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Human consciousness is an outcome of a runaway process of emotional selection

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A theory of the emotional origin of human consciousness is substantiated by the following arguments:

(1) Natural life, in contrast to models of artificial life, is chemical. The brain is not only a computation device, but also a powerful endocrine gland, supplying the body with a set of chemicals: hormones and emotones. The brain is not the „seat“ of mind – mind is „superimposed“ over, and is isomorphous with, the entire organism.

(2) Dichotomous evaluation of external stimuli (good/bad) is part of epistemic work of all organisms. In evolutionary advanced latecomers the upper level of the evaluation has a form of emotions. The evaluative outcomes „good“ are accompanied by positive emotions. They serve to reinforce appropriate actions.

(3) In early primates, positive emotions acquired a dim higher-level connotation of pleasant sensation. This started a novel process of emotional selection, which attained, in the branch leading to humans, a runaway character: feeling pleasure and conscious sensation were propelling one another in a spiral of positive feed-back loops.

(4) The advent of language speeded-up the runaway course by its important function of abstract grooming (Dunbar), which provided a powerful source of new pleasures. It also substantially widened the window of consciousness.

(5) The main function of human consciousness is conscious feeling of pleasure and pain. The computation and conceptualization parts of consciousness are being set into operation *post actionem*. They serve to *a posteriori* justify the emotionally provoked action, to effectively search for new sources of pleasure, and to evade pain.