



# **THE 21ST CENTURY MIRROR TEST**

TRUE RECOGNITION IN THE  
REFLECTION OF A SPECIES



**EVENTFUL**  
DEVELOPMENTS INC.

**DAVID J. MCKNIGHT**

Maggie herself has been subject to examination by the men in white coats on previous occasions, but for her little one Charlie this is a new experience, and in a state of heightened awareness he and his mother are guided down a brightly lit corridor towards another room in the building. Approaching the open doorway to a small chamber, this empty square room looks like others Charlie has seen in the facility, however as they cross the threshold and the door closes behind them, he immediately notices something different – a large, thin, shiny rectangular object attached to the wall on his right. This silver sheeny something consumes the majority of space from floor to ceiling except for a vacant section near the corner that Maggie immediately moves to occupy. Turning her back to the wall and positioning herself as to avoid eye contact with the object, Maggie sits down on the tile floor as young Charlie follows mother’s lead to take his place in the security of her warm lap. Curiosity soon gets the better of the little one though, and from the safety of Maggie’s arms he stretches out for a better look; craning his neck to peer into the edge of this polished surface and much to his surprise, Charlie sees another chimpanzee staring right back at him! Quickly pulling away, he looks up for reassurance from his mother who seems completely unconcerned there’s another chimp in the room – Maggie has seen her own image before.

This mirror fastened to the wall is about six feet tall by eight feet wide, plenty of surface area for Charlie to get a good look at himself and with curiosity and courage combined, the 3-year-old chimp takes the next inquisitive step; slowly moving away from his mother’s embrace, he now stands at the edge of the reflective surface and begins to further investigate. Looking in and pulling back repeatedly, the other chimpanzee is doing everything that he does and not quite sure what to make of it, the naturally curious young one suddenly finds himself in full view of his mirror image. Too much to handle at first, this direct encounter startles him and with fur erect he scampers out of his own sight towards the safety of Maggie’s arms; but before long Charlie summons the nerve to return, and this time in a much more playful manner starts making exaggerated movements. Swaying from side to side, swinging his arms in unison, and jumping up and down, fear has been sufficiently replaced by total interest and as he begins to touch his own reflection, it is only a matter of time before Charlie the chimpanzee recognizes that he’s looking at himself.



It has been a long road for humankind to get where we are today and of all the fundamental turning points along the way like the use and manipulation of tools, the control of fire, and

the development of writing; self-recognition ranks among them as a basic building block of human society. We exist as individuals, each with our own unique set of characteristics, features and traits, so it makes perfect sense that the ability to see ourselves as beings who possess a separate existence from the rest of our physical reality would be a major step in the becoming of us. Humans can live in large groups that eventually became complex civilizations because we have the faculty to identify similar qualities to our own in others – telling friend from foe. Self-recognition is a key to human survival and observing the natural world around us, one can see how our own level of intelligence sets us apart, but how far does this capacity for recognition reach into the animal kingdom?

Questions like this are the impetus for greater understanding and in 1970, psychologist Gordon Gallup Jr. developed the mirror test – a behavioural technique designed to investigate whether other animals could recognize themselves. Also known as the mark test, this well-practiced experiment involves the placing of a mark on a subject's face (like the cheek or forehead of primates) to demonstrate an animal's aptitude to associate body with image when positioned in front of a mirror. Watch any video on You Tube related to this test and you can see how certain creatures react as they connect the dots between self and reflection; an ability evident in many species including chimpanzees, bonobos, elephants, dolphins, and most human children by the age of two. Although it is unknown just how long humans have possessed the mental capacity to see themselves as separate and distinct from their surrounding environment, it's obvious that the crossing of this important and ancient threshold is what graduated our species from simple to self-consciousness – a major step on the ladder of evolution that allowed us to carry on climbing towards the rung of planetary supremacy where we stand today in the Technologic<sup>1</sup>; heights we've attained at the expense of the very environment upon which this ladder itself is supported, and having climbed so high with reckless abandon and relentless expansion, we now find ourselves perched precariously over increasingly noxious and polluted ground. We can't go down a step or two in order to stabilize our shaky footing – evolution only goes one way – but there is a rung just above our standing that can counterbalance humanity's heavy weight and offers us the stability needed to continue an integral ascension.

Looking back on the multi-million-year progression and growth of the human species, the majority of man's evolvment so far has been spent in the physical realm. After all, it is a principle of existence in this universe of ours that everything begins in material form – the foundational field of expression for a cosmos where being comes before anything else. Most

assuredly, something must first *be* in order to *become*, and in the case of the human body it would take many millions of years to develop into the form observed today when you look in the mirror. Recognizing what it means to be you and me, our bodies and ultimately our brains in connection to an evolutionary upbringing (both individually and as a species) would develop in complexity over time from being, to feeling, to thinking – a fundamental order in the becoming of intelligence through the expression of consciousness from creation to destiny<sup>2</sup>; man and womankind’s extraordinary climb to this currently cracking crosspiece where we recklessly stand and rather ignorantly teeter in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**EVOLUTION TOOK THE ANIMAL  
OUT OF THE JUNGLE, BUT  
CAN IT TAKE THE JUNGLE  
OUT OF THE ANIMAL?**

Moving forward is a must and the next step in the evolution of humanity will be less concerned with this physical vehicle that drove us here (our complex bodies and brains) and a great deal more about what’s really at the core of a human being – our consciousness. This potential shift therefore promises to be much swifter than previous progressions. Not the millions of years it took to build the human anatomy. Not the thousands of years required to master tools and technology. Nor the hundreds of years spent fabricating a global society and economy. The next great leap in the headway of humanity could happen overnight when woman and man decide to look in the mirror and rightfully recognize that we are simply the universe looking at itself – a true reflection prefiguring the sophisticated image of a holistic future against the immature face of a fragmented past. Yes, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mirror Test is now upon us and whether or not the human species is ready to truly comprehend itself in the connection to its cosmos remains to be seen, but we’re all standing at the crossroads of a critical intersection in our becoming as intelligent beings, and it’s clear that a new identity is required if we are to navigate the growing tribulation and turmoil of this time. Only through the understanding of who we are and how we’re so intrinsically related to one another will the human race obtain the vision necessary to choose the right direction for people and planet – a defining transition from *self-recognition* to *self-realization* that will be as vital to our survival as the turning points throughout history. Evolution took the animal out of the jungle, but can it take the jungle out of the animal? That is the million-dollar question, and the answer lies in this higher form of natural selection – one where an intelligent life form must now make a critical choice to continue down the destructive path

of self-interest, greed and divisiveness or come together at a much more meaningful level towards human equality, mutual benefit, and collective understanding. In this promising era of a true cosmic connection, humanity will unleash the power within to transcend the evolutionary bottleneck that presently holds us back; tearing down the walls to begin building a new culture of conscience, compassion and kindness this world so desperately needs. What we are talking about here is a revolution in consciousness and by opening ourselves up to a fresh perspective that we are much more than just the most advanced species on Earth, humankind will come to know itself as the conscious expression of our entire universe – intelligently gifted beings with the capacity to realize our potential and shape our destiny in the Universal Flow.



### Reference:

<sup>1</sup> As the seventh current of the Universal Flow: *The Technologic* is actualized when an intelligent life form begins to consciously employ its environment in the becoming of itself – a long-running current of human advancement that now delivers us to self-realization. This critical stage in our evolution as a species where humans can conclusively recognize in the reflection of their existence that we are the universe and the universe is us – see *The Universal Flow of Consciousness & Existence*; page 65

<sup>2</sup> Our universe can be properly understood only when perceived as one total flowing entity and in this universal evolution from what's possible to what's real, it's the becoming of intelligence through the expression of consciousness that carries a species up the evolutionary ladder from being, to feeling, to thinking, to knowing – see *The Universal Flow of Consciousness & Existence*; page 79

[FREE DOWNLOAD: THE UNIVERSAL FLOW OF CONSCIOUSNESS & EXISTENCE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO MY MAILING LIST SO YOU DON'T MISS A THING](#)



**EVENTFUL**  
DEVELOPMENTS INC.