

# Delphi: Self Assessment



Led by	Reflection Freenote
Title	Compartmentalization of Self (Real Life and Second Life)
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## INTRODUCTION

Our topic for discussion tonight is the compartmentalization of self, both in RL and in SL. That is the many facets of self which all of us have. With Psychological tests, you can examine where you score, as compared to others on issues ranging from vocational interest to self-esteem to life-satisfaction, and anxiety or depression.

An interesting type of research, however, is often conducted in which subjects are asked to respond to the questionnaire as somebody else. This of course gives very different results. Indeed, the modern technique of method acting which underlies the greater realism of modern acting as opposed to that which was common before the Second World War, is based on an actor actually adopting the persona and becoming the person portrayed.

In reality all of us naturally have this ability, and exercise it without generally being aware that we do. So while we think of our "self" and our "personality" as unitary and monolithic it is fairly easy to observe that this is not really the case.

Those of us who are student age (high school or college) may, upon brief reflection, note that we have very different patterns of behavior and apparent persona when we are around our parents, or grandparents, as compared to our college or high-school friends. Typically these personas are dramatically different. Most of us do not think of this as putting on a different role when we are with the different group. We just act, behave and relate in different ways.

Those of us who are parents of teenage or college students, have typically been aware that we have very different personas which we exhibit to our children, than we may exhibit to our own personal friends. Likewise, different personas exist for work and play, for church or dance club, for public and for private.

While these personas exist in RL, we may be relatively unaware of these differences, unless someone overhears a conversation not meant for them, when the effect can be very shocking (both to them and to us).

In SL, however, we have a much better ability to compartmentalize our RL self, from the "self" which gains expression in SL. Indeed many of us actually find that we may desire (or even need) multiple avatars or alts in order to explore the variety of potentialities which we may wish to explore in our own nature. Certainly our "true" identity includes all of these facets whether or not we are aware of them.

- ≈ So what have you found about your SL selves vs. your RL self?
- ≈ Why do you think that compartmentalization of self, as in SL, allows for different sorts of behavior to be expressed?
- ≈ Are these different "selves" all equally valid, or not?
- ≈ Is this greater freedom of action a good thing or a bad thing?



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## DISCUSSION:

- [16:37] Lea56 Hyun: <thinking>
- [16:37] Reflection Freenote: there is no rush lea:))
- [16:37] Lea56 Hyun: that's good! lol
- [16:38] Thoth Jantzen: well, I'll try to keep my involvement in the discussion brief, but I will state again - I really don't like the use of alts unless it is done transparently. Normally, at least more often than not, they are used deceptively - whether or not maliciously so...
- [16:38] Juliete3d Quinzet: I have a problem being anyone other than I am - so I am the same here as in RL
- [16:38] KinoEye Galaxy: why is anonymity necessarily deceptive?
- [16:38] Jennette Forager: Much of it has to do with the expectations of those that you interact with.
- [16:38] Thoth Jantzen: ...and I personally think it's unfair for those you know, especially if you know them in different contexts as alts without them being aware.
- [16:38] Shorahmin Femto: same here Jul
- [16:38] Reflection Freenote: yes, Thoth, well, my choice of topic was really so we could continue our discussion from last time, so please don't be reserved:))
- [16:38] Tredi Felisimo: when I first came to SL, it was for class, so never considered that I would be anything other than "me" in SL... even created my avi with an attempt to look like "me"
- [16:38] Thoth Jantzen: u can be anonymous with one avatar....
- [16:38] Fearless Foulbane: I am doing a masters level dissertation on this topic - and I have found many ppl insist they are their 'real selves' in SL
- [16:38] Juliete3d Quinzet: yes Thoth that is where deception comes into play
- [16:38] Thoth Jantzen: ...u don't need many for that. if u wish to be anonymous.
- [16:39] Birric Forcella: Well, sometimes you have to use them deceptively. Like when you were booted from somewhere for no good reason or actually evil reasons, like it happened to me
- [16:39] Reflection Freenote: interesting fearless, I'd love to hear about your findings:)
- [16:39] Lea56 Hyun: This is a very important subject to me in FL as well as here, less here than FL
- [16:39] Thoth Jantzen: anyway...that's my position, and I'm stickin' to it. Have at it, kids :o)
- [16:40] Lea56 Hyun: I worry I am so compartmentalized RL, that I "lose" myself at times
- [16:40] Birric Forcella: Certain vicious people booted me from certain places - so I have to go there anonymously to see what kind of other nonsense they are doing
- [16:40] Lea56 Hyun: If that makes sense
- [16:40] Shorahmin Femto: I have an alt. His name is Shorahmin Skytower - no deception there
- [16:40] Juliete3d Quinzet: I don't mean the use of alts is necessarily deception
- [16:40] Reflection Freenote: so lea, the compartments seem much more sturdy in RL and theses constrain the more "authentic" you?
- [16:40] Tredi Felisimo: We can compartmentalize ourselves without an alt.. simply by adding wings, for example
- [16:40] Marya Blaisdale: Yes, I have an alt but I don't use it to interact with people - I use it so that I can belong to more groups :]
- [16:41] Tredi Felisimo: or adjusting our "appearance"
- [16:41] Fearless Foulbane: Reflection I will be writing my findings up shortly
- [16:41] Lea56 Hyun: constrain? Ref?
- [16:41] Marya Blaisdale: so not all alt uses are malicious - just many are (I think that was the point Thoth was making)
- [16:41] Birric Forcella: In RL you have far more rights than here

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- [16:41] Vivacious Voom: The essence of who I am I am in SL as in RL. What I wouldn't do in RL, I don't do here. Many people use alts as a tool for deception, true BUT many use them to create different content genres, etc.
- [16:41] Reflection Freenote: cool fearless
- [16:41] Caro Babenco: people we interact with in here com to have certain expectations of our behaviour, and just as in RL this can put constraints on our ability to explore other facets of ourselves. This is why I use alts, so I can interact without being limited by other's reactions to who they perceive I am.
- [16:41] Birric Forcella: In RL you can't be silenced the way you can here - well, unless you live in Canada
- [16:41] Grath Helgerud: I find the exploration of multiple selves very creative and quite in keeping with the freedoms afforded by SL
- [16:41] Lea56 Hyun: I agree, Caro
- [16:41] Eliza Madrigal: There are enough people online in SL who are actively roleplaying, that if one wants that ground, they can have it. No need to be deceptive really.
- [16:41] Reflection Freenote: the rigidities of RL, tend to inhibit the actual you?
- [16:41] Juliete3d Quinzet: hmmm
- [16:42] Lea56 Hyun: yes
- [16:42] KinoEye Galaxy: Grath makes an interesting point about multiple selves
- [16:42] Jennette Forager: I think the notion of expectations bears further examination.
- [16:42] Vivacious Voom: [16:41] Reflection Freenote: the rigidities of RL, tend to inhibit the actual you? --- Me? No, I am me.
- [16:42] Jennette Forager: How do we choose which expectations to subscribe to?
- [16:42] Lea56 Hyun: My family has such rigid views and mostly opposite to mine that for years I just more or less withdrew
- [16:42] Pun Couffer: Well, I realized that there really is a difference between modes of behaviour I have IRL and online in communication with other people. I, and some other people who were on various chats a lot, believe that a) one can get to know other people better over the internet than IRL (not my thought, and not something I completely agree with, but I think there's some truth there), b) one tends to be less inhibited online.
- [16:42] Lea56 Hyun: I am "braver" now but I still temper what I say around them, so I end up feeling stifled (sp?)
- [16:43] Pun Couffer: I think the reason for 'a' is that people become less inhibited to talk about some stuff they wouldn't want to talk about IRL.
- [16:43] Fearless Foulbane: I think we need to understand that SL gives ppl the opportunity to express sides of themselves not possible in RL, or for facilitating change. For example, gender transition
- [16:43] Birric Forcella: Well, there are very rigid places in SL, as we all know, Lea - so you can either withdraw or you can explore them anonymously
- [16:44] Lea56 Hyun: I haven't found SL all that rigid, Birric but I hear what you are saying
- [16:44] Reflection Freenote: it seems Thoth, that as long as boundaries and the parameters of relationship are clearly stated and agreed to, then relationship is not deceptive even if it is compartmentalized
- [16:44] Birric Forcella: You have to temper what you say in SL in most places, too, Lea. We all may feel stifled here
- [16:44] Lea56 Hyun: well yes, the are rules of conduct here as in RL, that doesn't bother me personally; by nature I am fairly conservative in my speech if NOT in my thoughts;-)
- [16:45] Thoth Jantzen: it is deceptive if it is not honest, ref.
- [16:45] Birric Forcella: So you like being stifled - I guess from long habit
- [16:45] KinoEye Galaxy: what do you mean by honesty, Thoth? Revelation of RL identity?
- [16:45] Thoth Jantzen: no - being consistent.
- [16:45] Lea56 Hyun: no, not really, so far I haven't encountered a place here where I felt stifled, Birric, it is so open here
- [16:45] KinoEye Galaxy: revelation of being the other av?

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- [16:46] Vivacious Voom: I think one has to be willing to be who they want to be regardless of anyone else -- I mean one can't live for the approval of others like a circus animal jumping through hoops -- you'll go crazy and be miserable
- [16:46] Thoth Jantzen: if I know u in one capacity as 'Thoth' and in another as 'harvey wallbanger' and u do not know I am the same person behind both...
- [16:46] Caro Babenco: Yes, I'd like to know what Troth means by honesty also. There is privacy, and not having to tell everyone all our personal things - is that dishonesty?
- [16:46] Reflection Freenote: yes, Thoth, agreed, so the issue of alts doesn't really have to do with honesty necessarily, does it?
- [16:46] Lea56 Hyun: good point, Viv
- [16:46] Fearless Foulbane: I agree with caro
- [16:46] Grath Helgerud: there is not way to hold an avatar to honesty about themselves on SL
- [16:46] Thoth Jantzen: ...and u relate to me differently depending on which role i am playing...
- [16:46] Fearless Foulbane: and viv
- [16:46] Vivacious Voom: u have to be willing to risk rejection and know being who you are even if rejected is soooooooooo worth it
- [16:46] Thoth Jantzen: ...I think it could be very disturbing to you to find out later that I am actually the same person. That both personas are the same.
- [16:47] Fearless Foulbane: persona is not the same as person
- [16:47] Lea56 Hyun: I agree, Viv, I finally had to do that with my family in FL
- [16:47] Eliza Madrigal: Context matters ... different contexts bring out different aspects of ones personality at times... and many people find SL useful for that
- [16:47] Lea56 Hyun: they thought I was doomed and crazy but I felt so much better:-)
- [16:47] Vivacious Voom: Good Lea and that's okay
- [16:47] Thoth Jantzen: it's all rationalizazation, such arguments...
- [16:47] KinoEye Galaxy: so if an alt encounters someone that he or she knows as someone else, they have an ethical obligation to reveal it?
- [16:47] Thoth Jantzen: persona, person, etc. etc.
- [16:47] Vivacious Voom: Its okay to say, no -- u cant please everyone no matter who they are
- [16:47] KinoEye Galaxy: or not to engage?
- [16:48] Thoth Jantzen: I would agree, kinoeye.
- [16:48] Reflection Freenote: but Thoth, are you the same person as both. Maybe we really do experience different facets of ourselves when we adopt different personas, and maybe this is useful psychologically, especially in the modern world
- [16:48] Lea56 Hyun: yes, that was my problem, Viv, trying to please everyone, hard habit to break
- [16:48] Thoth Jantzen: it is not 'me' I am worried about there ref...
- [16:48] Vivacious Voom: yes, but very breakable when you begin to focus on pleasing yourself
- [16:48] Thoth Jantzen: ...it is the people I interact with mostly. but that said... how honest am i being with myself if i need to use alts to explore different 'aspects' of myself?
- [16:48] Lea56 Hyun: nods to Viv
- [16:48] Vivacious Voom: being happy with you
- [16:49] Fearless Foulbane: the assumption is that if someone has an alt it is intentionally to deceive - that is not necessarily the case
- [16:49] Pun Couffer: Is anyone here from Japan or China?
- [16:49] Lea56 Hyun: This business of alts is interesting and it is an emotional topic with some and I can understand why in some instances
- [16:49] Eliza Madrigal nods to Fearless
- [16:49] Tredi Felisimo: I created an alt, so I could be here alone and in quiet. So I wouldn't offend people who expect response when they IM and not worry about clicking and unclicking everybody's name

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- [16:49] Thoth Jantzen: how much am i contributing to my own 'disintegration' as a person by doing so?
- [16:49] Lea56 Hyun: Me too, Tredi!
- [16:49] Tredi Felisimo: she's the "peaceful" me
- [16:49] Fearless Foulbane: I think a lot of ppl do that Tredi
- [16:49] KinoEye Galaxy: I think that is a good reason for an alt, Tredi, one I have heard a lot
- [16:50] Tredi Felisimo: and that IS about anonymity
- [16:50] Lea56 Hyun: Especially if you "work" here and have a lot of contacts and obligations
- [16:50] BDSM Blogger: In my BDSM, when someone is owned by a Master, it is very easy to go make an alt and go be owned by someone else, as well. It throws to the wind all that is sacred in a D/s relationship.
- [16:50] Tredi Felisimo: can't spell tonight... sorry
- [16:50] Vivacious Voom: The whole thing is really a big crap shoot anyway, I mean really. Since no one can control outside circumstances or anyone else's behavior -- who cares why others use alts?
- [16:50] Marya Blaisdale: Well, I think there is a balance here - while I agree with Thoth on many levels, I also believe it can be a good thing for people to explore different aspects of themselves via the use of alts - if it helps a person to better understand themselves, and it is not specifically done in order to be cruel to other people - then I do think it is acceptable
- [16:50] Thoth Jantzen: I am not saying all uses are bad. But many - even most - are. Much depends on the intent/purpose and use of it.
- [16:50] Reflection Freenote: now that is an interesting question Thoth, you believe that it can create psychological chaos to adopt personas?
- [16:50] Tredi Felisimo: we're still navigating "manners" in SL. Some people expect 24/7 access when you're online. It's not like you knock first!
- [16:51] Pun Couffer: It seems to me that this change of personality can happen to a troublingly big extent. It seems there's something very dark in most of us. In war, plenty of people join together to do horrible things, like in Nanking massacre, Holocaust, and what was happening in ex-Yugoslavia.
- [16:51] Vivacious Voom: true Tredi
- [16:51] Lea56 Hyun: True, Tredi, even FL I can say, hey this is my quiet time
- [16:51] Fearless Foulbane: ppl in SL can be cruel even without alts
- [16:51] Lea56 Hyun: quiet time that is
- [16:51] Birric Forcella: As I said, often you have no choice but to use a deceptive alt - for when you have been booted somewhere viciously and without good reason
- [16:51] Caro Babenco: Me also, Tredi, and then I built one to house my extensive inventory, and she got a life of her own here also. There are many reasons to have an alt. But most people don't deceive others. I have also found people are deceptive on only one alt - its some people's nature to be, but becous you have an alt, it doesn't mean that being deceptive is what you want to do with.
- [16:51] Vivacious Voom: use always have a choice; dont rationize it, just own it
- [16:52] Reflection Freenote: yes, pun, like the zimbarado experiments at Stanford, no that was milgram. Agreed that the freedom of adopting alts, might unleash potentialities that do not fit well with our dominant personality, especially in RL
- [16:53] Pun Couffer nods.
- [16:53] Birric Forcella: I've never been deceptive to anybody. In fact, I usually get found out because I cannot hide my personality.
- [16:53] Lea56 Hyun: well yes, I had a n alt early on and m et someone I knew as this AV
- [16:53] Tredi Felisimo: now that's a surprise Birric!
- [16:53] Pun Couffer: Oh, and that experiment that was carried out in Spain, where half the subjects were prisoners, and the other half prison guards. It became very violent very soon.
- [16:53] Lea56 Hyun: so I kept it up for about 2 weeks and felt so guilty I had to tell her it was me
- [16:53] Vivacious Voom: [16:53] Birric Forcella: I've never been deceptive to anybody. In fact, I usually get found out because I cannot hide my personality.

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- [16:53] Lea56 Hyun: so I let that alt go
- [16:53] Pun Couffer: Normal people turned into aggressive monsters.
- [16:53] Vivacious Voom: speech patterns usually give people away
- [16:54] Pun Couffer: In very short time.
- [16:54] Vivacious Voom: at least for me
- [16:54] Pun Couffer: A week or something like that.
- [16:54] Grath Helgerud: Actually it is quite fun to explore oneself in many ways here
- [16:54] Lea56 Hyun: that's interesting, Pun
- [16:54] Lea56 Hyun: I thought I might be different as an alt but I tended to be more and more like "me"
- [16:54] Caro Babenco: Is it any different from creating characters in a novel? They are ll imbued with your persona also, or your perception of other's.
- [16:54] Fearless Foulbane: sometimes SL can be disappointing and it is more beneficial to begin again for whatever reason
- [16:54] Grath Helgerud: shifting Gender or race is especially educational
- [16:54] Birric Forcella: And I don't want to hide my personality
- [16:55] KinoEye Galaxy: I think of alts as aspects of personality
- [16:55] Jennette Forager: Some people are more comfortable with this sort of thing than others.
- [16:55] Jennette Forager: I know a woman who is quite skilled..
- [16:55] Reflection Freenote: it does seem Thoth, as though an honest relationship with another person, always involves boundaries and limitations of information. So one can be honest about oneself and also maintain privacy through the use of an alt. what is wrong with that do you think?
- [16:55] Lea56 Hyun: I have known some who have done that, Fearless but I prefer to work things out with this alt, besides I have a fortune invested in her
- [16:55] Lea56 Hyun: lol
- [16:55] Vivacious Voom: I've been an African alt here and I was called, a nigger
- [16:55] Vivacious Voom: lol
- [16:55] Vivacious Voom: so laughable
- [16:55] Fearless Foulbane: LOL Lea
- [16:55] Lea56 Hyun: oh no, really, Viv?
- [16:55] Vivacious Voom: I couldn't believe it
- [16:56] Jennette Forager: she basically killed off one of her avies with a story of RL cancer...and then was totally comfortable allowing people to grieve...despite her capacity to tell them the truth.
- [16:56] Fearless Foulbane: that is disgusting
- [16:56] Lea56 Hyun: I am shocked, Viv
- [16:56] Thoth Jantzen: ref, to be honest, I know ppl have different views on alts and honesty and relationships....
- [16:56] Lea56 Hyun: oh no, Jennette, that is horrible!
- [16:56] Reflection Freenote: yes, lea, I have found it very hard to be an alt, I think I just lack creativity. But it did really make me think about how rigid many of my habits or response and perception are and the exercise was enormously interesting
- [16:56] Jennette Forager: It was...
- [16:56] Lea56 Hyun: to me anyway, I would grieve for someone like that FL
- [16:56] Tredi Felisimo: Very early on I created a VERY sexy alt, just to see what it would feel like to be sexy. Felt anything BUT sexy!
- [16:56] Lea56 Hyun: lol, Tredi
- [16:56] Vivacious Voom: Lea what is so laughable about it is that anyone can me any race behind an avatar, so really what difference does it make?
- [16:56] Fearless Foulbane: LOL Tredi

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- [16:56] Jennette Forager: and those of us who found out.. were amazed at our reluctance to break the news to others.
- [16:56] Thoth Jantzen: all I can really do is let ppl I deal with know my views, hope they respect them, and try to be consistent in my own conduct with those views.
- [16:56] Fearless Foulbane: maybe u weren't
- [16:56] Jennette Forager: We wanted it to be her action...
- [16:56] Lea56 Hyun: I admit, I have not made the alt I want to make (grins wolfishly)
- [16:57] Jennette Forager laffs @ Lea
- [16:57] Lea56 Hyun: <--needs more guts!
- [16:57] Tredi Felisimo: lol
- [16:57] Tredi Felisimo: guts Lea... GUTS!
- [16:57] Marya Blaisdale: That is disturbing Viv, but not surprising - this points to some of the issues with anonymity but again, it also puts you in a position where you can 'really' feel what it is like for a black person to experience that sort of insult, so in a sense, you can definitely learn to understand other perspectives in ways you simply couldn't do in RL
- [16:57] Lea56 Hyun: grins
- [16:57] Vivacious Voom: Personally, I would really enjoy a conversation one day about why so many men come here and become female avatars.
- [16:57] KinoEye Galaxy: that is interesting, Viv
- [16:57] Lea56 Hyun: me too, Viv, I would truly like to know; just curious, not judging them
- [16:58] Vivacious Voom: I've figured it's to explore their feminine side; not just sex related
- [16:58] Lea56 Hyun: could be
- [16:58] Pun Couffer: Similar here, Reflection. When I first came to SL, I've tried pretending to be someone else. Very often, I wanted to act in a specific way in a conversation, knowing that the fictitious persona I was trying to create wouldn't act that way, but I decided to be myself anyway, because the urge was too hard to resist.
- [16:58] Vivacious Voom: I talk to a few and they're allowing me to record their experiences
- [16:58] Fearless Foulbane: being a man in RL can be very constraining
- [16:58] KinoEye Galaxy: if someone has alts of both genders, do they have an ethical obligation to reveal that to the people they interact with--it seems opposite to the experiment, or experience
- [16:58] Tredi Felisimo: I know of another person who is a gay black European male who wanted to build a club here, so made his avi a white powerful female! has been VERY successful and now reveals himself as the person he truly is. But feared he wouldn't be taken seriously if he created his avi to mirror his RL self originally
- [16:58] Lea56 Hyun: oh good, Viv, should be interesting
- [16:58] Juliete3d Quinzet: I know one male that is a female av but they are also a cross dresser in rl so it is not that much different for them
- [16:59] Jennette Forager: great example Tredi
- [16:59] Fearless Foulbane: i think ppls first obligation is to themselves
- [16:59] Lea56 Hyun: Yes, Tredi
- [16:59] Caro Babenco: Its good to get the 'guts', Lea :) ..Some of the social skills I have learned here have carried over to my RL, and I'm not so reluctant to interact in certain situations, becous I have 'practiced'in here
- [16:59] Thoth Jantzen: i know a lot of ppl who present themselves different in SL than they are in RL but most of them make it clear in their profile that this is the case.
- [16:59] Jennette Forager: speaks to both his personal notion of power and the cultural issues as well.
- [16:59] Vivacious Voom: I think one always has the obligation to self to be honest, hence first to self and then that spills forth onto others, so yes
- [16:59] Lea56 Hyun: you know, Caro, that might really help, I never thought of it
- [16:59] Reflection Freenote: yes, viv, I think culture tends to constrain men more to their own sex-role stereotypes (women can wear suites, but dresses just tend not to work for a guy), so this is an area of greater significance for men to explore perhaps

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- [17:00] Fearless Foulbane: yes viv
- [17:00] Jennette Forager: practice is a valuable thing.
- [17:00] Vivacious Voom: yes, I agree; that's it; it isn't about sex; it more about emotions; Id say
- [17:00] Fearless Foulbane: changing gender is nothing to do with sex
- [17:00] Grath Helgerud: or it may be about sex and emotional explorations
- [17:01] Vivacious Voom: yes, that's what I just said, but most believe its sexual
- [17:01] Fearless Foulbane: if it was just sex some1 would be gay
- [17:01] Tredi Felisimo: Sex and gender are very different
- [17:01] Vivacious Voom: and most of the men feel it is giving them a better understanding of women
- [17:02] Vivacious Voom: its really interesting
- [17:02] Pun Couffer: One of the meanings of 'sex' is a synonym for gender, though.
- [17:02] Lea56 Hyun: I think it would be, Viv
- [17:02] Fearless Foulbane: although tg ppl aren't always attracted to the same gender that they were originally obviously
- [17:02] Lea56 Hyun: I tried being a male once, not here and I didn't last 30 min ppl knew I was a female
- [17:02] Birric Forcella: Well, males are really bullied by the culture today to assume they have a feminine side .  
..
- [17:02] Tredi Felisimo: I created an avi for my husband. Does that mean I've explored my masculine side?
- [17:02] Fearless Foulbane: sex is biological, gender is to do with social role pun
- [17:02] Caro Babenco: Its pointless trying to reach only one conclusion. There are almost as many reasons for having an alt as there are people who have them ..smiles
- [17:02] Fearless Foulbane: they are not synonyms
- [17:02] Lea56 Hyun: it was an all text role play internet game.. back in the olden days
- [17:03] Vivacious Voom: agreed fearless, its all an individual deal
- [17:03] Marya Blaisdale: well, men have an 'emotional' side which is usually associated with 'female' Birric - and I think that is what that is about (and not necessarily presuming that men have a 'feminine' side per se)
- [17:03] Vivacious Voom: of course, men do; in fact,. I find most men to be very sensitive; but they don't want you to know it
- [17:04] Tredi Felisimo: Consider too, the young man who is confused about his gender. Might it be good to explore HERE first before putting on make-up and dressing like a woman for work one day?
- [17:04] Tredi Felisimo: He can explore that side of him "anonymously"
- [17:04] Lea56 Hyun: I think it might be, Tredi
- [17:04] Pun Couffer: Webster has the following definition for gender: 2 Sex.
- [17:04] Fearless Foulbane: isn't it interesting how we want to compartmentalise emotional attributes into belonging to specific genders
- [17:05] Tredi Felisimo: you go public... and it's over
- [17:05] Reflection Freenote: it does sound as though alts (as well as having an av in SL in the first place) is very much about "self"-expression, and empowering self and explorations of self. I wonder if this carries special risks or dangers?
- [17:05] Jennette Forager: yes, Fearless, agreed.
- [17:05] Vivacious Voom: yes, it is!
- [17:05] Birric Forcella: I once created three alts to test the educational level in various sims. They had the names of three of the character is a major cultural work - actually the equivalent of having Hamlet and Gertrud and Horatio. I had them sit next to each other in many sims, including Thothica. Nobody ever noticed . . .
- [17:05] Pun Couffer: Dictionary of American English, Learner's edition.
- [17:05] Vivacious Voom: generally men being assertive is very acceptable if not expected but when I woman is well, she is a bitch or on the rag or.....whatever
- [17:05] Reflection Freenote: yes, about the potential benefits of "trying things on" here and seeing how they fit you, before taking them to "prime time":)) (not that this isn't prime time folks;-))

# Delphi: Self Assessment

- [17:06] Tredi Felisimo: LOL Ref
- [17:06] KinoEye Galaxy: so much of the idea of self-expression depends on what we think we mean by "self"-- whether that is something unified, or not
- [17:06] Vivacious Voom: I agree, kino
- [17:06] Caro Babenco: Birric, I think people 'see' what they expect to, or not. They wouldn't have considered your computer had the capacity to have 3 of you online at once, maybe lol
- [17:06] Vivacious Voom: caro, lol
- [17:06] Fearless Foulbane: a sense of self as being unified is a very western concept anyhow
- [17:06] Tredi Felisimo: I do wonder about the risks though, Ref... might that exploration take someone who is borderline down an unfortunate rabbit hole?
- [17:07] Birric Forcella: That's not the point, Caro. They should have been surprised by the "coincidence" at least.
- [17:07] Jennette Forager: but what about the process of becoming unified.. Isn't that a universal?
- [17:07] Vivacious Voom: I think the real 'self' is the one that looks in on the 'self' 'selves' we're all talking about
- [17:07] Lea56 Hyun: They were probably all in IMs, Birric;-)
- [17:07] KinoEye Galaxy: if we have different aspects of self, and can only express that so much in the actual world, and can explore it in a different way in here, then alts have a particularly interesting role to play
- [17:07] Reflection Freenote: yes, Kino, it does seem that we assume it is unified, but it seems to me that it radically isn't
- [17:07] Tredi Felisimo: LOL Lea
- [17:07] Jennette Forager: isn't that what spirituality and education hope to help us achieve?
- [17:07] Marya Blaisdale: well education certainly, I could not agree with 'spirituality' though :)
- [17:07] Birric Forcella: I think the better explanation is that the people were just . . . well . . . you know
- [17:08] Jennette Forager: hmmm?
- [17:08] Fearless Foulbane: I think in RL the sense of being a 'self' is partly down to the fact we reside in a single body
- [17:08] Reflection Freenote: yes, tredi, I think individuals with problems in defining reality concensually in RL, might find this a very chaotic experience. But I wonder if it is not also challenging (in it's potential power) for the rest of us also
- [17:08] Lea56 Hyun: not literate? Birric? ;-) I would have noticed
- [17:08] Fearless Foulbane: but in SL we don't have to have that restriction
- [17:08] Birric Forcella: I doubt it
- [17:08] Tredi Felisimo: Would agree Ref
- [17:08] Grath Helgerud: What is the need to value this personal unity? Perhaps multiplicity is a more useful idea for the personality
- [17:08] Vivacious Voom: I think one being congruent is very important -- but that goes into beliefs, values, etc all being aligned
- [17:09] Lea56 Hyun: doubt I would have noticed, Birric?
- [17:09] Birric Forcella: yes
- [17:09] KinoEye Galaxy: Fearless, that is really interesting--that the sense of self is rooted in the body
- [17:09] Tredi Felisimo: the other word you used in your introduction was "awareness"... some folks aren't even aware of their true selves
- [17:09] KinoEye Galaxy: and in here, then is it rooted in the avatar?
- [17:09] Birric Forcella: Well, I think you would have noticed if you had known the characters, Lea
- [17:09] Fearless Foulbane: well Kino - it gives a boundary to who we are
- [17:09] Birric Forcella: Never mind
- [17:09] Vivacious Voom: Tredi -- right on!
- [17:09] Lea56 Hyun: you would be wrong there, Birric, I nearly got another masters in English Lit

# Delphi: Self Assessment

- [17:09] Caro Babenco: Birric, they may not have known the connection. Not everyone knows the same things as everyone else, even though they are obvious to us.
- [17:09] Vivacious Voom: they aren't
- [17:09] Lea56 Hyun: FL
- [17:09] Fearless Foulbane: but in SL we can have many different boundaries
- [17:10] Pun Couffer: I wonder what someone's true self would be.
- [17:10] Marya Blaisdale: I don't think if someone does or does not notice a set of avatars is an indication of education - either people have or have not read those books - it says nothing of their level of education
- [17:10] Pun Couffer: And I wonder what one's non-true self would be.
- [17:10] Birric Forcella: It wasn't Literature exactly, Lea
- [17:10] Lea56 Hyun: I wonder that as well, Pun
- [17:10] Vivacious Voom: what is one's true 'self'?
- [17:10] Lea56 Hyun: ah ok, I misunderstood, Birric
- [17:10] Reflection Freenote: sure, Grath, it seems as though we tend to value "authenticity" and this seems to be interpreted in terms of a monolithic personality structure, but I don't think it has to
- [17:10] KinoEye Galaxy: the idea of a "true self" is a contentious one
- [17:10] Fearless Foulbane: I don't think a 'true' self exists - it assumes we can know who that true self is
- [17:10] Grath Helgerud: nor do I
- [17:10] Tredi Felisimo: we have many concepts of "self" and they are always changing as we grow!
- [17:11] Vivacious Voom: I think a true self does exist and is buried under layers of conditioning
- [17:11] Fearless Foulbane: but also we cant always reflect on ourselves and 'know' who we are
- [17:11] Fearless Foulbane: yes viv
- [17:11] Pun Couffer: FWIW, my Hindu guru, Sri SRi Ravi Shankar, says that the true nature of all people are 'love, happiness, and peace'.
- [17:11] Marya Blaisdale: the 'true' self' can be said to be made up of many aspects - it is not an unchanging thing
- [17:11] Tredi Felisimo: what we see in ourselves is often not what others see.. just like looking at a photo of yourself and thinking... that's ME???
- [17:11] Jennette Forager: It isn't an isolated process...
- [17:11] Lea56 Hyun: yes Viv
- [17:11] Grath Helgerud: and regression in the service of our ego can be very useful therapy
- [17:11] Pun Couffer: That might be one definition of true self.
- [17:11] Jennette Forager: we must interact with the world in order to refine our concepts of ourselves
- [17:11] Jennette Forager: test, react, re-write
- [17:11] Vivacious Voom: in fact, our true self is always calling to us from beyond these layers of conditioning, its called our intuition
- [17:12] Davideo Zelnik: as a visual artist painter, I spent a lot of time looking for "true" blue...
- [17:12] Fearless Foulbane: yes Tredi - there are theories of the self that say we only come to think of ourselves as being selves because we take on the perspectives of others
- [17:12] Birric Forcella: I didn't want to start a discussion over education -- I just wanted to illustrate that there can be very offbeat reasons for having alts
- [17:12] Reflection Freenote: yes, fearless, or maybe we can only very rarely reflect on who we are, and it is in seeing our fragmentary natures more clearly that actually illuminates awareness
- [17:12] Davideo Zelnik: no such thing... its contextual, I found
- [17:12] Lea56 Hyun: I agree, Viv
- [17:12] Jennette Forager smiles@ Davideo.
- [17:12] Marya Blaisdale: well, I disagree with that Viv - I think intuition is the result of your brain taking in huge volumes of information and processing them (more about pattern recognition)
- [17:12] Jennette Forager: "We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are." -Anais Nin

# Delphi: Self Assessment

- [17:13] Vivacious Voom: I think its all good, even what we would define as 'bad' because from all of it, we grow, and expand
- [17:13] Juliete3d Quinzet: i made an alt but i gave her the same first name lol - OBVIOUS
- [17:13] Tredi Felisimo: wonderful Jennette!
- [17:13] Jennette Forager: :-)
- [17:13] Reflection Freenote: well, pun, that would be very nice if it were, although those milgram experiments cast some doubt on that for me
- [17:13] Fearless Foulbane: I tend to agree with Marya on intuition
- [17:13] Juliete3d Quinzet: I never use it because she is poor
- [17:13] Pun Couffer smirks.
- [17:13] Lea56 Hyun: lol, Juli
- [17:13] Tredi Felisimo: interesting point, really Juliete3d
- [17:14] Vivacious Voom: [17:12] Marya Blaisdale: well, I disagree with that Viv - I think intuition is the result of your brain taking in huge volumes of information and processing them (more about pattern recognition)
- [17:14] Lea56 Hyun: Mine too, Juli, sucks being poor on here as well as FL
- [17:14] Grath Helgerud: My hunch is that if you develop an alt and spend time in relationships different alts will use language here differently depending on who you inteact with
- [17:14] Juliete3d Quinzet: Juliete3d Qunzet won't give Juliete3d Dexing any money :(
- [17:14] Tredi Felisimo: "poor" is an image of self that you choose to shelve
- [17:14] Vivacious Voom: perhaps, but I have direct experience in knowing things I couldn't possibly know
- [17:14] Juliete3d Quinzet: (lindens I meant)
- [17:14] Vivacious Voom: from people I do not know
- [17:14] Lea56 Hyun: aw..lol Juli
- [17:14] Tredi Felisimo: LOL
- [17:14] Juliete3d Quinzet: no literally
- [17:14] Tredi Felisimo: juli
- [17:14] Vivacious Voom: now, how is this possible?
- [17:14] Marya Blaisdale: can you be more specific, Viv?
- [17:14] Jennette Forager: hehehe Julie....
- [17:15] Tredi Felisimo: I understand and agree Viv
- [17:15] Fearless Foulbane: Grath makes an interesting point - because we do become socialised by our surroundings - the right way to speak/behave. so maybe different alts do ahve different personas according to their environment
- [17:15] Vivacious Voom: sure - some would label it being psychic, I don't care for that label, but I am able to tune into and know things about people - in fact, it works best on complete strangers because I know it isnt coming from my opinion
- [17:15] Grath Helgerud: language develops, slides in meanings in varying degrees with each of our alts; if we live into that character
- [17:16] KinoEye Galaxy: I agree with Grath; language is one of the ways we create identity
- [17:16] Lea56 Hyun: Me too, Viv, at least to some extent
- [17:16] Vivacious Voom: so there is most definitely something more
- [17:16] Grath Helgerud: I find that amazing but true
- [17:16] Lea56 Hyun: but I think it is that we read body language pretty well
- [17:16] KinoEye Galaxy: and where alts slide into role play, that is an important part
- [17:16] Windermere Brunswick: What would you know about me, Vivacious?
- [17:16] Fearless Foulbane: well some would say that language is how we create the whole of social reality
- [17:16] Reflection Freenote: perhaps, we also adopt, through intuition very different perceptual filters on what we experience grath, so we may experience reality differently as an alt
- [17:17] Tredi Felisimo: you're spirited Wind! :-)

# Delphi: Self Assessment

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[17:17] Marya Blaisdale: lol  
[17:17] Grath Helgerud: yes I think so  
[17:17] Windermere Brunswick: That's cold reading  
[17:17] Grath Helgerud: So, we are really quite multiple aren't we; shockingly so really  
[17:17] KinoEye Galaxy: I think we are multiple indeed :)  
[17:17] Tredi Felisimo: rats... I'm busted Wind  
[17:17] Lea56 Hyun: nods to Grath  
[17:18] Reflection Freenote: perhaps, grath we are omnipotential creatures;-)  
[17:18] Vivacious Voom: Wind: example I might say your mother's name know the illness she has been dealing with and that she is recovering from it, and go into detail, etc  
[17:18] Grath Helgerud: and worth the explorations  
[17:18] Windermere Brunswick: My mother is dead  
[17:18] Vivacious Voom: it was an example  
[17:18] Windermere Brunswick: It came to your mid  
[17:18] Vivacious Voom: I did that with a neighbor's friend  
[17:18] Jennette Forager: Sorry about your mother Wind.  
[17:19] Vivacious Voom: eh, nm  
[17:19] Windermere Brunswick: Thanks. It was long ago  
[17:19] Lea56 Hyun: I can see from this discussion, I am not exploring my potential enough here  
[17:19] Vivacious Voom: I know what I know, it doesn't matter if anyone else know it : )  
[17:19] Lea56 Hyun: It is a perfect medium for me to feel "safe" doing it  
[17:20] KinoEye Galaxy: for what it is worth, Viv, I think there are moments of intense connection in here and what is communicated goes beyond what we type  
[17:20] KinoEye Galaxy: maybe it is intuition, maybe something else  
[17:20] Vivacious Voom: yes, kino, agreed  
[17:20] KinoEye Galaxy: when we are open to it, something can happen  
[17:20] Fearless Foulbane: some of it is just getting to know ppl, as we do in RL  
[17:20] KinoEye Galaxy: and maybe being an alt can help people explore that  
[17:20] Pun Couffer: Perhaps our subconscious sees meanings in patterns of what is written, when it can't see body language.  
[17:20] Vivacious Voom: I mean what and who is typing right now? a body? a mind? a spirit?  
[17:20] Tredi Felisimo: agree also Kino  
[17:20] KinoEye Galaxy: I think patterns have a lot to do with it, actually  
[17:21] Vivacious Voom: perhaps a universal consciousness?  
[17:21] KinoEye Galaxy: that too  
[17:21] Tredi Felisimo: I have a friend here who I sometimes why we bother typing, because we write the same things at the same time so often  
[17:21] Reflection Freenote: yes pun, and perhaps, the patterns that are apparent in the writing are more reflective of the individual's mind, than is the body language which is telling us more about their primal responses  
[17:21] Pun Couffer nods.  
[17:21] KinoEye Galaxy: well, the text chat leaves a lot for us to read into :)  
[17:22] Lea56 Hyun: yes it does  
[17:22] Fearless Foulbane: that is true kino  
[17:22] Vivacious Voom: sure and we will read into it from our model of the world/self  
[17:22] Marvin Macbain: Yes, we probably project more, or differently, onto our experience in SL than in RL, since there is so little real information to go on.  
[17:22] Marya Blaisdale: yes it does Kino, as well as profiles - and the fact that we are all here at this particular meeting - all of these things are information that we use

# Delphi: Self Assessment

- [17:22] Pun Couffer: I'm thinking, perhaps it has something to do with conditioning, all sorts of it. Perhaps primarily conditioning created by hanging out in a specific group of people, or with a specific person for a long time on SL. You perhaps somehow get to expect something when you see something else happen, subconsciously.
- [17:22] Thoth Jantzen: people are a lot more perceptive than they realize - our brains put a lot of pieces together about things automatically without use even necessarily being conscious of it. What Marya said about pattern matching is a big part of what we do all the time.
- [17:23] KinoEye Galaxy: yes, Marvin :)
- [17:23] Lea56 Hyun: yes, Thoth
- [17:23] Fearless Foulbane: yes Thoth
- [17:23] Thoth Jantzen: and it is often mistaken for 'intuition' or 'clairvoyance' and whatnot.
- [17:23] Lea56 Hyun: Sometimes intuitive "leaps" are simply very fast processing of previous information and then another piece of the "puzzle" drops in
- [17:23] Tredi Felisimo: Has anyone here ever started a conversation with someone, maybe even from the other side of the world, and felt like you've known them forever?
- [17:23] Marvin Macbain: or dumb luck...
- [17:23] Thoth Jantzen: or rather, that's largely what intuition IS.
- [17:24] Marya Blaisdale nods - agree with that Lea
- [17:24] Reflection Freenote: it might be pun, that just as losing some senses make others sharper, the loss of so much primal sensory information here, makes us very sensitive to the subtleties which relate to the use of language (along with all the rest of the symbolism, that this place is drenched in )
- [17:24] KinoEye Galaxy: there is also a high incidence of synchronicity in here I think, too though, that is uncanny
- [17:24] Thoth Jantzen: yes lea, exactly.
- [17:24] Pun Couffer: Also, the fact that our minds have developed in more or less same period of human history, and were subjected to similar influences from the society. That makes us even more prone to correctly expect what will happen next.
- [17:24] Tredi Felisimo: agreed Kino!
- [17:24] Marya Blaisdale: You may just have a very exceptional or very well developed pattern recognition process, Vivacious :)
- [17:24] Vivacious Voom: sure conditioning, as an abused dog will still cower even once placed inside a loving home, we too have conditioned thinking, which leads to feelings, which leads to action or inaction
- [17:24] KinoEye Galaxy: the synchronicity is beyond pattern recognition, although in order to see it, of course, you have to recognize it!
- [17:25] Lea56 Hyun: nods
- [17:25] Jennette Forager: takes time and consistency to change those patterns; but they can change
- [17:25] Lea56 Hyun: Synchronicity is fascinating
- [17:25] Vivacious Voom: yes, they can -- it is the greatest treasure one has, the power of decision/choice
- [17:26] Pun Couffer: Ten years ago, I also thought I'm a bit psychic, and was sort of comfortable with that thought. Perhaps it's just intuition, and all of us probably have potential for it. But I guess different people incorporate this intuition differently into their way of functioning.
- [17:26] Vivacious Voom: Pun, agreed and I don't think it matters what its called, it merely is
- [17:26] Acuminous Watanabe: I think EVERYONE has intuition although everyone may not call it that
- [17:27] Pun Couffer: Some incorporate it in such a way that they're more aware of the process, while in some other people, perhaps it functions even better, but they're not aware of the process.
- [17:27] Pun Couffer nods.
- [17:27] Vivacious Voom: its like a muscle, when used it gets stronger
- [17:27] Acuminous Watanabe nods @ Pun
- [17:27] Vivacious Voom: simple really

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[17:27] Marya Blaisdale: It might matter in one sense Viv - in that it helps people to understand what is 'really' going on in the brain as opposed to having a kind of 'faith' in a process that is not understood - that knowledge can help to prevent confusion and misdirected thinking, imo

[17:28] Vivacious Voom: I believe it as valid a sense as the other five sense, and has been called , the sixth sense

[17:29] Reflection Freenote: it is interesting that we are now talking about the limits of intuition, and this does seem to relate to knowing ourselves and others through our many personas, avs, and alts

[17:29] Tredi Felisimo: so how does this intuition fit into our sense of self in SL?

[17:29] Vivacious Voom: we don't think seeing, smelling tasting, hearing are bizarre or unnatural

[17:29] Tredi Felisimo: LOL

[17:29] Tredi Felisimo: see... I was reading Ref's mind!

[17:29] Chester Dickens: How does that Sixth sense happen?

[17:29] Jennette Forager: hehee

[17:29] Lea56 Hyun: lol

[17:29] Acuminous Watanabe: sixth sense, common sense, tomato, tomah-to

[17:30] Birric Forcella: Well, we should realize that knowing ourselves is a close neighbor to deluding ourselves

[17:30] Reflection Freenote: yes, tredi, clearly, I sent that thought to you;-)

[17:30] Marya Blaisdale: Sure, that is what is has been called for a long time, but science is beginning to show us how these things can be better understood - and so this 'sixth sense' is really the result of the other five working well :)

[17:30] Tredi Felisimo: thanks Ref

[17:30] Vivacious Voom: For me, I remove my self/thoughts as if sitting in a waiting room and then I allow whatever thoughts there may be to enter; I don't try to edit them or judge them; I just allow them to be; and then a flow is established

[17:30] Chester Dickens: ah...could be Ref...that for the phenomenon to happen.. both are thinking the same thought at the same time.

[17:30] Acuminous Watanabe: intuition in SL is no different that RL, it is our perception of the situation and experience and what we decide it means and therefore guides our actions

[17:30] Birric Forcella: Science shows nothing of that sort, Marya. Science shows that all those para phenomena are nothing but self delusion or worse

[17:31] Acuminous Watanabe: In SL, however, there is so much MORE opportunity for projection

[17:31] Lea56 Hyun: I agree so much bout projection, Acu

[17:31] Vivacious Voom: once u try to edit or judge then u have lost the connection

[17:31] Marya Blaisdale: not necessarily self delusions though Birric - people tend to give names to things they do not understand - things like 6th sense and spirituality - it isn't 'necessarily' self delusional - it could be seen to be a midway point between discovering something and then finding out what it is

[17:32] Chester Dickens: Maybe all that is thought of has already happened and time and space is the illusion.

[17:32] Vivacious Voom: intuition gets off because people try to filter it through their various filters; to control it

[17:32] Ezra Avedon: lol @ Acuminous

[17:33] Chester Dickens: Have I been here before???

[17:33] Vivacious Voom: we don't think about breathing or seeing we just do it

[17:33] Birric Forcella: Marya, all those phenomena are demonstrably non-existent. Maybe you should start with watching some You Tube videos with James Randi or read the Skeptical Inquirer. Science is absolutely clear about that nothing like synchronicity, sixth sense, etc. exists

[17:33] Vivacious Voom: same thing with intuition

[17:33] Marvin Macbain: Science never shows that something like synchronicity or telepathy ISN'T paranormal.

# Delphi: Self Assessment

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- [17:34] Vivacious Voom: eh, it exists for me because I have direct experience; so whatever :)
- [17:34] Marvin Macbain: It only fails to show that it is systematic.
- [17:34] Reflection Freenote: that sounds interesting Jenette, have fun, thanks for coming:))
- [17:34] Tredi Felisimo: I will say.... I visited with a psychic many years ago who told me things (including exact names) that were absolutely accurate -- to the extent that the told me to expect a call from one... that came that very day!
- [17:34] Marya Blaisdale: I know sixth sense doesn't exist Birric - what I was saying that people who believe in it aren't necessarily deluding themselves - they just don't know what it is yet
- [17:34] Tredi Felisimo: I DO believe in intuition
- [17:34] Chester Dickens: I could be that sometimes the event happens before the cause.
- [17:35] Marvin Macbain: The real question about psychics, is why can't they simply predict lottery numbers?
- [17:35] Birric Forcella: Vivacious, a casual stroll through an insane asylum should convince you that personal certainty means nothing
- [17:35] Marya Blaisdale: so do I Tredi - I just don't think it is something outside of the physical world is all :)
- [17:35] Tredi Felisimo: lol Marvin
- [17:35] Tredi Felisimo: they're not meant to
- [17:35] Marvin Macbain: Then they would not have to bother with 1-900 lines
- [17:35] Vivacious Voom: Marya that sounds like Christians explaining how non-believers don't realize their headed for hell
- [17:35] Marya Blaisdale: lol ... ouch!
- [17:35] Vivacious Voom: :p
- [17:35] Thoth Jantzen: intuition IS real - but it's the result of processing going on in the brain, not accessing some 'higher plane' of reality.
- [17:36] Thoth Jantzen: so, believing in intuition is not a problem - it's what it is that is the question.
- [17:36] Chester Dickens: how many dimensions are there.? only three!! or four!!
- [17:36] Vivacious Voom: as u can see even here about intuition is a strong push for needing to understand, define and control what it is and that in itself is opposite to what it is
- [17:36] Marya Blaisdale: You're not going to hell (lol) if you believe in a sixth sense ;)
- [17:36] Birric Forcella: I was talking about the paranormal understanding of "intuition" Thoth - otherwise, of course, I agree with you