

The Geometry Code: Universal Symbolic Mirrors

sample chapter from:

The Geometry Code:

**Universal Symbolic Mirrors of Natural Laws Within Us;
Friendly Reminders of Inclusion to Forgive the Dreamer of Separation**

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The Question of Identity: Two Thought Systems



The Question of Identity: Two Thought Systems

What does my identity have to do geometry? What's the intent here? What's the point?

It might seem peculiar that a book supposedly about geometric symbolism – a subject with very tangible shapes and substance – would begin with a chapter about identity, thought systems, selves, and interpretations – the realm of the abstract, intangible and mental. There's no point in delaying the inevitable questions: What does identity have to do with form? Why talk about thought systems first before getting into the myriad shapes that seem to have such magical appeal? And what are thought systems anyway? What selves are we talking about here? Whose interpretations are we going to address? When will we explore geometric archetypes? In order to make this study truly practical, we need to first examine what the goal is ... the big 'why' that is at the heart of our motivation for exploring anything.

What's all this about identity, self, thought systems and interpretations? Here goes: This book isn't so much about shapes and forms and dimensions and proportions or even pure mathematical relationships as it is about our True Identity: formless, dimensionless, eternal, infinite, beyond space, time, duality, comparison, or any of the petty issues that seem to preoccupy the normal egotistic consciousness. Now for the clincher; we might as well get it out in the open right at the beginning:

Isolated forms, shapes and geometries out of context do not matter; what is important is the underlying meaning or purpose we give to them (and any other symbolic mirrors, metaphors and representations) in our life.

Even more crucial is whether we're relying on our 'own' finite, minuscule personal interpretation, or trusting our inner transpersonal guidance to bring us to a more abstract (and helpful!) understanding; one that leads to a peaceful awareness based on inclusion and universally shared interests, rather than the unfulfilling specialness and fragmentation of exclusion, divisiveness, and external focus on form, behavior or specific circumstance.

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Still with me? ... Whew! If that last paragraph didn't deter your interest, I promise to explain *why* this foundation is so crucial before we go much further. This isn't meant to be any sort of sneaky 'bait and switch' approach in the naming of the book or its substance, but rather, a deeper inquiry and exploration into the pure non-dualistic meaning of why we're all here (or seem to be)! In fact, if this book is as helpful as I intend it to be, it might assist in bringing to light – and dissolving! – some of the dark and dreary ideas that belong to an all-too-familiar thought system of self-defeating misinterpretations, designed to keep our minds off-course, obsessing over peripheral, fleeting issues and inconsequential perspectives. I'm finding it more and more helpful to apply these ideas all the time, so I might as well share them in case others might benefit. By the way, if non-duality seems like an esoteric subject, it actually offers a tremendously useful way of looking at life: a master key to unlocking the secret code of reality (that we hide from ourselves) ... and then the geometric symbols we will explore (merely as representative memory devices) will make much more sense! Geometry is one of many codes that can be used to unlock our hidden identity... but only with the intention of undoing our inner identity saboteur!

So... Not to worry, the bulk of the book *will* get to the geometric metaphors soon! There's an abundance of opportunities to explore using everyday archetypes in the realms of shape, structure and proportion as guideposts to deeper revelations and mental anchoring of effective, useful mnemonics for our true benefit. First, however, let's authentically explore some helpful abstract foundations. Then we can see how applied sacred geometry can ironically become beneficial to us as a tool (a means to an end) to help in discerning the contents of our minds and a convenient mirror for staying on a course that leads to our ultimate happiness... ultimately beyond the need for symbols or mirrors of any sort.

Starting with the abstract and then applying it to form sounds opposite to what most of us have probably been taught, particularly those of us in the Western scientific world. In the culture I'm

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most familiar with, the dominant paradigm (at least the ‘respectable, scientific’ one) is to collect observations about ‘the world’ (typically from a sampling of space and time significantly less than galaxies and eons :-). Then we hope that somehow we can extrapolate a grand(iose) unified theory from our thoughts relating to external sensory data. No blame here; we all do it, and rather frequently! The comical thing is that we actually believe that the stories we make up about reality based on a statistically infinitesimal sample have relevance to us, or even the entirety of our world. Then we attempt to use those myths to navigate through life with as our personal religion. We map out the closest bit of the neighborhood (even if we could somehow ‘know’ everything about our local galaxy) as a child and then try to apply it to the cosmos! We’re all still filling in the unmindful ‘gaps’ of what’s missing from our understanding: a rough estimate of that gap is 99.999999% (with quite a few more pages of 9’s after the decimal point!) of merely what seems to be ‘out there’ in our tiny celestial neighborhood of space and time. No wonder life seems challenging, frustrating and bewildering at times! We’re all, as the saying goes, not playing with a full deck... Let alone a full holodeck! :-)

Examining the ‘Why’ First

Let’s start with a firm footing in the ‘why’ department. It doesn’t matter how much ‘what’ material is explored; if the meaning is overlooked, it will be just another academic subject, soon to be discarded or abandoned. To harness our attention, we need a reason or a purpose for study – the universal motivational ‘why’ – without which we’re just drifting around on the ocean of thought without direction or a rudder. In this metaphor, the acceptance and revelation of our True Self is the destination; the port of call at the end of our epic voyage. (Metaphysically, we’re actually already ‘there’, so it’s more a question of removing the barriers to that awareness; we don’t need to ‘go’ anywhere.) This understanding and *experience* of our True Identity is the Source of life purpose, meaning, peace, love and joy – and all those other wonderful clichés ... except that those qualities *are*

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the Real Us! If we can't apply any study or interest to ourselves, then what *is* the point? The 'point' here applies metaphorically and geometrically!

Sacredness: All or Nothing

Over the years, I've been asked countless times why I would want to study geometry and, in particular, what makes it 'sacred.' After numerous years of continually wanting to improve the quality of the answer to that question, for the benefit of myself and those who have asked, I'm finding that the question keeps pointing to the big 'why'... What is my *intent* for study? To rephrase that question, which *identity* wants to know? I'm also realizing more and more, that the sacredness of any study or practice or art – not just geometry – has everything to do with which self is doing the asking, the studying, the practicing.

The Inclusive Self (or more typically – alas! – exclusive self) doing the asking also either *includes* everything – at which point the word sacred, though not necessarily in a conventional religious sense, would seem to apply – or *excludes* some things, at which point the word sacred seems a sacrilege. Perhaps the 'ledge' in sacrilege is the cliff over which we dump the parts of our selves we don't want to look at, the abandonment (a.k.a. separation) principle that seems to keep us (needlessly) apart, alone, abandoned, ashamed and always missing some ... thing.

(We'll resolve this 'cliffhanger' issue together when we examine the goatscape and lambscape in the chapter on Mentalism, so don't let the seeming tension get your goat...) When life hands you lemmings, make (yourself an emissary for) lemming-aid!

Doesn't it seem intuitively more 'sacred' to include everyone and everything? What if inclusiveness turns out to be the pivotal issue in our awakening?

We're not talking about inclusiveness in terms of behavior, since it's ridiculous to invite about 7 billion (at the time of this writing) humans to every event that you plan. Lugging around about 1/8

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of a cubic mile of bodies (if my math is about right) on every occasion is just plain logistically impractical! That's not even counting all the animals, plants, minerals, and other 'stuff', just on this one not-even-a-drop-in-the-cosmic-ocean planet we're so obsessed with!

Transpersonal Self (I) or personal self (i)

*A quick aside: From this point on, we'll use the convention of capitalization in this book to represent which identity, thought system, self or interpretation we're referring to. For example, for the Truly Eternal, Infinite Inclusive **Self**, we'll use a capital "S" and a lower case "s" for the fleeting, temporal, finite **self**. We'll apply this to other words as well. Please don't panic (if you have issues around grammar) when you see a sentence start with a lower case letter; it means that the first word in the sentence is in the finite, we-don't-wanna-go-there-because-we've-been-there-done-that-and-it-hasn't-worked category. In that regard, i'm asking your indulgence to try a bit of experimentation with both geometry and grammar.*

Identity: personal self or Transpersonal Self

The great mystical traditions, distilled to their essence, are basically offering a thought system of insights for us to employ for our ultimate benefit; to distill our lives to what is essential. In one form or another, these schools of wisdom have been encouraging us to explore this single, important question, which assumes countless variations...

Which guide (identity) do I choose?

When we assume that our identity is personal, we inherit a complete 'thought system' or universe of qualities, attributes and characteristics; these all have a common basis in fear in one way or another; the root feeling is no fun at all! Amazingly, we're capable of spending entire lifetimes (or what seems like it!) assuming that our personal identities will somehow 'work' though the problems of our perceived and projected world. We'll go into

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more detail about the attributes of this all-too-familiar (exclusive) thought system, with it's dreary, scary, nauseatingly unhappy, egotistic, paranoid, mean-spirited and victim/victimizer orientation ... as well as the attributes of the opposite thought system, our Real (Inclusive) Self.

Completely distinct from our 3D universe of form, with no connection whatsoever to the personal, finite 'universe,' is our Real Identity, our True Self, our Shared Universal Being. This Identity does not recognize thoughts based on the concept of separation, duality, ('otherness' and all it's manifestations in form, space and time) as being an accurate (or meaningful) interpretation of anything. Nor does it have any interest in feeling 'less than', 'greater than', or even 'other than.' When we feel inspired, peaceful, joyous, unconditionally loving and can laugh gently at our 'personal self,' we are choosing the Thought System of our Higher Self, Universal Inspiration or Infinite (Holy) Spirit as various authors refer to it. The words (form) we use to attempt to describe this Self do not matter; what matters is the thought/feeling (content) and the experience that accompanies it.

Loosening our grip on personal interpretations

When we go to the movies, especially now with great special effects and computer generated animation galore, we generally expect that we'll need to suspend disbelief to enjoy the show. I'd like to suggest that – in order to really enjoy the 'movie' of our lives – it's even more important to *suspend belief in our personal interpretations* of what appears to be happening 'to us' and 'around us' as well! Our personal beliefs, based on such tiny glimpses through a tiny porthole (our senses) on the vastness of the oceanic 'all' that is – even in the context of recognizing the vacuous, surreal, dreamy nature of what we assume is reality – are really just whimsical interpretations when seen in the grand scheme of life. When we value our own interpretations, particularly at the expense of anyone else, aren't we claiming to have authority to judge based on a ridiculously small amount of evidence?

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This doesn't mean that we deny the 'raw data' from our physical senses, just that we can begin to loosen our white-knuckled grip on being attached to the meaning or interpretation we ascribe to those sensory holograms that we assemble in our brains. When we 'lighten up' about taking our personal interpretations too seriously (given the limited perspective we have), we can afford to not only have a good laugh at our own beliefs and plans (at no one's expense), but also adopt a greater trust in an inclusive interpretation that doesn't value any bias or specialness that would require a feeling of sacrifice, loss or abandonment. The inclusive paradigm, which we *always* have access to, makes no demands of us; it is consistently 100% pure kindness.

As we release our attachments (pulling toward) and aversions (pushing away) for particular outcomes (by forgiving ourselves for having the audacity of assuming we know how to correctly interpret the events that appear to happen to us), this humbling perspective can initially lead to a sense of discouragement, but it's important to keep in mind that this is temporary. We begin to realize that 'we' (we're talking about fake identities here) haven't a clue about what is truly in our best interest. Yet we must go past this annihilated sense of the tiny self that comes from seeing the folly of it's rants and whines to a deeper, genuinely peaceful, unshakeable knowing and trust that encompasses a transpersonal perspective – an embrace of the welfare of all that goes beyond the fleeting; a certainty that is always there waiting for us to uncover it. The awareness in our minds of trust that fully warrants deep patience builds with continued practice, diligent application and gentle, yet firm vigilance with self.

From the Confines of Space to the Infinity of All-Encompassing Presence

If we limit our definition of self to a physical body (so 'easy' to do when we react in familiar 'knee jerk' fashion to our circumstances), we're cutting ourselves off from the rest of the universe, constricting our inner ecosystem to an unsustainable, isolated speck, destined to battle seemingly insurmountable forces

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and ‘enemies’ that appear to be external to the little ‘self’ that is so inadequate for what we really want. What if we considered, just from the physical dimensions of space, our ‘self’ to be not limited by the arbitrary confines of our skin, our homes, our neighborhoods, our countries, even our galaxy? That one perspective alone would go a long, long way toward healing conflict, from families to nations, if ‘self’ were just that much more inclusive. If our definition of self (using the body as a metaphor) included everyone, then why would we – even for a moment – consider the proverbial ‘shooting one’s self in the foot’ approach to life? Assuming that our intentions are ultimately kind (which doesn’t apply to an identity divided against itself), being kind to self is really only possible if the Self we’re being kind to IS All-Inclusive! This implies that all the ‘others’ we seem to see in our lives, no matter how we’re tempted to distort ‘them’ with our imposed limitations, are also not only infinite, but each ‘one’ includes and encompasses the All. From such a thought system, kindness is the only choice, and indeed transcends the need for choice, since conflict is only possible with a we/they paradigm.

From the Oblivion of Time to the Eternity of Now

Opposite in every respect, the two thought systems have completely and diametrically polarized views; one of time ... the other of the eternal present. From the usual, personal, finite egotistic perspective, time is a fearsome enemy, enslaving us to an abysmal, tragic past, a guilt-ridden present (no matter how skillfully masked), and likely a horrific, or at least uncertain, future. These might seem like exaggerations, but if we really look deeply at our imagined past trespasses against life, furtive attempts to evade truly being present now, and vague dreading of what is to eventually befall all bodies in the world of form (decay, deterioration and death), we’ll find that at the root of all these discomforting feelings is the belief in – and identification with – time as something that divides us and imprisons us. In the dungeons of our allegedly abandoned unconscious mind, lurks the viciousness that stems from the belief that we abandoned our creator and each other; neither of which is true, but this unex-

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amined assumption becomes the storehouse from which we project our victimized (and victimizing) sagas ... *until* we bring these past phantom demons into the present light of our awareness. Only in the lucid now moment, seen without secret evasion or mental reservation, can these monsters disappear with our completely willing attention – but only with a transpersonal interpretation that removes our ‘self’ from the clutches of the soap opera of the past instead of wallowing in the stories we made up to keep ourselves (and others) imprisoned.

Completely counter to the thought system that reduces the eternal now to nothing (when it is really everything), and yet offering no resistance to the dream of time, is the transpersonal thought system which dwells in the feeling of eternity, and adapts time for everyone’s benefit. It sees every moment as a perfect opportunity to be one with all creation, beyond form, yet reflecting in form, fully and joyfully engaging in the attentive *presence* to the gifts (*presents*) that each person, each situation, each moment gives to us and to all equally. I’m sure we’ve all had at least glimpses of moments where we were so absorbed in contributing and focusing on a favorite ‘labor of love’ at hand, that time – at least temporarily – has vanished into the nothingness from whence it came. We call that being in the flow, losing track of time, and being absorbed in creativity; it’s about giving of Self with abandon. When we feel that flow, we do abandon the limitations of a false identity that we erroneously mistake as an isolated self, by choosing instead the Self that is beyond time, space, separation, form, personality and duality.

Here is a chart to show how these two thought systems are complete opposites, yet both completely consistent (the false also being completely insane):

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Two Thought Systems / Selves / Interpretations

Real (Transpersonal, Timeless, Meaningful)	false (personal, temporary, meaningless)
IDENTITY: Spirit, eternal, infinite, formless	identity: body, temporary, finite, isolated form
MIND: Thoughts inspired by Spirit; kind, gentle, sane return to unchanging peace	mind: thoughts dictated by circumstances, 'outer' conditions; insanity of separate and conflicting interests
DECISIONS: guided by shared interests	decisions: dictated by separate values
UNITY: knowing Intrinsic Oneness, despite appearances; content (cause) is all-important; form (effect) is ultimately irrelevant	duality: belief in separation; appearances (forms, effect) rule perception by choice; this keeps us mindless and bound to circumstance
TMI: Truly Meaningful Insight = Timeless Matterless Inspiration	tmi: tiny mad idea = too much information
100% Sane, Kind	100% insane, unkind
SPACE is a surreal aspect of a gigantic dream; it's importance gradually diminishes as our Real Identity returns to mind; What we are overlooks 'who' we think we are	space reinforces the belief in separation; our 'identity' is defined by the space we appear to inhabit; our bodies, personas and the separate universe define who we think we are
'JUDGING' all as Perfect, Whole, Innocent	judging to divide, condemn, separate

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Real (Transpersonal, Timeless, Meaningful)	false (personal, temporary, meaningless)
TIME: Present is the 'infinite' Eternal Now, the gift from Undivided Self to Undivided Self that gives and extends eternally, abundantly	time: present is an infinitesimal, fleeting moment, preoccupied with past regrets and future worries; born of lack, it can never truly give
TIME: past is part of an ultimately insignificant dream; useful when brought to present	time: past extends infinitely far, dwarfing the present moment to nothingness
TIME: future is part of an ultimately insignificant dream; useful when brought to present	time: future extends infinitely far, dwarfing the present moment to nothingness
Waking up from dreams	fixing up (remodeling and staying in) dreams
TRUST in Guidance beyond any finite 'self'; free and willing acceptance of benevolent intent of our innermost heart of hearts	treacherous, uneasy, fleeting alliances with special dream figures we know will disappoint, abandon and betray 'our' dream figure
DESIRE: Amused acknowledgment of our temporary preferences, devoid of criticism	desire: an unconscious attempt to have a guilty experience different from what we truly are
FLOW: allowing the grace of our transpersonal inspiration to gently replace struggle	resistance: internal conflict resulting in nullified, ineffectual experience; denial of cause

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Real (Transpersonal, Timeless, Meaningful)	false (personal, temporary, meaningless)
INTEREST: shared, feeling of collaboration, cooperation with all; non-attached to what appears to be happening; emphasis on cause which allows all outcomes to be OK	attachments: belief in the concept of pleasure/pain as something that an outside person or circumstance can conditionally provide; aversions (pain): negative attachments
F R E E D O M , E A S E , HEALTHY MIND	dis-ease; circumstances tyrannize thought
SACRIFICE: only where we're ready, we voluntarily 'sacrifice' pain, guilt, fear, boredom, anger since they have never helped us find the happiness we have always wanted	sacrifice: split selves perceive 'others' as having what we lack; suffering seems unavoidable, happiness unimaginable, but we are 'right' and defend our misery tenaciously
INCLUSIVE ATTITUDE: Self embraces all 'others' equally, vaporizing specialness and providing unshakeable ease and Eternal Friendship; unconditional acceptance, egalitarian thought gives all to all	exclusivity: special 'love' and special hate (two sides of same distorted coin); feeling better or less than divides the mind and projects biases into mirrored emphases, precluding real vision; twisted perceptions; not hearing, seeing, not knowing (ignoring) truth
CONTENT (essence) is everything; form irrelevant, but gently accepted as fleeting, ephemeral; Eternal Cause is allowed freely	form is everything; content (mind) is ignored in order to maintain appearances; temporary circumstances, situations dictate thought

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Real (Transpersonal, Timeless, Meaningful)	false (personal, temporary, meaningless)
INVULNERABILITY; identification with common purpose removes focus from battlefield of we/they thinking	victim/victimizer roles identified with; ignorance of opportunities for kindness to self-other as one in favor of grievances/wrongs
FORGIVENESS, HAPPINESS, JOY; Freedom results from recognition of shared Self, dispelling assumed grievances, quieting dirges	resentments, irritations, internal wars of any magnitude cloud true perception by rehashing imagined, assumed grievances over & over
TRUE PERCEPTION; grateful appreciation of infinite, kindly spirit within all resulting from unfettered, unburdened mind; real compassion sees our common struggle to return home	perception of form --> projection; mind's decision to feel separate from Creation reinforces belief in separation; reflected outwardly; ignorance of shared interests
MISTAKES easily corrected; lovingkindness is appropriate response to any situation (seen as love or requests for it)	'sin' is 'irreconcilable'; perpetuation of blame of 'self' and 'others'; kindness viewed with suspicion, fear provokes more fear
HEALING; release from misinterpretation (denial) of reality; ease	suffering (fixation on a faulty interpretation), pain; dis-ease
GIVING = HAVING ; response-ability, giving registers joy <i>through</i> the mind that shares it	giving only to get; belief in obligation, retribution; satisfaction is elusive; seeks, but never finds

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Real (Transpersonal, Time-less, Meaningful)	false (personal, temporary, meaningless)
FEELINGS allowed and released as a passerby; full observation, then full release	feelings endlessly assault our peace as we relive tragedies that never happened
WORLD: classroom for un-learning useless fantasies and mistaken identities	world: prison (complicated, conflicting, 'tragic' lessons which 'must' be learned)
SIMPLE: though not necessarily 'easy' ... at first, until we change our identification	complicated, and ultimately the hard way home to inevitable changeless inner peace
GENUINE: authentic, real, true authority, one with source	imitation: fraudulent, fake, phony, petty, false misrepresentation, hidden from truth
WHOLE; complete, integrated, nothing missing, universal, applicable to all circumstances	part; incomplete, lacking, craving, everything is missing, specialized, applicable to a few
ONE	any number BUT one; really just a laughable zero, though

The chart on the preceding pages shows how the two thought systems represent two completely consistent ways to look at one's self or how to interpret the contents of our experience. The Real, Transpersonal thought system is completely sane; the other: false, personal thought system is completely insane. Which one we select, moment to moment, will determine how we see 'the world.'

Seen through the gently guided, kindly inclusive perspective unclouded by 'we/they' thinking, our interpretation of everything becomes a freeing lesson in seeing the wholeness and intrinsic unity in all life; not necessarily in the infinitely diverse forms that

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life expresses, but in the universality of intent underlying all expression. This true vision allows us to look beyond appearances to the shared, inclusive translation that supports, heals and helps, rather than one that antagonizes, divides and conquers. All the symbols in our lives, geometric or otherwise, can be used to build or destroy, to unite or to separate, to enlighten or to obscure, depending on the thought system applied by the mind. To use the classic metaphor of a hammer that can build a house or destroy it; our mind is similarly potent with regard to which universe (real or false) it will inhabit.

Before we look at the specific geometric symbols and the natural laws that they elegantly represent, having a familiarity with these two thought systems (and we all are familiar with both, even if we claim otherwise at times! :-)) will be of incalculable worth in knowing how each can be employed by the two thought systems.

Please take heart if the task of looking at our identity seems daunting ... it is! It is in fact, perhaps the most difficult thing we'll ever do ... yet it promises the most fulfilling experience we could ever hope to be and have ... and truly beyond anything we could possibly imagine! We're all on that path together, and as we share that path and purpose, it eases the load that gets lighter with each step; the difficulties become less austere with each opportunity we allow ourselves to bring our dim self-concept to the light of an all-encompassing definition of Self that is completely inclusive, completely forgiving, and eternally innocent and free!

In the next chapter, we'll jump back to the grounded science of earth's physics and learn that matter isn't so solid after all, which, while temporarily unsettling, also means that our burdensome problems (all based on bodies and form) aren't real either. Ultimately, matter doesn't matter.

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Free Will, The Prime Directive and Two Completely Different Approaches

In Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek TV series, one of the governing principles that permeated all of the missions (at least in theory :-)) was the concept of the "prime directive" of non-interference. This inspired attitude is definitely one aligned with divine wisdom transcending the limits of any sort of isolated self. Despite our attempts to saddle our Creator (or anyone or everyone else) with responsibility (a.k.a. blame) for our experiences, we are individually responsible for our experiences, and interfering with the experience of another (classic projection) is the perfect decoy-diversion-delusion for a mind obsessed with avoiding the ability to respond to the inner maturity that sets us free. If we wanted a sure-fire method of sabotaging our happiness (and placing it 'conveniently' forever just out of reach), believing that we are responsible *for* another (or not responsible for the identity we claim as our self) is an optimum strategy for staying miserable. When we are responsible *to* others, we recognize that we only have a say in what interpretation we choose in 'our' minds, not the mind of 'another', and that ultimately reflects in how kindly our words and actions are toward others. Besides, being responsible *to* others is at twice as easy as being responsible *for* others, since TwO is half the effort of FOuR. :-)

I AM CHOOSING TO FEEL THIS WAY!

Hysterically Paranoid? ... or Hysterically Funny! :-)

Our fragmented, psychotic, bitchy – and that's putting it euphemistically! – alleged 'self', when identified with, is enough to (almost) drive a pure, infinite being crazy! Every moment spent with a concept of 'self' anything less than All That Truly Is makes us insane, although we think we can cover this over with a thin veneer of civilized behavior. It's probably a good thing, too, until we can really get to the Cause of the problem (our decision to believe in a universe of separation.)

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When we honestly (with the Infinite Help we All have within) look at how ludicrous our finite self concept is, we can gradually shift from total paranoia (which would be justified *only* if we're less than the All, a justification we all seem to make in a world of diverging forms, interests and bewildering differences) to a gentle giggle (or outright hysterically amused laughter) at the surreal silliness of taking our 'human dream puppets' (the 'action figures' we want to be our heroes) seriously. It's as though we have been playing with children's toys and become so involved with the dramatization we practiced over and over, that we no longer remember that we made up the toys, the puppet stage and doll house universe and actually believe we're the puppets and react as if the enactments we scripted have real effects!

This regular hilarity (about taking the dream seriously) is truly and forever justified, and is the sweet embrace of the kindness of our unchanging Self. Since – if we're honest with ourselves – we don't experience this blissful inclusive serenity most of the time, we can use every feeling, every experience as fuel for our decision-making mind to burn away the dross interpretations of our little selves and savor the amusing, inwardly gentle re-interpretations that ease up on the judgment. These insights kindle a warm, tolerant look at our human selves. We can observe the screenplay with compassion and humor because our identity has shifted from puppet to puppeteer; we see our official signature on the bottom of each page and (at first grudgingly, then later amusingly) admit our authorship. This perspective ironically allows us to make the most effective decisions within the world; true passersby have access to the grand view, not just a tiny bit of life's drama.

The Terror of Innocence?

When you read or hear the word "innocence," is there something that grabs you and insists that you look the other way? Innocence seems like an innocent enough word, yet it's loaded with introspective potential; so much so that our counterfeit identities (the identity thieves with the longest history of intra-

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personal terrorism) tremble at the very idea of innocence, particularly if it means that there's nothing to be guilty about, that it's root dread is unfounded at the core. Our True Identity is not limited to a bag of dust that fumbles around on a little planet for a few decades and then decomposes back into the collective dust. We've vastly underestimated – and undermined – the real treasure of our Self by mistaking the (guilty and never-quite-completely-innocent) self (lower case 's') with the eternally free, never-guilty-because-there-is-no-possibility-of-it-in-truth Self (Upper case 'S') which is incapable of even conceiving of error (or duality), let alone making a 'sin' or big deal out of the fleeting and changeable.

The saboteur – ceaselessly struggling to keep us in the dark about our true identity – is a made-up identity, but one we've grown so familiar with that we never suspect it's motives. It wears a veil of pseudo-innocence by projecting guilt out onto the micro-sphere of our bodies, families, significant 'others', acquaintances and immediate surroundings (here in this whoville speck-of-dust planet we call earth) and also, as a backup to the backup, onto the macro-sphere of our cosmos. This 'world' is a 'uni'-verse of treachery and danger we made up to avoid looking at the futility (and insanity) of the cause of our unhappiness: imagined guilt for imagined separation.

If we really looked at why our lives just seem to almost get going well, then 'something happens' and what *our* motivation for perceiving things as they seem to be, we might be horrified (at least temporarily) at the fact that we choreographed the entire thing... not consciously, of course, but from the depths of our minds, projected outward with cosmic proportions; our unconscious mind is the unimaginably vast powerhouse of our mind that continues to propagate whichever thought system we've chosen. It doesn't take too much brilliance to guess which thought system we choose most (back to that 99 percent with a slew of 9's past the decimal point) of the time. The challenge is to consistently choose against the inner saboteur by simply being aware – identifying with the Self that is beyond the possibility of guilt or

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sin or fear – and merely watch from this transpersonal, dispassionate and objectively kind vantage point – how desperately this fake self wants to avoid being seen. It's like Gollum (a.k.a. Sméagol) in Lord of the Rings who will do anything to get 'his precious' invisibility back – or perhaps like the Wizard of Oz, wanting to seem great and powerful, yet wanting us to pay no attention to the man behind the curtain. The simple fact is that we want to know the the truth behind and beyond the real scam, the real conspiracy, the real cover-up. Gollum's invisibility 'cover' is blown and now we see that this wretched self-concept deserves our compassionate release rather than dread and disgust. Our inner wizard finds its true gifts by giving back to our mind what we already had all along, once and for all. It's not a matter of 'if' anymore, it's just a matter of 'when'...

When we look at the imagined villainy, and expose the counterfeit self, the person we thought we were (the counterfeit self) generally does not like being exposed one ... little ... bit! It's primary modus operandi for not being exposed is a literal universe of distractions; time, space, and countless (separate) identities including our 'own' 'self' with it's ('my') precious body and needs. Seen from an infinitely kind, unconditionally loving thought system, it's all just a silly dramatization of a tiny mad idea; yet we have taken this absurd parody of our eternal Self and blown it up into astronomical proportions... and believe it to be real! Imagine that... not! :-)

"By releasing you from the bondage of guilt I placed on you, I liberate you from my dream."

– Kenneth Wapnick, Journey Through The Workbook of A Course In Miracles, Vol. 7, p.193 (Lesson 349)

Identity Math

"We are united as one, divided by zero."

– Anonymous

In mathematics, one studies identities. For example, $1 \times 1 = 1$. In non-dual metaphysics, our Identity is One! Everything else is

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just a surreal dream. When we identify with our Inclusive Self, there is just The One! From purely singular, complete awareness, nothing can be subtracted, added, multiplied or divided. Our Real Identity is simple, perfect, and free from the tyranny of diverging thoughts and intentions, and the distracting detour from truth that space, time, personalities and bodies seem to provide.

Only within a made up identity – with an artificially contrived, insane and ephemeral universe – can nothingness be imagined or perceived. No matter how you attempt to manipulate them, dreams are still nothing. Metaphorically and mathematically, we can, with shared amusement, notice that:

$0 \times 1 = 0$. Trying to multiply nothingness by unity doesn't make it real. Trying to imagine light within a dream (to improve the dream) doesn't convert darkness into light. We sure try though, don't we! :-)

Impartiality and Wholeness

"Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

– William Shakespeare

Sometimes the foundation of words can provide wonderful clues to the underlying thought system. For example, the word vicarious has the same root as vicar, which is a religious intermediary or representative. When we try to live through 'others' (as separate from 'us' within a separated thought system) we inevitably experience a sense of loneliness, or abandonment because 'they' are incomplete symbols, seen from an incomplete or partial world view. It is truly absurd and arrogant, with our limited perspective, to attempt to interpret our lives from the partial judgment of our fleeting, temporal, ephemeral lives and the tiny pinholes we call our senses and the thought system they slavishly pay homage to. What we really need is a truly impartial –

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not partial, but whole – guide to lead us beyond appearances to complete remembering, full integration, true generalization that leads to full, not partial peace. Our Real Identity cannot be anything less than 100% of All. Imagining anyone or anything as less than ALL of Spirit – completely whole and innocent and love-giving – deprives us of this Universal gift.