

## Article 102: Consciousness and Infinite-Patterning

What is consciousness? Or, more precisely, since most things exhibit some form of consciousness, what sets your consciousness above or apart from other forms of consciousness? ...from the consciousness of animals, for instance, from trees or a stone? Is consciousness just “thinking” ...on some level? Is it that you can contemplate your death ...and an animal, tree, or stone seem unable to do this? Do you even know that an animal, tree, or rock cannot contemplate its death or destruction? Is your “greater” consciousness that of being aware of good and evil ...as Adam and Eve knew shame after eating the fruits from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Judgments lead to the idea, for instance, that pain, unless it serves a worthy purpose or creates greater or finer pleasure, is evil, ...while pleasure, unless it serves an unworthy purpose or creates greater pain, is good, ...is there any *greater* consciousness in trying to untangle this web of judgments and rationalizations? Such judgments cannot possibly set your consciousness above or apart from animals and trees, for animals and trees certainly react to things in their own environment, ...and they probably respond more wisely ...and usually in simpler ways. Or maybe your *greater consciousness* is your ability to sense and consider your own mental and emotional states? Well, ...animals get angry ...and they obviously know when they are angry; ...is your *greater consciousness* your ability to consider “why” you are angry?

Is consciousness merely knowing of oneself and one’s environment? If so, an animal definitely knows of itself ...and of others, ...and knows of itself as different from others. And animals and trees know of the world around them ...and can make complex responses to their environment, ...*is that then all there is to consciousness?* If so, can we say with any certainty that a rock does *not* know of the world around it? ...or that oceans are not aware? If, as many people claim, all things are endowed with consciousness, then consciousness is a moot issue ...and *greater consciousness* has no more meaning than saying, “bluer than blue”; ...does that make any sense to you? ...or satisfy your struggle for greater or finer consciousness? ...or for Christ consciousness, or divine consciousness?

Is *greater or higher consciousness* knowing ...and knowing that you know? What is greater about that? ...for if you know, ...does it really matter how you know? Besides, how do you know that you know? You don’t even know that what you know is true knowing, ...do you? Now, think carefully about that: how do you know you know? ...or know that your knowing is real and true? Maybe *greater or higher consciousness* is merely knowing and reflecting upon that knowing ...without knowing “why” or “how” or “what” you know.

If we eliminate the following dictionary definitions of consciousness “the state or activity which is characterized by sensation, emotion, realization, or thought”; “the totality of sensations, perceptions, ideas,

attitudes, and feelings”; “the ability to perceive, apprehend, or notice with a degree of controlled thought or observation”; “having the rational power to think and will”; and “candid acceptance”, for animals and trees ...and possibly stones certainly exhibit these states of consciousness; ...then we are left with the definition of consciousness as “the awareness or perception of an inward psychological state or fact, the intuitively perceived knowledge of something in one’s inner-self, or the inward awareness of an external object or state or fact”; ...and it is here that we will abandon these dictionary and psychological definitions and indicators of consciousness, for they do not seem to be leading us to understand much about a *greater consciousness*, ...or are they?

What makes your consciousness different or other or greater than the consciousness of animals or trees or rocks? With animals, it seems that a tree is merely a tree ...and another animal is merely an animal to fight against or run away from, ignore or companion with, or eat for dinner, ...but, in any case, the other animal is apparently only an animal; ...and to trees, it seems that other trees are only trees, ...and animals that climb through trees or nest in them are only animals. It seems that though an animal knows itself and is conscious of and can react to its environment ...and a tree is much the same, ...and possibly we can include rocks in this knowing, the “things” an animal or tree or rock “knows” are merely objects in their universe ...and seem to have no other meaning or significance. Of course, an animal may use a rock or tree branch as a tool, but a rock is still a rock and a branch is still a branch ...and they have no hidden or higher or greater meaning or significance than to be used as tools, for food, or for protection ...and little more than that.

In other words, to animals and trees, you and other animals and trees and stones are either friends or foes, or are to be ignored as part of the environment and little else, ...and objects do not seem to exhibit or represent greater concepts of something. In other words, to an animal or tree, you probably do not represent a greater God or spirit ...or a lesser being, ...and a tree does not represent “the tree of life or the tree of knowledge”. To an animal, other animals are always animals, you are dependably you, and a tree remains a tree in fact ...and in the animal’s consciousness or mental imagery. An animal then, lives with what is and can react to what has been, such as your repeated act of offering food and care. Animals also seem to plan a limited future, can respond by building a nest and raising offspring, and can make complex adjustments to their environment, ...but, except for rudimentary training and developed emotions, can an animal make profound or expansive associations and connections from one thing to another? ...or from what is to what could be ...especially if one or both things are invisible? Is this your *greater consciousness*?

Or does *greater consciousness* give you the conscious ability to see into the future ...and plan for that future? ...to make broad associations and connections? ...to knowingly expand yourself and your knowing beyond your present environment of things and happenings? Are you capable of foreseeing possibilities on a grand scale and to not only plan for those things, but bring them about? Can you see, enliven, and plan for greater opportunities? ...and visualize even the consequences of consequences of consequences? And are you able to consciously expand your self and life and environment by choosing the desirable constituents of greater emergent-wholes? Your abilities, as we have discussed them, fully meet the previous definition that consciousness is “the awareness or perception of an inward psychological state or fact, the intuitively perceived knowledge of something in one’s inner-self, or the inward awareness of an external object, state, or fact.” And if you have these abilities, isn’t this the *greater consciousness* you possess which sets you above or beyond other consciousnesses?

Also, a plant, an animal, or even a stone does not seem to have free will ...and must, pretty much, follow the pattern set for it, ...while you on the other hand, can see infinite possibilities ...or the infinite-patterning behind, within, and underlying the “things and happenings” of life ...and freely enliven and manifest and live as you truly desire. Isn’t that the *greater consciousness* you are seeking? If so, it is already within you! It surrounds and fulfills you! However, if you are living and reacting to things and events “as they come to you”, and if you are not consciously seeing the universe’s infinite-patterning and enlivening and manifesting by consciously creating greater emergent-wholes ...and expanding those wholes again and again, then you are, it seems, living your *greater consciousness* as an animal, a tree, or a stone, ...or at least, not much better than these things, for they too can sense and react in these ways, ...but you can live greater and finer than that. Do not deny or forsake yourself! ...or your *greater consciousness*!

Your *greater consciousness* offers you a clear image of life and the universe, ...are your beliefs, awarenesses, and concepts of life the same as others are living? ...or are you beginning to see that you have something new and extraordinary to offer ...and live? Do you see all of life as eternal? Animals and trees and most individuals probably do not have a genuine sense of this. Do you have a real knowing of your own immortality? Does it seem that you are beginning to know more and more without struggling to learn? ...and do you fully apply that knowing in your everyday self and life? Do you understand that eternal things are not objects ...but are the infinite-patterning of life dressed up in the clothes you desire ...and have created? Infinite-patterning belongs to the universe, the forms and appearances are yours, ...but *greater consciousness* is awareness of both.

From all possibilities offered by the universe's infinite-patterning, you have developed certain traits and habits ...and purposeful beliefs and ways ...which is your pattern, your golden thread, your Forever Purpose; ...and since you could have chosen an infinite variety of patternings, what you have chosen to live is your personal infinite-patterning, ...then, from this, what you choose to live and embody is your personal pattern ...or your spiritually mindful embodied self and life. It is the self and life which you enliven and manifest, through *greater consciousness*, from life's infinite-patterning, ...also known as life's unmanifested infinite-possibilities, ...which are not patterns until enlivened and lived and embodied. In other words, life's infinite-patternings are like "possible beliefs"; your personal infinite-patternings are your "particular possible beliefs"; your personal patterns are "the beliefs you have chosen to embody and live"; and yourself and life are your "embodied beliefs in action". Patterns are the sequence of "things" ...or constituents enlivened and manifested from the universe's offering of infinite-patternings, infinite-beliefs, ...or infinite-possibilities. There are no beliefs, patterns, things, or constituents of greater-wholes until they are emergently enlivened, manifested, embodied, or endowed, through consciousness, with existence or being.

Life's infinite-patternings are possibilities, they are not patterned or embodied-possibilities from which you choose, they are infinite, without specific form or appearance or being, which you can enliven and manifest as you desire, ...and which begins creating possibilities where before, in infinite-patterning, while possibilities and opportunities existed, they had no real life or existence until you enlivened and manifested your personal-pattern of possibilities and opportunities ...which then, through connections, gives life and form to many, many other patterns and possibilities as well, which, though they existed in infinite-patterning, had no life or existence ...either. In this, you can see that you are enlivening and manifesting and expanding the universe, ...not merely responding and reacting to what is; you are enlivening and creating what can be ...which was not! You do this every day without thought ...and have done so for a long time, ...now we are asking you to consciously think about what you are living and creating ...and what you can enliven and manifest and live.

*Do not live life as a stone!*

From the universe's infinite-patterning, you can enliven and manifest the infinite universe you truly desire ...while all other people create the particular universe they desire. Each of these individually created universes are infinite, yet one universe *never* interferes with or opposes another infinite universe; ...all such universes are infinite in their own right ...and are not a subset or a lesser aspect of the infinite-universe. BOTH ARE INFINITE! ...and all other infinite universes are infinite ...and remain so without ever colliding with another, ...yet *all* of these different infinite universes exist as one. These personal infinite-universe are all different,

...not merely different views of the infinite universe, ...but, being one in infinity, these personal infinite-universe are simultaneously the infinite-universe ...and all personal infinite-universes as well, which holds all personal infinite-universes constant, steady, and never intrusive.

Now, in the same way, you can enliven and manifest your personal infinite-universe in finite ways, and all others may do the same, ...yet the individually created finite universes remain infinite in fact and in nature, and finite and different in appearance, expression, and experiencing, yet remain infinite and one ...and are held constant and consistent by infinite-patterning ...which protects all things ...so that no one thing or universe ever interferes with any other thing or universe. This is infinity within finite oneness within separation, ...or expression without separation. When enlivened and manifested, infinite-patterning becomes a pattern, an experientiable pattern, ...or, *the infinite is manifested as infinite finite in infinity.*

Do not limit yourself to thinking of infinite as an infinite quantity or quality of finite, for infinite is that, it is more than that, and it is different than that!