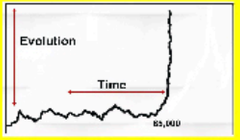


Is *sapiens* consciousness radically different?

- **YES, IT IS.** For 2 reasons:
1. all animal species have senses —we only have access to ours;
2. between 100 and 65 thousand years ago, hominins 'invented' complex language, i.e.,
   - an artificial [human] layer was added to basic cognition;
   - now, our consciousness has two discrete components: human sentience [fundamental] + meta-cognition [artificial].

We assume an evolutionary continuum of animal consciousness.

- human consciousness broke that continuum;
- things changed massively 65,000 years ago;
- archaeological findings confirm this;
- the inflection point was the introduction of speech;
- complex dialogue resulted in meaning;
- the meta-cognitive community necessitated identity.



With language and meta-cognition we can uniquely introspect and ponder our own sentience. No other species can do that.

Why does all this feel like something from the inside?



Interconnectedness is fundamental. All social species use it. Meaning emerged from it. Complex thought is the result of meaning, recursive syntax and subjectivity.

Complex thought emerged from communication, not from matter. Other social species communicate habitually. Because we do it cognitively, humanity has become a conscious superorganism.

HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS IS HYBRID.

SENTIENCE is transmitted biologically by both parents. IT'S BIOLOGICAL, GENETIC, AND FUNDAMENTAL.

META-COGNITION is linguistically taught by the group. IT'S CULTURAL, ARTIFICIAL AND EMERGENT.



What is it like to be a bat?

It would be like being a baby or a philosophical zombie; no meta-cognition, hence: living, present and change.

Bats have none of these:

a. time
b. identity
c. episodic memory
d. imagination
e. free will
f. creativity
g. ethics/aesthetics
h. judgment
i. abstracta
j. good/evil.

Conclusions:

- Language represents the onset of humanity. [Russel Wallace guessed the limits of Darwinism].
- Sentience is subjective, fundamental, and ineffable. [Wittgenstein explained the ineffability of sentience].
- Meta-cognition is the artificial layer of human consciousness.
- Language and meta-cognition emerge from culture, not from matter. [Whorf understood that language is created by culture].
- Thought & language are only processed in the individual brain.
- Eastern philosophy accepts the oneness of reality; it does not explain.
- Western philosophy explains through subjectivity & objective reality. [Schopenhauer & Schrödinger saw the compatibility of the systems].

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