

Delphi: Self Assessment



Led by	Reflection Freenote
Title	What is personality? Is it different in Second Life?
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INTRODUCTION

Our topic for tonight is: **What is personality? Is it different in Second Life?**

For most of us, the nature of our "self" tends to be thought of in terms of our "personality". This commonly describes the constellation of fairly consistent traits, or behavioral tendencies which I have. This has actually been a matter of enormous debate in academic and clinical psychology over the past one hundred years.

In general there are many different theories which have been raised to account for personality over the years. The behaviorists have even suggested that we don't really have all that much consistency in our tendencies, but are far more impacted by our environments than we tend to recognize or accept.

Social psychological research has tended to support this view to the extent that we are not nearly as consistent (if measured carefully) as we tend to think we are, and we are highly impacted by the powers of environment.

Last week we talked about facets of personality, and the different sorts of personas which most people have, for different social circumstances. So most of us are aware of being different with close friends, as compared to our bosses, or elderly family members, or our children. We are very different at work, or at play, and in public or in private.

In the temple below we have a seeing stone that will take you to a quick but generally good measure of personality, using the five factor model, which is considered the best general model available today. It breaks personality into five factors which are derived from a combination of theory and factor analytic research.

The five factors are

- ≈ **Openness** - appreciation for art, emotion, adventure, curiosity, and variety of experience.
- ≈ **Conscientiousness** - a tendency to show self-discipline, act dutifully, and strong inclinations for achievement, planned rather than spontaneous behavior.
- ≈ **Extraversion** - energy, positive emotions, urgency, and the tendency to seek stimulation and the company of others.
- ≈ **Agreeableness** - a tendency to be compassionate and cooperative rather than suspicious and antagonistic towards others.
- ≈ **Emotionalism** (Neuroticism) - a tendency to experience unpleasant emotions easily, such as anger, anxiety, depression, or vulnerability, sometimes called emotional instability.

These traits are generally considered to have some general stability in a person's life over time.

While our behavior will be very different from situation to situation, someone who is very low on openness and extraversion, will still demonstrate a much smaller range of behavior in response to exotic opportunities than someone who is high on these.

Which brings us to Second Life.



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Second Life is an extremely exotic environment, and research of the last 80 years would suggest that the range of behavioral responses that people will and can make, should be vastly larger in Second Life, than in RL.

At the same time, those of us who are low on openness, high on conscientiousness, low on extraversion, for example, might be expected to have a far less exotic experience of Second Life than someone with the opposite set of tendencies.

- ≈ So what have you found about yourself in Second Life?
- ≈ Are you more extraverted? More open?
- ≈ If you are prone to negative emotionality in Real Life, is this the same here in Second Life or different?
- ≈ And generally what do you think, about personality?
- ≈ Is it rock solid and unchanging, or is it like shifting sand?

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DISCUSSION:

- [16:39] Amandeep Timeless: I'm not an avatar, but i play one on t.v; I'm very similar
- [16:40] Reflection Freenote: cool, I've been hearing about that, Aman ;-)
- [16:40] Dahlia Habana: I have been pretty much the same - fairly open, curious - but somewhat cautious. I seek out the same interests I have in RL
- [16:40] Reflection Freenote: yes, cautiousness seems very wise in an environment like this
- [16:40] DanD Rau: Personality has some stable substrates learned in early childhood that colors us all our life. As we grow older we tend to expand our range according to the environment of the moment
- [16:41] Reflection Freenote: yep pretty much same here dahlia, so we are exploring those interests perhaps in new ways or ways that are not open in RL?
- [16:41] Amandeep Timeless: my human av looks like me...no other human av...other forms yes, but no other human forms
- [16:41] Dahlia Habana: I think for me it is access to resources that i may not have in RL
- [16:41] Sazzy Oh: I tend to try things here.. that I would never do in the real world
- [16:41] Dahlia Habana: just like this conversation
- [16:41] Reflection Freenote: good thought Dan, certainly we are learning things every day with each new experience, whether or not we even want to
- [16:41] Dahlia Habana: like what sazzy?
- [16:42] Sazzy Oh: I tend to dominate.... I have tried to be submissive. I have learned to write poetry.. and I'm learning photography
- [16:42] Dahlia Habana: did the experience match your expectation
- [16:42] Sazzy Oh: its hard for anyone to dominate me :)
- [16:42] Dahlia Habana: of submissive - dominant? ha
- [16:43] Sazzy Oh: tho I have tried to let them
- [16:43] Reflection Freenote: so you are trying out some very different styles of relating sazzy, that's cool:))
- [16:43] Sazzy Oh: yes. lots and lots
- [16:43] Dahlia Habana: yes, I am pretty independent myself
- [16:43] DanD Rau: "letting" them means you are in control - dominating
- [16:43] Sazzy Oh: true
- [16:43] Reflection Freenote: and cool about the art, that seems to be a really wonderful thing here for many people
- [16:43] Amandeep Timeless: I sometimes attend RL Socrates Cafes...SL philosophy chats make it easier to attend more
- [16:44] Dahlia Habana: what I like about SL are the conversations like this one -without them it is boring to me
- [16:44] Sazzy Oh: we can do more things here... the time to get to things.. is sooo much better.. why oh why is there not teleportation in the real world
- [16:44] Reflection Freenote: right, the freedom of exploration here in terms of ease of access cannot be matched in RL
- [16:44] Dahlia Habana: I'll second that sazzy
- [16:44] DanD Rau: :-)
- [16:44] Reflection Freenote: haha sazzy, right!! Although, I don't know if RL is ready to become SL;-))
- [16:45] Dahlia Habana: sl breaks down some barriers that are in place in rl so how do we know how we would react when we don't have access to those situations
- [16:45] Dahlia Habana: here we can experience those things without labels, boundaries (well, some boundaries)
- [16:45] Amandeep Timeless: the aspect of "gathered similar topic minds" is an additional focus
- [16:45] harmoniasophia Scribe: and some labels
- [16:46] Reflection Freenote: so, dahlia, are you saying you wonder if the behaviors transfer to RL?

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- [16:46] Sazzy Oh: I think... who I am.. my personality.. has become more.. for being here
- [16:46] Dahlia Habana: can i ask how many here see SL as a place to role play and try different aspects of your personality
- [16:47] DanD Rau: What about Myers-Briggs and Enneagrams as indications of personality?
- [16:47] Sazzy Oh: I am me... even in role play.. that I do.. do
- [16:47] Rosamoo Mendelsohn raises her hand
- [16:47] Reflection Freenote: yes, so sazzy your personality has to do with your range of perspectives, behaviors and experiences?
- [16:47] Sazzy Oh: yes... its all who I am
- [16:48] Reflection Freenote: yes, dahlia, I do, although not through RP , although it is an interesting question as to what the boundaries of RP are:)) not conscious RP anyway
- [16:49] Reflection Freenote: sure, Dan, they are very good and very interesting (well Myers-Briggs, anyway, I don't know the other one)
- [16:49] Dahlia Habana: I am just interested because i had read a blog about immersionists and augmentalists - just curious
- [16:49] Reflection Freenote: ros, we don't raise our hands here we just dive in:))
- [16:49] Sazzy Oh: What does that mean.. Dahilia?
- [16:49] harmoniasophia Scribe: I think the life we call real is just as much RP as SL, we have easier access on SL, but nonetheless we are all actors playing some sort of role we wish to call real
- [16:49] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: LOL
- [16:49] Sazzy Oh: ahh yes.. harmony, acting
- [16:50] Dahlia Habana: sazzy - immersionists tend to immerse themselves in the environment here by buying property and role playing
- [16:50] Reflection Freenote: oh, interesting dahlia, could you explain to the group what those words mean?
- [16:50] Sazzy Oh: ahh thank you
- [16:50] DanD Rau: "Being" is the key not acting
- [16:50] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: I absolutely have explored paers of my emotional life in SL that I hold too close in RL to experience and that has opened me up a great deal in RL
- [16:50] Dahlia Habana: augmentalists see it as a place to do business and augment their life and don't believe in anonymity
- [16:50] Reflection Freenote: agreed harmonia, maybe we are more conscious about it here
- [16:50] Dahlia Habana: role players prefer not to reveal info about themselves
- [16:51] harmoniasophia Scribe: we are actors running the show and if we could wrest satisfaction we would be fine.....kinda delusional I think, cause even when the show goes our way something still is not right
- [16:51] Adrian Pathfinder: aha - what if both terms apply equally ?
- [16:51] Amandeep Timeless: augmentist...SL is just a den of activity
- [16:51] Adrian Pathfinder: I think they do to me
- [16:51] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: Dahlis, that depends on who you are RP ing with and what the nature of that game is
- [16:52] Dahlia Habana: rosamoo ?
- [16:52] Reflection Freenote: that is a very interesting distinction dahlia, I wonder how people here would self-identify themselves (I'm more of an immersionist, I suppose)
- [16:52] Adrian Pathfinder: by the definitions just given I am both = almost equally
- [16:52] harmoniasophia Scribe: Dahlia I am an open book, the info I wish to keep to myself, I have placed an unrealistic value on, and this is due to fear, of which I do not like to feed , so I have nothing to hide
- [16:52] Dahlia Habana: immersionists usually buy property, etc. and tend to keep their identity private - like on the profile
- [16:53] Reflection Freenote: is there a lot of research on that dahlia?

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- [16:54] Adrian Pathfinder: so help me - I've bought property - and now sims ... and I am here as my RL self doing what I do in RL???
- [16:54] Sazzy Oh: I am honest in all the things I say... but I chose not to say everything :)
- [16:54] Adrian Pathfinder: and using more or less my real name\
- [16:54] Reflection Freenote: yes, I am a mixed case too (like most personality indicators;-)) I don't own land for example
- [16:54] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: Dahlia, I do keep my identity private, but I am, also, very much myself in SL
- [16:54] Dahlia Habana: ref - I can see if I can find the links and send them to you
- [16:54] Adrian Pathfinder: ty
- [16:54] Marya Blaisdale: well, I was just thinking Adrian, categorising people as 'immersionist' is probably quite generalised
- [16:54] Dahlia Habana: I am a mixed case too
- [16:55] Reflection Freenote: I'd appreciate it:))
- [16:55] Sazzy Oh: is it every good to judge anyone by their cover? *grins*
- [16:55] harmoniasophia Scribe: I cannot say whether I am honest or not as honesty infers a certain truth, of which I can not say is absolute for sure but believe there is an absolute truth
- [16:55] Dahlia Habana: yes - it is a generalization and i don't know how accurate it is - i guess that is why i ask the question in a public forum to see if it rings true
- [16:55] DanD Rau: truth is not necessarily honesty :-)
- [16:55] Marya Blaisdale nods
- [16:55] Reflection Freenote: well as they say, there are two sorts of people, those who categorize, and those who don't:))
- [16:55] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: lol
- [16:56] Dahlia Habana: yes I agree Dan - but all I can do is try
- [16:56] DanD Rau: :-)
- [16:56] harmoniasophia Scribe: well the dictionary definition says "conformity to truth"
- [16:56] Reflection Freenote: a little personality theorist humor there;-)
- [16:56] Marya Blaisdale: I don't mind categorisations, but I do think they can be restrictive - and 'should' probably only apply generally within a specific context :)
- [16:56] Dahlia Habana: why do we need to categorize anyway
- [16:56] Axis Tylman: this sounds like philosophy...why not ask a psychologist?
- [16:56] DanD Rau: truthiness
- [16:56] harmoniasophia Scribe: I believe the most honest I can be is to admit I am dishonest and minimize consequences
- [16:57] Reflection Freenote: the five factor model is based on traits that tend to be highly correlated in large populations, and all personality traits are like this. That is they have enormous variance in the individual case
- [16:57] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: rather than think of them as categories, maybe they can just be used as adjectives - along with many other adjectives used to describe ourselves
- [16:57] Marya Blaisdale: well, you could just admit that you are human and therefore prone to error, just like everyone else, Harmonia
- [16:57] Reflection Freenote: it does sound to me as though the immersionist and augmentalist distinction has merit, and that some degree of correlated attributes would cluster around those factors statistically
- [16:58] harmoniasophia Scribe: it is human nature to "name" things and then fall victim to what is "named" lol
- [16:58] Dahlia Habana: I mean if we enter discussions or relationships here predisposed to thinking that the person is dishonest what is the point
- [16:58] Reflection Freenote: axis, this is both philosophy and psychology, and the distinction is a slippery one (I am a psychologist myself)
- [17:00] Dahlia Habana: unless it is all role play

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- [17:00] Reflection Freenote: yes harmonia, it is the ancient challenge of idolatry, of confusing the symbol with what is symbolized, although we can scarcely help but do it:)
- [17:01] Sazzy Oh: here... you really don't know who is who... even what sex they really are
- [17:01] Tredi Felisimo: there are ways to know Sazzy
- [17:01] harmoniasophia Scribe: if everything is relative, really how honest are we? we can justify our actions from our position, but change seats and the view becomes altered, there is no real consistency even to the labels we like to throw symptomatic traits into, we all perhaps a bit of the five, one may lean a bit more heavily on one or the other, but as soon as I say I am this, I tend to mold myself psychologically to fit this category and never feel content
- [17:01] Sazzy Oh: beside talking.. how?
- [17:01] Tredi Felisimo: and a person's "self" emerges eventually
- [17:01] Dahlia Habana: yes that is true - all we can do is take them at their word - if you are not planning to meet them in RL does it matter
- [17:01] Reflection Freenote: it is possible that it is part of the conscious awareness of this place dahlia, that we really never know the intent of the other, until we have gotten to know them (in whatever way this has meaning to us)
- [17:02] Sazzy Oh: it matters to me; I don't care as long as they tell me.. but I would not like.... not knowing
- [17:02] Dahlia Habana: sazzy why, you will never know, unless you meet them in rl
- [17:03] harmoniasophia Scribe: labels are a sort of mental prison, tell someone they are manic or bipolar and they will be manic or bipolar
- [17:03] Sazzy Oh: maybe because I live by emotions... and it makes a difference
- [17:03] Tredi Felisimo: gender and race aren't really relevant always here, heck, sometimes species!
- [17:03] Reflection Freenote: an interesting point Harmonia. Certainly we can change a phenomenon my measuring it, which is certainly part of the intent of Delphi. In bringing awareness to our traits and habits, through awareness we may have more ability to work with them consciously
- [17:03] Dahlia Habana: yeah what about furies?
- [17:03] Sazzy Oh: so cute
- [17:03] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: well if you are entering into an intimate relationship with someone then I can understand needing to know about thier gender, but in general in conversation or in other exchanges, does their gender really matter? Or anything else about them, except what they show to you?
- [17:04] Sazzy Oh: if... they become a true friend.. I want to know
- [17:04] Dahlia Habana: how intimate can it be in this environment
- [17:04] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: VERY!
- [17:04] Sazzy Oh: I have friends that play furies..... women that are men.. But I know it
- [17:04] Tredi Felisimo: I find I have learned a great deal more about people because I assume nothing about appearances, since for the most part we don't like our avatars anyway
- [17:04] Reflection Freenote: yes, harmonia, about the power of symbols, labels. Again the problem of idolatry. I often see people trapped by their self-labelling
- [17:04] Adrian Pathfinder: Hi sassy - i am wondering how different it really is here - in RL we think we know the real person, we think we have more information than we do -
- [17:05] Birric Forcella: Furies create an easy outlet for closet racists
- [17:05] Adrian Pathfinder: in SL it just becomes more obvious that we don't know
- [17:05] Dahlia Habana: birric ?
- [17:05] harmoniasophia Scribe: I love my avatar Tredi
- [17:05] Sazzy Oh: I love mine too
- [17:05] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: me, three
- [17:05] Adrian Pathfinder: its a bit like language - if you are in a completely foreign land with not one word of the language you work hard to understand
- [17:05] Sazzy Oh: you can be anything you want to be.. you just neet to take some time.. and a bit of money

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- [17:05] Tredi Felisimo: I attempted to make mine "me" Harmonia
- [17:06] Adrian Pathfinder: but when you speak the same language as everyone else you stop paying attention because you think you know what is being said
- [17:06] Marya Blaisdale: This is something I find interesting - granted, in RL, if you are not that way inclined, then you are highly unlikely to be 'attracted' to someone of the same gender - However, what I do find interesting, is how that attraction actually works and that relationships that tend to last, are not (essentially) based on being with someone of the opposite gender, that emotions aimed at other people (specifically love) is not therefore 'necessarily' based on gender - but rather our own 'perceptions' of other people
- [17:06] Reflection Freenote: yes, adrian, the illusions in RL are even more compelling, I think
- [17:06] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: Tredi, does that mean that you are not happy with your RL self? And then why not create an idealised version of yourself here?
- [17:06] harmoniasophia Scribe: I did too. it took several months to find exact eye color and big hair , cause I am 70's disco throw back but I succeeded as you can see
- [17:07] Adrian Pathfinder: and Marya - perception is EVERYTHING - there isn't much else; we look but don't see, we listen but don't hear -
- [17:07] Dahlia Habana: i am the opposite it is a hassle to me to change clothes and try to maintain my inventory; most of the time i just wear the same thing
- [17:08] Tredi Felisimo: LOL Rosamoo. I am happy with my RL self. Comfortable in my own skin... and my avi skin (although Tredi is definitely a few pounds lighter and a few wrinkles less)
- [17:08] Adrian Pathfinder: :-) yes
- [17:08] Dahlia Habana: I am amazed at the creativity here in creating avatars
- [17:08] Reflection Freenote: yes, Marya, I think one of the reasons why romantic love so often fails in RL, is because it is not based enough on the deeper qualities of thought and feeling which are within, and too much on the externals of a person's avatar
- [17:08] Adrian Pathfinder: there is one huge difference between Adrian RL and Adrian SL - about 200 pounds
- [17:08] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: Tredi, then why did you suggest that mostly we don't like our avies?
- [17:08] Adrian Pathfinder: that's all
- [17:08] Amandeep Timeless: I lived in West Hollywood for about 10 years....gender matters for physical intimacy (for me at least), but disappears outside of that
- [17:09] Marya Blaisdale nods
- [17:09] Amandeep Timeless: I may have seen a few RL furies on Hollywood Blvd. from time to time
- [17:09] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: (did Reflection just call human bodies avatars?)
- [17:09] Tredi Felisimo: oops... meant LOOK LIKE our avatars!
- [17:10] Reflection Freenote: yes he did
- [17:10] Reflection Freenote: aren't they?
- [17:10] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: Ah Thank you for clarifying
- [17:10] Dahlia Habana: people have identified with animals as far back as totems
- [17:10] Birric Forcella: Well, in Real Life I don't wear a cape
- [17:10] harmoniasophia Scribe: they just showed furies on the News cant remember where or station tho I was kinda shocked
- [17:10] Rosamoo Mendelsohn wonders if that is one of the signs of being addicted to SL.
- [17:10] Amandeep Timeless: what do you mean Running Bear?
- [17:10] Tredi Felisimo: I am very attached to my avi, as I feel she IS me !
- [17:10] Adrian Pathfinder: and almost everyone has deep symbolic identity metaphors ...
- [17:10] Reflection Freenote: well sure, I have a personal spirit guide animal (the sloth)
- [17:11] Adrian Pathfinder: :-)
- [17:11] Marya Blaisdale: lol Ref
- [17:11] Reflection Freenote: they are the most sublime of animals:))
- [17:11] Dahlia Habana: lol

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- [17:11] Cache Forster: fascinating :)
- [17:12] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: [17:04] *Birric Forcella: Furrries create an easy outlet for closet racists. could you explain what you mean?*
- [17:12] Dahlia Habana: I feel indifferent about my avatar since I know hardly anyone really looks like their avatar
- [17:12] harmoniasophia Scribe: Adrian...metaphor...thumbs up :-)
- [17:12] Reflection Freenote: although, dahlia, avatars, are like clothing in RL, I guess, they express something about your "personality" don't they?
- [17:13] harmoniasophia Scribe: I have my RL and SL pic in my profile, me thinx I did as best I could Dahlia
- [17:13] Adrian Pathfinder: id be very surprised if everyone's avatar (if they have spent any time on it) doesn't sit close to a metaphor about how they see their Self
- [17:13] Amandeep Timeless: aside from my av being better at keeping on a diet, it's similar
- [17:13] Reflection Freenote: in RL it is said "clothes make the man"
- [17:13] Tredi Felisimo: I've looked everywhere for a hat like this in RL Ref.... but, woe is, just don't sell 'em here.
- [17:13] Dahlia Habana: yes - but we are "scripted" by Linden in our choices of avatars
- [17:13] Reflection Freenote: goes along with "you can't judge a book by it's cover";-)
- [17:13] Sazzy Oh: yes.. I think that too Reflection.. our avatars.. show others.. something of who we are
- [17:13] Adrian Pathfinder: oh yes - my av had massive self discipline - never touch chocolate
- [17:14] Birric Forcella: Sorry, Rosamoo, I probably used bad verbiage. I meant to say that furrries create an easy TARGET for closet racists. In that way they provide a great social service. Also, in the spirit of these meetings. In that way furrries create a projective test . . .
- [17:15] Birric Forcella: After all, in many fascist countries today, racist expression is illegal. However, furrries have not yet gained the power to game the system like racial groups and women. So they can be dumped on with impunity.
- [17:15] Dahlia Habana: Linden created "Barbie" avatars which is consistent with the ideal image in RL; we can change our avatars but basically they are all similar
- [17:15] Lea56 Hyun: I disagree, Dahlia
- [17:15] Reflection Freenote: well Birric, I've always liked your avatar (you are a sloth right?)
- [17:15] Lea56 Hyun: The default AVs are not Barbie like at all to me
- [17:16] Lea56 Hyun: lol though I made myself a bit of a Barbie lol
- [17:16] Sazzy Oh: you don't have to be a Barbie.. I know many that made their avatars.. look like themselves.... and they look nothing like Barbies
- [17:16] Birric Forcella: The Lindens do not any more offer a default furry avatar when you start a new account. I think that is reprehensible and typical for our society.
- [17:16] Dahlia Habana: yeah me too lea
- [17:16] Amandeep Timeless: is against furry discrimination!
- [17:16] Lea56 Hyun: My first city chic default av was hideous ..lol
- [17:16] harmoniasophia Scribe: I was a RL "Barbie" all my life, til I woke to the fact that I was nothing more than "plastic" now I am still Barbie like but metaphorically because of hypocrisy
- [17:16] Lea56 Hyun: I forgot the topic, personality?
- [17:16] Adrian Pathfinder: wow - all this furry prejudice - I had no idea
- [17:17] Birric Forcella: They used to offer that cute Ringtail furry avatar as a default
- [17:17] Lea56 Hyun: ah, harmonia
- [17:17] Dahlia Habana: I never knew bringing up the topic of furrries would elicit so many feelings - interesting
- [17:17] Reflection Freenote: in one sense, because avs are actually much more similar than people are in RL, it tends to reduce the impact of this a bit, I think
- [17:17] Lea56 Hyun: they offer free animal like AVs on the orientation islands
- [17:17] DanD Rau: Good point, reflection

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- [17:17] Reflection Freenote: yes, lea, we are now discussing the impact of avatar on personality and self-expression (as far as I can tell;-)
- [17:18] harmoniasophia Scribe: but they don't offer Barbie and Ken like avatars
- [17:18] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: Never having been a furry, I am stunned to know that they are treated as less than any other avie
- [17:18] Marya Blaisdale: it does seem very odd to me that furies are treated differently
- [17:18] Dahlia Habana: I thought furies were gender neutral
- [17:18] Lea56 Hyun: How are they treated differently?
- [17:18] Sazzy Oh: I did not know that furies were treated any different
- [17:18] Dahlia Habana: :-) - or so I heard
- [17:18] DanD Rau: What kind of mind chooses furry AVs?
- [17:18] Tredi Felisimo: I agree Ref. That was the intent of my original statement. If we're all "beautiful" in SL visually, you have to see beyond the skin to get to "know" somebody
- [17:18] Adrian Pathfinder: the longer I am here the harder I find it to be anything other than RL me ---
- [17:19] Sazzy Oh: I have a bunny friend.. and he is no different than any friend
- [17:19] Marya Blaisdale: in fact it's more than just odd, it seems rather silly really, since an avatar is an avatar
- [17:19] Lea56 Hyun: well this hair is exactly like my RL hair and the color of the skin
- [17:19] Dahlia Habana: in SL if feel we get to know people from the inside out
- [17:19] Adrian Pathfinder: in the role play regions I can't play along for long - it just feels silly
- [17:19] Lea56 Hyun: But I have a lot of looks, and one is a dragon
- [17:19] Tredi Felisimo: agree Dahlia
- [17:19] Lea56 Hyun: I agree, Dahlia
- [17:19] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: Adrian, that is also, my experience and I think what I find of others as I know them over time
- [17:19] Amandeep Timeless: similar personality, a bit more 'transportation freedom', anonymity, ability to explore, these and many more factors ALL seem to have some proportion in all....like the specific personality designators...no exclusivities, just varied mixes
- [17:20] Sazzy Oh: I like that.. know them from.. the inside out
- [17:20] Adrian Pathfinder: I tend to be mixing with ppl who don't hide their RL identity - generally speaking - so maybe I am clustering in a clan here
- [17:20] Adrian Pathfinder: mixing
- [17:20] Reflection Freenote: yes, well that is the point of racism, I think, it makes no sense, but it is deeply engrained for us to perceive ourselves as members of tribes, and we identify with symbolic representation of "self" and "other", and "other" is usually defined, primally as evil, wrong and dangerous
- [17:20] Amandeep Timeless: I'm not an avatar, but I play one on t.v.
- [17:20] harmoniasophia Scribe: well that is kinda my point about being a Barbie, I lived up to expectations and ideas of commercialized robotic lifestyle as a Barbie bit I was emotionally distorted and confused, had anorexia several times and became an alcoholic
- [17:21] Dahlia Habana: ref - you are talking my language now :-)
- [17:21] Amandeep Timeless: there is no them
- [17:21] Adrian Pathfinder: not always Ref
- [17:21] Lea56 Hyun: I agree about the tribal feelings, Reflection, in the whole scope of the time we have been here, we have been tribal longer than whatever we are now
- [17:21] Tredi Felisimo: I did too Harmonia, kept up the appearances, but then age and babies kicked my pretty self
- [17:21] Dahlia Habana: sorry all - I am a cultural anthropologist - thought I should explain my comment
- [17:22] Adrian Pathfinder: it cant be a bad thing to identify with 'similar' as long as 'other' does not become focus of fear or hatred

Delphi: Self Assessment

- [17:22] Cache Forster: I googled the word "evil" the other day....it is from the 12th century; it is both a noun and an adjective....
- [17:22] Reflection Freenote: that's a great example of the psychic prices we often pay to attempt to fit in with cultural expectations harmonia
- [17:22] Lea56 Hyun: nods to harmonia, the same thing happened to me to some extent
- [17:22] Marya Blaisdale: psychic price Ref?
- [17:22] Lea56 Hyun: I had to sort of drop out of everything and build my personality around age 30
- [17:23] harmoniasophia Scribe: once at an AA mtg crying over my baby weight, someone said to me you are too vain to remain that way and they were right, a yr later I was anorexic once again, belonged to same gym for 20 yrs was obsessed, vanity drove me
- [17:23] Amandeep Timeless: is SL influencing your perceptions and evaluations of people in RL?
- [17:23] Lea56 Hyun: I had no idea who I was or what I wanted
- [17:23] Reflection Freenote: emotional price, Marya
- [17:23] Marya Blaisdale: okay :)
- [17:23] DanD Rau: Maybe "just being" is more important than "knowing" who you are
- [17:24] harmoniasophia Scribe: I was a puppet, I had no real personality
- [17:24] Lea56 Hyun: Hmm...I have changed my opinion of certain cultures since being in SL, Amandeep
- [17:25] Reflection Freenote: so, an important and sometimes destructive aspect of personality and being are the expectations for conformity that we place on our selves and others, perhaps
- [17:25] Lea56 Hyun: What you have said makes me think of all the plastic surgery people are having, driven to be "perfect" and I wonder what is that doing to their personalities
- [17:25] Adrian Pathfinder: "no real personality"? harmonia
- [17:25] harmoniasophia Scribe: yes, but influenced environmentally for sure
- [17:25] Adrian Pathfinder: say more
- [17:25] Reflection Freenote: well, lea, I see that up close, and the Michael Jackson syndrome is not that rare in my experience
- [17:25] DanD Rau: What "lack" in personality drives people to plastic surgery?
- [17:26] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: Reflection, there is often a high price to be paid for non-conformity, which is generally socially driven
- [17:26] Reflection Freenote: although there are some of us here who tinker with our avatars constantly too, so maybe that would be a good simulation. Does anyone do that much and what do you find?
- [17:26] harmoniasophia Scribe: no my personality was plastic, I did and said things I thought people wanted to hear, at night alone in my room I drank myself to sleep, I never knew who I was
- [17:26] Lea56 Hyun: I think that is a good question, Dan
- [17:27] Sazzy Oh: I tweaked me... until I was happy with what I was
- [17:27] Lea56 Hyun: plastic surgery or SL, Sazzy?
- [17:27] Adrian Pathfinder: hmm m - big assumption though Dan
- [17:27] Sazzy Oh: noooo SL
- [17:27] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: what conformities does SL push, I wonder?
- [17:27] Reflection Freenote: yes, Ros, absolutely, but we are also powerfully wired to fit in and conform. We don't even want to wear mismatched socks!!:))
- [17:27] Sazzy Oh: I am not into pain
- [17:28] Tredi Felisimo: I used to adjust the av all the time... but have come to be very comfortable with her now. Just change hair and clothes
- [17:28] Lea56 Hyun: I just wanted my AV not to look like every model picture I see
- [17:28] Dahlia Habana: I have not tweaked myself in RL - don't want the pain or the risk
- [17:28] Lea56 Hyun: Giant boobs, dark tan, etc
- [17:28] Amandeep Timeless: I added a bit of a paunch to be less inaccurate, but that's about it
- [17:29] Lea56 Hyun: oh god, me either, Dahlia

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[17:29] Dahlia Habana: I live on the west coast
[17:29] Reflection Freenote: It is interesting to note, that the symbolic representation of our personality/self, our avatar, and it's appearance has figured very prominently in our discussion of personality this evening;-))
[17:29] Tredi Felisimo: LOL... I DO find that I look "fat" in most of the SL clothes!!! They don't fit!!! Because I DON'T have that long lean avi body
[17:29] Dahlia Habana: it is really prevalent here
[17:29] Lea56 Hyun: hmm, true, Reflection
[17:30] harmoniasophia Scribe: the only thing I am wearing on my avatar now that I do not have in RL is the tattoo and a big lollipop lol
[17:30] Lea56 Hyun: I bet Dahlia
[17:30] Amandeep Timeless: unlike RL, appearance here is selected
[17:30] Sazzy Oh: so.. we came back to ... appearance matters.. kind of sad
[17:30] Dahlia Habana: and furries - :-)
[17:30] Lea56 Hyun: <decides to zoom in on harmonia>;-)
[17:30] Amandeep Timeless: like an automobile choice
[17:30] Lea56 Hyun: I love looking at ppl's AVs
[17:30] Sazzy Oh: me too.. lea
[17:30] Amandeep Timeless: some covers do have some reflections
[17:30] Reflection Freenote: or saazzy, we are prone to external impressions, and it is constantly an important thing to look past that maybe?
[17:31] harmoniasophia Scribe: me too and profiles :-)
[17:31] Dahlia Habana: lea - I do to but it is from a creative standpoint
[17:31] Lea56 Hyun: yes, me too, Dahlia
[17:31] Sazzy Oh: yes.... again.. judging the book by its outer cover
[17:31] Lea56 Hyun: most AVs look alike to me; I mostly like to examine ones that deviate from the SL "norm"
[17:31] DanD Rau: Trying to ignore external impressions is denying a facet of reality
[17:31] Lea56 Hyun: biker guy and striper girl (sounds very cynical)
[17:31] Amandeep Timeless: there's an aspect of "Presentation" on the part of the avatar choices as well....not a great insightful part, but hints
[17:32] Sazzy Oh: I like to read the profiles... that means more to me than how they look
[17:32] Lea56 Hyun: Profiles are very interesting
[17:32] Dahlia Habana: i don't know that I am "judging" per say - I am interested in the creativity
[17:32] Tredi Felisimo: so... do "wings" change your impression of me?
[17:32] Birric Forcella: I missed the beginning of the discussion. Was this about avatars as a kind of "projective test?"
[17:32] Lea56 Hyun: let me see, Tredi
[17:33] Sazzy Oh: yes.. I like that, creativity, to me it should that you care what you show the world
[17:33] Reflection Freenote: it didn't start out that way Birric; although that would be an interesting topic
[17:33] Dahlia Habana: I don't feel judgmental about avatars
[17:33] Sazzy Oh: I'm an artist.. of sorts... and I like to be creative... even in how I look here
[17:33] Dahlia Habana: in the sense of how we judge people in real life
[17:33] Lea56 Hyun: No but they are very cool, Tredi, I love your AVs look
[17:34] Rosamoo Mendelsohn: well, clearly appearance is an issue, whether we like to admit to being that shallow or not. in RL and in SL
[17:34] Tredi Felisimo: Thanks Lea
[17:34] Lea56 Hyun: very..hmm.. unique, like the glasses, the mix of what you have on
[17:34] Tredi Felisimo: I hope NOT to look like everybody else...
[17:34] Amandeep Timeless: various aspects of personality and the influences within SL...anonymous, av appearance, liberty of mores, etc.