my nature. So one's entire involvement in Second Life can be viewed as a projective test or technique in self-exploration.

Where circumstances are compelling or demanding, my individual behavior is not very different from others and carries little personal meaning. So if ten people find themselves in a burning building, they will all run out. But if 10 people find themselves in Second Life, they will each have a very unique response to the potentials and opportunities of this place. So one way of exploring self, projectively, is to write a short history of your involvements in Second Life.

If you are like most people you don't clean up your inventory all that much and so there can be a nice history of involvements attached to the landmarks which you have kept from the beginning. Likewise with your note cards.

Unlike Real Life, which tends to not leave such a nice paper trail, Second Life tends to document huge portions of actual life and living.

- ≈ So where have you gone in SL?
- ≈ What sorts of projects have you pursued?
- ≈ What sorts of recreations have you explored?
- ≈ What sorts of people have you developed relationships with?
- ≈ What was the nature of those relationships?
- ≈ If we view our personal life experience as a Quest, then what is the nature of the quest which you have been involved with in SL?

The Projective hypothesis would suggest that if you understand the underlying pattern and direction of your Second Life "Life" you will be powerfully enlightened concerning your Real Life Quest as well. So what do you think about Second Life as projective self-awareness, and do you have any general ideas about what you may have found? Do people here feel that there is any narrative to their involvement in SL? If you wrote it, would it tell a story?



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DISCUSSION:

- [16:39] Thoth Jantzen: it's a subset of the narrative of my whole life...
- [16:39] Reflection Freenote: yes, Thoth, would you say it is very different, or is it representative do you think?
- [16:39] Thoth Jantzen: umm, I'm not the best one to ask that :o) it's 'different', of course, in some ways...
- [16:40] Reflection Freenote: well, you might tend to dress differently in RL;-))
- [16:40] Thoth Jantzen: ...but it's really something added to or some part of a bigger whole.
- [16:40] Reflection Freenote: or not ... so would you say your SL existence is synergistic?
- [16:40] Thoth Jantzen: I see it different than most, though, I think; at least, I hope so :o)
- [16:40] Reflection Freenote: hahahaha
- [16:41] Reflection Freenote: well this may be the difficulty in exploring SL progressions as a narrative, that our experiences are so often unique and private, that it may be hard to talk about that process
- [16:41] Thoth Jantzen: it's a means for me to interact with people first and foremost, and also a vehicle to express some things that are harder in SL.
- [16:41] Reflection Freenote: do you mean in RL?
- [16:41] Thoth Jantzen: right.
- [16:42] Books Janus: My beginning in SL was follow the green dots.
- [16:42] bibi Aquila: I hope that they know that I speak Spanish but even I try to understand what they say
- [16:42] Reflection Freenote: yes, I have certainly done very different things here but they do resonate with other patterns in my own life and history
- [16:42] Thoth Jantzen: yes...
- [16:43] Reflection Freenote: no problems Bibi, feel free to contribute as you are comfortable with it:))
- [16:43] Thoth Jantzen: but I do try to keep it in some perspective; it's way to easy to lose perspective with regards to Second Life vis-a-vis the other parts of your life...
- [16:43] Reflection Freenote: Books, the green dots?;-)
- [16:43] Thoth Jantzen: I prefer to look at it as something that sort of 'meshes' with my life instead of differentiating RL and SL so much... it is ALL the same life
- [16:43] Reflection Freenote: yes, SL seems to be richly compelling to those who stick with it Thoth
- [16:44] Books Janus: on the mini-map. .. where are the people? I wondered. I didn't want to be alone in SL, so I looked at the map and followed the green dots.
- [16:44] Reflection Freenote: yes, it is all the same mind (yours) which is being manifested
- [16:44] Thoth Jantzen: it is all the same reality, too, Ref; that's important to remember.
- [16:44] Reflection Freenote: but Thoth, the freedom of manifestation is so much greater here, that we are less compelled and constrained, which is why the patterns of our lives here may be a richer source of analysis for self-awareness; SL exists within 'RL', not separate from it.
- [16:45] Books Janus: SL is people oriented.
- [16:45] Marya Blaisdale: well, I think my progression or evolution in SL has been quite dramatic - starting out as an online philosophy student and eventually taking over a sim and starting up several projects - it really has been a huge learning experience in so many ways
- [16:45] Reflection Freenote: yes, Marya, that is fascinating to see the really pretty explosive growth there
- [16:45] Reflection Freenote: so this environment has been liberating?
- [16:46] Thoth Jantzen: sure. SL can enable people in ways that are hard in SL...especially those with the motivation and ability...
- [16:46] Marya Blaisdale: Very much so yes, Ref
- [16:46] bibi Aquila: I'm new in SL
- [16:46] Books Janus: people are more open in sl.
- [16:46] Reflection Freenote: well welcome to SL Bibi, I imagine you should have some very interesting experiences

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- [16:46] Thoth Jantzen: ...since RL can be limiting in certain ways if you don't have a lot of resources at your disposal. Here, you can visualize and DO.
- [16:46] Books Janus: ...more responsive.
- [16:46] Reflection Freenote: yes Books, people share intimately of their feelings of beliefs here I think
- [16:47] Reflection Freenote: yes Thoth, you can visualize and do, with amazing immediacy.
- [16:47] Reflection Freenote: in RL, I simply must go to work, and earn a living and support myself, so it is like the house on fire, my behavior is highly constrained
- [16:48] Reflection Freenote: whereas here, we have instant, truly instant access to any place, sort of person, engagement or interest
- [16:48] Reflection Freenote: in Projective tests, we often suggest that people say the first thing that comes to mind
- [16:48] Thoth Jantzen: this is how I see SL as 'expanding' ones 'life' in general...
- [16:49] Czarina Vella: Yes.. it also allows them to try things they wouldn't risk in RL
- [16:49] bibi Aquila: Does it happen that not if you think that it is good to be personified in u avatar?? Since it happens with some of my friends
- [16:49] Thoth Jantzen: it's a vehicle where a person can use their abilities more readily and express their visions... and connect with people in powerful ways.
- [16:49] Reflection Freenote: immediacy demonstrates our underlying impulses which greater clarity, or the person under the various facades that we prefer to present
- [16:49] Books Janus: in real life I need to get away from it all. In sl I like to be involved with it all
- [16:50] Czarina Vella: and some have many facades:))
- [16:50] Thoth Jantzen: it expands their life. What they accomplish here is real; it is a part of their life; it is not restricted 'only' to here.
- [16:50] Reflection Freenote: that's very interesting books, what do you think makes that such a striking difference between the worlds?
- [16:51] Reflection Freenote: yes, Thoth, agreed, personal growth and awareness exists in me and not in the place
- [16:51] Thoth Jantzen: yes
- [16:51] Books Janus: I was just realizing I can sit in my house all by myself. However sitting in a house in SL is a waste of time. Sitting in a house in SL all myself, I mean.
- [16:51] Reflection Freenote: I know a number of people who are tapping latent talents and abilities here, that have clearly been submerged in RL
- [16:51] Thoth Jantzen: often, what one does or accomplishes here are what they'd like to do in 'RL' if they had the means, opportunity, or resources.
- [16:51] Maddy Silvercloud: I agree
- [16:52] Books Janus: musicians sing in SL, some who would not sing in front of a crowd in RL.
- [16:52] Reflection Freenote: so I wonder books, if getting out and enjoying things in SL is increasing your ability to do that in RL also?
- [16:52] Books Janus: I've used the internet for my business and now find I earnestly want to expand it in SL. I want to bring people in RL together in SL.
- [16:53] Reflection Freenote: well, what I am doing at the moment is something that I do not do in RL, and yet it seems to be an important part of who I am, and probably who I have been without being aware of it:)
- [16:53] Marya Blaisdale nods; likewise :)
- [16:53] Reflection Freenote: so it sounds as though you have a developing mission Books
- [16:53] Thoth Jantzen: would you do this in RL if you had the means, Ref?
- [16:53] Books Janus: Reflection, have your brought this many people together in RL?
- [16:54] Books Janus: yes, SL is becoming a mission, I agree with that.
- [16:54] bibi Aquila: Neo slept lol

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- [16:54] Reflection Freenote: Thoth, ostensibly I have had the opportunity, but it was too inconvenient, time consuming, insufficiently remunerative, etc. etc. etc.
- [16:55] Reflection Freenote: books, not with any regularity and not in a number of years
- [16:55] bibi Aquila: Many benedictions for all :)
- [16:55] Books Janus: I have not left my Americanism though. I forget half the people in SL are outside of the states.
- [16:56] Reflection Freenote: interestingly, what I do in SL, I can do without taking time away from any specifically or meaningful activity in my RL
- [16:56] Books Janus: I don't know if it makes a difference though.
- [16:56] bibi Aquila: Many benedictions for all
- [16:56] Reflection Freenote: and for you bibi:))
- [16:57] Reflection Freenote: wonder if what makes a difference Books?
- [16:57] Books Janus: uh, of which country I am a citizen or others
- [16:57] Reflection Freenote: ahhh
- [16:58] Reflection Freenote: that doesn't seem to be so much of a problem, in my experience
- [16:58] Thoth Jantzen: but here, Ref...you're able to do it relatively easily...to reach out and touch a lot of ppl and provide information...in RL, this would be a prohibitively expensive project...
- [16:58] Books Janus: I've realized lately I still see a boundary of west coast, east coast.
- [16:58] Reflection Freenote: yes, the ease and facility of action here is truly amazing
- [16:58] Thoth Jantzen: ...not to mention the little practicalities of ppl 'getting' to the place.
- [16:59] Reflection Freenote: right, I have one RL group a week, that I attend and frequently contribute to, but it takes 1/7 nights of my life to do that for not much more time than this group will occupy tonight
- [16:59] Thoth Jantzen: here, the idea, planning, and execution are much more important than resource availability. in RL, resources are the main obstacle to ANY project.
- [16:59] Reflection Freenote: agreed
- [17:00] Maddy Silvercloud: there are less social restraints in SL than in RL too
- [17:00] Czarina Vella: SL does offer unique environment... but it isn't for everyone... the people here are here and want to be in most cases... and there is a learning curve
- [17:00] Reflection Freenote: From a psychological point of view, Thoth, the interesting thing to me, is that I'm not sure, I would have known this about myself without this experience
- [17:00] Reflection Freenote: That is I would have seen my behavior, constrained by RL limitations, and I would have concluded that this sort of thing was probably not for me
- [17:00] Thoth Jantzen: almost a learning zig-zag, Czarina. ;o)
- [17:01] bibi Aquila: I hope that they understand that for my it does not have felt by that it is not my language
- [17:01] Reflection Freenote: yes, Czarina, there is quite a selection factor operating. Maybe that is also an important part of the process. Maybe the people who persist perceive an underlying importance in the opportunities for them specifically which then warrants the investment of time and energy
- [17:01] Books Janus: yes, bibi. my language has guided me in my life. Now my language ... and others' language in, uh, co-mingling?
- [17:02] Czarina Vella grins... yes Thoth... as to what you said Ref... don't you think we don't know until we do... so experience is ideal
- [17:03] Books Janus: I wonder, does SL makes us more equal with each other?
- [17:03] Thoth Jantzen: and Ref, obviously SL is important to 'me' in many ways. It's a largish part of my life, but I do feel it important I don't overly separate them or compartmentalize too much...
- [17:03] Thoth Jantzen: ...but that also leads to other 'frustrations' - it can be hard to work out the right ways to integrate SL with you're life...to gain and maintain the correct perspective.
- [17:03] Reflection Freenote: absolutely books, there is essential equality among avatars (except for us poor perpetual noobs like myself, the SL 'untouchables';-))
- [17:03] Books Janus: there's no government of which can "separate" us.

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- [17:03] Thoth Jantzen: that's also a part of the 'exploration' i think.
- [17:04] Czarina Vella: Thoth, it nearly creates a new perspective that only people that "know" via experience can understand... an oddity for sure
- [17:04] Reflection Freenote: yes, Thoth, I have been quite conscious for the past year of having a "sustainability" program for SL. Setting certain limits, getting exercise, etc. But that also speaks to the power of the environment. It seems to have the ability to almost create addictive levels of involvement
- [17:05] Books Janus: yes, reflection.
- [17:05] Thoth Jantzen: for me, I don't see SL as a game; it's an added 'dimension' of RL (and I do hate using SL and RL, but it's necessary for convenience often)...
- [17:06] Reflection Freenote: Czarina, I wonder why some people do not persist. Any ideas?
- [17:06] Czarina Vella: very much so... and so groups that help people deal with their SL addiction that are in SL are not maybe helping
- [17:06] Books Janus: avatars have a more soothing "tone" in their "voice."
- [17:06] Thoth Jantzen: for me, SL is 'real' - it is 95 percent relationships with other ppl - and those are real relationships... and real people.
- [17:07] Reflection Freenote: absolutely
- [17:07] Czarina Vella: well I know some people who just get so frustrated at all that you have to learn and create to really develop yourself in sl
- [17:07] Marya Blaisdale: well, a lot of people do not intuitively get along with technology and the frustrations of getting around the learning curve can be too much and perhaps, for some, outweigh what potential they may see
- [17:07] Books Janus: It took me a day to understand how to open curtains.
- [17:07] Thoth Jantzen: everything else is largely to support and give added substance to them. And a bit of it is to express a bit of myself to them, as well...in certain ways.
- [17:07] Reflection Freenote: indeed Thoth, my avatar in RL is a much more brittle and unyielding persona than this one to be sure;-))
- [17:07] Books Janus: three days to turn the TV on.
- [17:07] Marya Blaisdale: lol Books
- [17:08] Thoth Jantzen: well, mine is also a bit different, but not 'much'. The external persona is. But then, here I create the same effect in other ways...
- [17:08] Reflection Freenote: yes, books, I was like Gilligan on Orientation Island, a three hour tour took me about 7 weeks;-)
- [17:08] Books Janus: lol; lol again.
- [17:09] Thoth Jantzen: hehehe; I was there for a week myself... the horror stories made me unsure i wanted to venture out until I could effectively 'defend' myself. ;o)
- [17:10] Reflection Freenote: well, and I was just trying to escape the whole time, it was like a stalag, just show me the quickest way out (trying to cheat by getting other noobs to do things for me)
- [17:10] Czarina Vella: the first person that talked to me I didn't talk to as I didn't know how... and she was highly offended and cursed me out up one side and down the other on orientation island
- [17:11] Books Janus: lol again.
- [17:11] Marya Blaisdale: it's interesting - I guess that learning curve may well play some part - but I think perhaps what value can be seen in it probably plays a bigger part. And I think that is interesting, because it can maybe give you some insight into how people approach or understand their realities, subjectively
- [17:11] Reflection Freenote: I wonder if very many people here were exposed to troubling or disturbing experiences early in their sojourn in SL?
- [17:11] Books Janus: yes, Reflection, but I'm not sure I want to mention it. It has to do with following the green dots and landing in a whore house. Oh, my.
- [17:11] Thoth Jantzen: probably many. But then 'disturbing' is a relative term.

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[17:12] Marya Blaisdale: Thankfully no, it was a very quick learning curve for me (being a veteran 3D gamer) and I only met nice people who were very helpful :]

[17:12] Czarina Vella: lol... Books you are not the first to land in a house:)

[17:12] Books Janus: thank you, czarina

[17:12] Reflection Freenote: yes, Marya, and that was a deft way of bringing us just back toward the point somewhat:)) Indeed, it says something of importance probably for those of use who do choose to climb that mountain. I wonder what it was that we were seeing that seemed so worthwhile?

[17:13] Reflection Freenote: ahhh books, the dreaded fall into perdition ;(((

[17:13] Thoth Jantzen: I think this is a powerful medium for bring ppl from diverse backgrounds and locations together... to communicate, share views and information... to be exposed to each other

[17:13] Books Janus: I wonder if it's knowledge, Reflection.

[17:13] Books Janus: yes, Thoth. That's it.

[17:14] Marya Blaisdale: yes, for those who feel a stronger need to communicate with like minded people and who do not get much of that sort of exposure in RL

[17:14] Thoth Jantzen: i think that's it's most important use - and then the things that can be built around that.

[17:14] Reflection Freenote: yes, marya, thoth, books, agreed

[17:14] Marya Blaisdale: so perhaps it helps those of us who have difficulty relating to those around us in RL - and many see that, but many have no problems relating, so perhaps they do not feel quite such a need :]

[17:15] Books Janus: I've sat in discussions similar to this one and found "we" are very interested in what we are doing.

[17:15] Thoth Jantzen: I have a hard time relating to ppl in RL. but that doesn't mean I don't want to or see the importance of it. And more so, I think that ppl really DO need to relate to each other as ppl more...

[17:15] Reflection Freenote: perhaps the ease of truly meaningful engagement with others is important for people generally, and more so as we become more isolated in RL because of technology, geographical separation, mobility with jobs, etc. etc.

[17:15] Thoth Jantzen: especially those from different cultures. SL opens many doors for that - but also presents unexpected obstacles. It is easy for many ppl to see avatars as characters instead of real ppl, for example.

[17:16] Books Janus: different cultures? I'm wondering if we've tended in the past different cultures made a difference but in sl it has not.

[17:16] Thoth Jantzen: 'culture' can mean a lot of things...

[17:17] Books Janus: yes, thoth. even within one city.

[17:17] Reflection Freenote: it does seem as though the entire world is on a mission called globalization Books, and SL seems to be a very potent psychological expression of that

[17:17] Thoth Jantzen: it can mean bringing laymen in contact with academics, or westerners in contact with easterners, etc.

[17:17] Books Janus: yes, reflection. We are interested in each other.

[17:18] Marya Blaisdale: well, it certainly breaks down a number of RL barriers, appearance being one, amongst many, and we have the opportunity to communicate with each other just as 'people' as opposed to a product of any particular culture - and this, I think, is an excellent experiment in living so to speak - it can help to teach people tolerance in ways that would take decades in RL maybe :]

[17:18] Reflection Freenote: yes, Thoth, there is integration across disciplines, lines of ideological difference, many sorts of cultural intermingling here

[17:18] Thoth Jantzen: and it can let you meet interesting ppl who have a lot of value on other levels you'd never meet in RL... so many dimensions to look at it from.

[17:19] Books Janus: values. no matter who we are, where we are, we have the same values.

[17:19] Thoth Jantzen: yes, to what Marya said.

[17:19] Books Janus: ...or similar.

[17:19] Thoth Jantzen: but their priorities and expressions can be very different, books.

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- [17:19] Reflection Freenote: it does seem as though our defensiveness in RL is generally quite great which inhibits us, both consciously and subconsciously from exploring relationship with people who are too different or not immediately "understood", where here there is much less of that
- [17:19] Thoth Jantzen: (priorities in relative terms)
- [17:19] Books Janus: explain. thoth, please.
- [17:20] Marya Blaisdale: Very much agreed, Ref
- [17:20] Thoth Jantzen: you say all ppl have same values and that can be true in some ways...
- [17:20] Books Janus: yes...
- [17:20] Thoth Jantzen: ...but the relative importance of some values can be different... e.g. honor, material success, family, etc. etc.
- [17:20] Books Janus: okay
- [17:21] Reflection Freenote: well, it does seem as though what we find here is that people want very much to engage, to communicate and to be understood by others
- [17:21] Thoth Jantzen: and they can be expressed or practiced in different ways as well.
- [17:21] Reflection Freenote: the deeply human aspects are extremely similar, I think, even while the surface manifestations can be quite different
- [17:21] Books Janus: so then, we share our differences easily in sl.
- [17:21] Thoth Jantzen: yes, Ref.
- [17:21] Czarina Vella: well SL veils us
- [17:22] Thoth Jantzen: but it is often the surface - superficial - manifestations which cause conflict...often due to misinterpretation based on ignorance or unfamiliarity...
- [17:22] Reflection Freenote: czarina, does it veil us or unveil us?
- [17:22] Czarina Vella: it does both
- [17:22] Reflection Freenote: agreed:))
- [17:22] Thoth Jantzen: ppl need to first relate to and respect each other as ppl first; and deal with other things as they come up, in some reasonable 'perspective'.
- [17:22] Czarina Vella: it veils us to feel safe to risk showing ourselves deeper
- [17:22] Marya Blaisdale: perhaps, in some ways, it veils the things that shouldn't matter and unveils the things that should :]
- [17:23] Books Janus: yes, Thoth, however there's not leadership, political defining our actions towards each other.
- [17:23] Czarina Vella: good point Marya
- [17:23] Thoth Jantzen: I am not sure that's true books...
- [17:23] Reflection Freenote: yes, I suppose that in SL, even people who can only engage with hostility can find venues in which to work on engagement, even though they have such a severe emotional handicap
- [17:23] Thoth Jantzen: I see a lot of ppl coming in here with their RL attitudes... and it can much affect how they relate to other ppl.
- [17:24] Reflection Freenote: yes, czarina, it provides us essential protection of our organic self, which allows for an unveiling of the mind, I think
- [17:24] Thoth Jantzen: especially political and social views.
- [17:24] Books Janus: yes, different attitudes, however what in sl do we turn to to support "ours"?
- [17:24] Reflection Freenote: agreed Marya
- [17:24] Czarina Vella: and even our hearts
- [17:25] Reflection Freenote: yes, indeed:))
- [17:25] Thoth Jantzen: often, books, it comes down to who can best or more loudly express their views. but again, it depends on the context/crowd/individuals involved.
- [17:26] Reflection Freenote: so, in unveiling our minds and hearts, our aspirations, and missions, perhaps there is something about that which can be profitably reflected upon for our own self-understanding
- [17:26] Thoth Jantzen: there is not only unveiling, tho...

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- [17:26] spiritwarrior Lexenstar: and our own self understanding points to something greater?
- [17:26] Books Janus: yes, Thoth, however my ... I don't know what to call this, but my citizenship is not something I fall back on to support my values. I have no citizenship here.
- [17:26] Thoth Jantzen: there is also masking going on. As revealing as SL can be, it can be just as (or more) deceptive, too.
- [17:27] Reflection Freenote: It may be that in realizing these deeper elements of ourselves here spirit, this will facilitate their expression in RL also?
- [17:27] Thoth Jantzen: I have direct experience with both sides; so, it is important not to be naive here...
- [17:27] spiritwarrior Lexenstar: depends on what boundaries we define for SL and not RL ?
- [17:27] Thoth Jantzen: not to be SO open-minded that our brains fall out, so to speak ;o)
- [17:27] Books Janus: yes, spirit, are the boundaries in SL less important?
- [17:28] spiritwarrior Lexenstar: only if we make them less important , I think; though, what strikes me , is the notion of a "Second' life'
- [17:28] Books Janus: and, spirit, I believe I have lately been making them less important.
- [17:28] Czarina Vella: well I think we often push boundaries here in SL more than we do in RL
- [17:28] Reflection Freenote: yes, I would imagine that if someone wanted to sell you a large bridge in Brooklyn, it would be good to do your research on that in SL especially;-))
- [17:28] Thoth Jantzen: a lot of bridges get sold in SL, ref.
- [17:29] Books Janus: you do, czarina?
- [17:29] Reflection Freenote: and you don't even need to buy them Thoth, I sleep under them all the time:))
- [17:29] Marya Blaisdale: lol
- [17:29] Books Janus: I can camera very very close to your face in here.
- [17:29] Czarina Vella: and you might find that you actually can by a large bridge in Brooklyn here in SL... but RL you know you're out the cash if you hand it over
- [17:29] Thoth Jantzen: well... it's something I don't think should be so easily overlooked, Ref.
- [17:30] Reflection Freenote: well, czarina, do you mean that we explore our limits more aggressively here?
- [17:30] Thoth Jantzen: but perhaps I'm a bit more biased in that sense than others.
- [17:30] Books Janus: hmmm, good question, ref.
- [17:30] Czarina Vella: mmm... I think some, even many push them more here
- [17:31] Books Janus: explain, czarina, please.
- [17:31] Czarina Vella: for instance.. let us take a very heated topic
- [17:31] Reflection Freenote: it's true Thoth, that one might develop a feeling of complete invulnerability here, and that would be misplaced. At the same time, one *is* genuinely insulated from the sorts of consequences of exploration that are commonplace in RL
- [17:31] Books Janus: which one, czarina.
- [17:31] Thoth Jantzen: that's a bit inaccurate, ref.
- [17:32] Czarina Vella: Say sex and relationships... how many people do you know will walk up to someone and ask for it just after saying hi; but in SL it happens all the time
- [17:32] Psydea Klaar: Thank you
- [17:32] Thoth Jantzen: we are not isolated from the consequences of what we do, or what others do...especially IF we are trying to be honest/open about who we are and what we're doing, and take things seriously.
- [17:32] Books Janus: czarina, next time...I guess.
- [17:32] Marya Blaisdale: They say hello first, Czarina? (lol)
- [17:32] Books Janus: lol, Marya
- [17:32] Czarina Vella: lol, sometimes
- [17:33] Reflection Freenote: well, Thoth, I suppose it depends on how insulated one keeps their SL and RL, how compartmentalized
- [17:33] Thoth Jantzen: yes. and I think they should not be...personally.

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- [17:33] Reflection Freenote: It seems as though the cultural norm is to keep identities highly compartmentalized and if there is not that compartmentalization, then one is severely constrained in action here, as you must conform to the same expectations as your roles in RL would require
- [17:34] Thoth Jantzen: not if you are doing 'serious' work here and creating relationships and engaged in activities that have important impacts on people's lives.
- [17:34] Thoth Jantzen: why would you want that compartmentalization? Only to avoid consequences?
- [17:34] Books Janus: serious work, that has made a difference for me in sl. Once I started serious work in sl, my time here changed.
- [17:34] Reflection Freenote: well, Thoth, I tend to take what I do here very seriously, but am almost entirely compartmentalized
- [17:34] Books Janus: same as in RL though.
- [17:35] Thoth Jantzen: I think that can lead to 'bad things' - if there are no consequences for one's actions, one can act totally irresponsibly... without concern for the effect their actions have on others.
- [17:35] Reflection Freenote: I do find that people whose RL identity is very open, have to be much more careful in what they do here
- [17:35] Marya Blaisdale: yes ;)
- [17:35] Thoth Jantzen: yes. But they should be.
- [17:36] Reflection Freenote: hahahahaha
- [17:36] Reflection Freenote: well that's good for you then!!!! But I am free as a bird!!!!!!
- [17:36] Thoth Jantzen: I'm perhaps not making my point well... but I do think lack of consequence is not necessarily a good thing.
- [17:36] Czarina Vella: that is true Ref...
- [17:36] Marya Blaisdale: well ... relatively speaking Ref :P
- [17:36] Thoth Jantzen: freedom without responsibility...
- [17:36] Reflection Freenote: hahahahaha
- [17:37] Thoth Jantzen: ...not something I think is such a good thing overall.
- [17:37] Reflection Freenote: Marya, I'm speaking in absolute terms!!!! Dr. Jekyll and MR HIDE!!!!
- [17:37] Reflection Freenote: actually, Thoth, I find that most people have enormous inner constraints
- [17:37] Marya Blaisdale: Not possible Ref! You have already built a community or ten in SL and are therefore expected to behave in a certain manner in order to maintain that community - so, while you may not be open about your RL identity, you are equally as bound as I am ;D
- [17:38] Czarina Vella: well that is until he creates an alt
- [17:38] Reflection Freenote: that is, most "normal folk". True sociopaths require rigid limits and create havoc without them, but they are rare in the population
- [17:38] Marya Blaisdale: True Czarina :)
- [17:38] Thoth Jantzen: ref, I have experience to the contrary. But then I suspect the circles we move in, while they intersect, also are a bit different, too.
- [17:38] Czarina Vella: or three or four etc...
- [17:38] Reflection Freenote: right, next week, I will be having a friend of mine lead the group
- [17:38] Thoth Jantzen: and I do spend a lot of time observing ppl... how they interact, etc.
- [17:39] Reflection Freenote: his name is Jack Hammer;-))
- [17:39] Marya Blaisdale: a 'friend' lol
- [17:39] Czarina Vella: lol
- [17:39] Reflection Freenote: don't mind Jack if is a bit off. He's just "colorful"
- [17:39] Marya Blaisdale: haha; it would certainly be very, very interesting to see a colourful alt of yours Ref, erm, friend sorry :P
- [17:40] Reflection Freenote: of course even this sort of joking would be entirely inappropriate in my RL, and might well be here, if I were not compartmentalized:))

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[17:41] Reflection Freenote: so, perhaps Thoth, there is a place for a non-compartmentalized exploration, and a place for the more compartmentalized?

[17:41] Reflection Freenote: after all, should not our sense of morals be intrinsic, rather than extrinsic?

[17:41] Thoth Jantzen: I take SL as an extension of RL... not as 'separate'

