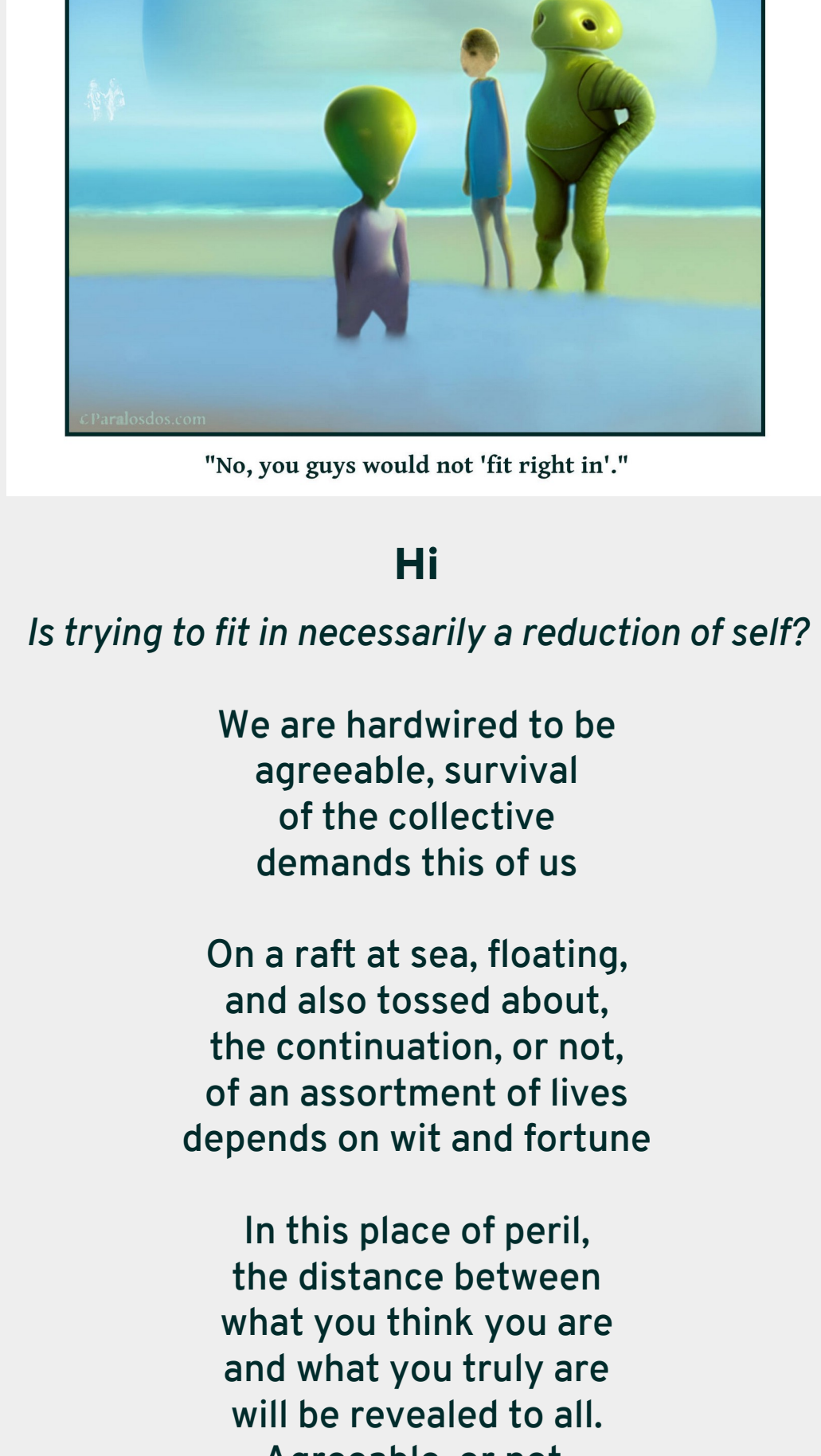


January 5, 2025

from the walls of the digital cave

Change Happens

Have a great day,
find your way



Hi

Is trying to fit in necessarily a reduction of self?

We are hardwired to be
agreeable, survival
of the collective
demands this of us

On a raft at sea, floating,
and also tossed about,
the continuation, or not,
of an assortment of lives
depends on wit and fortune

In this place of peril,
the distance between
what you think you are
and what you truly are
will be revealed to all.
Agreeable, or not.

Much to learn

Why Are You So Smart?

Thank Your Mom & Your Difficult Birth

" This is the kind of impasse that encourages innovations that might be considered 'creative,' or at least as creative as an evolutionary process without explicit goals, without a guiding intelligence, can be. Evolution found some important mechanical tricks to get around this constraint: Babies' skulls are made of pieces that shift during birth, women's pelvises temporarily separate during delivery, and the space for the brain increases dramatically in infancy. But another key adaptation was in how the brain itself worked. Evolution made human beings learn what they need about the world, rather than having it inborn. "

- A look at why human intelligence is significantly greater than the rest of the animal kingdom. The main takeaway is that we do most of our learning after we're born as a trade off for being upright. It's a bit of a weirdly written and constructed article, but it made me think more deeply about the mechanics of birth and our initial helplessness. There is nothing more profound than childbirth, it's easy to forget how incredible, and unlikely, our journeys into life are.

The right time in space

Do we live in a special part of the universe?

" When astronomers say the universe is homogeneous, this means that observers in any part of the universe will see roughly the same view as observers in any other part. There might be local differences, like our mostly harmless planet Earth, orbiting the future course of an interstellar bypass. Or a desert planet with two suns, or a swampy world in the Dagobah system.

At the smallest scales, they'll be different. But as you move to larger and larger scales, it's all just planets, stars, galaxies, galaxy clusters and black holes. And if you unfocus your eyes, it all looks pretty much the same.

Isotropic means that the universe looks the same in every direction. If you were floating alone in the cosmic void, you could look left, right, up, down out to the edge of the observable universe and see galaxies, galaxy clusters and eventually the cosmic microwave background radiation in all directions. Every direction looks the same. "

- We've come a long way from our original consideration that the earth was the center of everything. In this moment we can see 13.8 billion light years around us in all directions, but we are always seeing the past. Future observers from our space rock, billions of years from now, would not see what we see. Galaxies will be flying away from us so quickly that the light will never reach us. The article makes you realize that what's unique about us is not where we are in the universe, but the time we are in the universe. It is possible to envision a time in the future where people making observations on earth will be relying on records from the past to believe that the universe is anything other than empty.

Can you explain?

**How to Learn Anything with
the Feynman Technique**

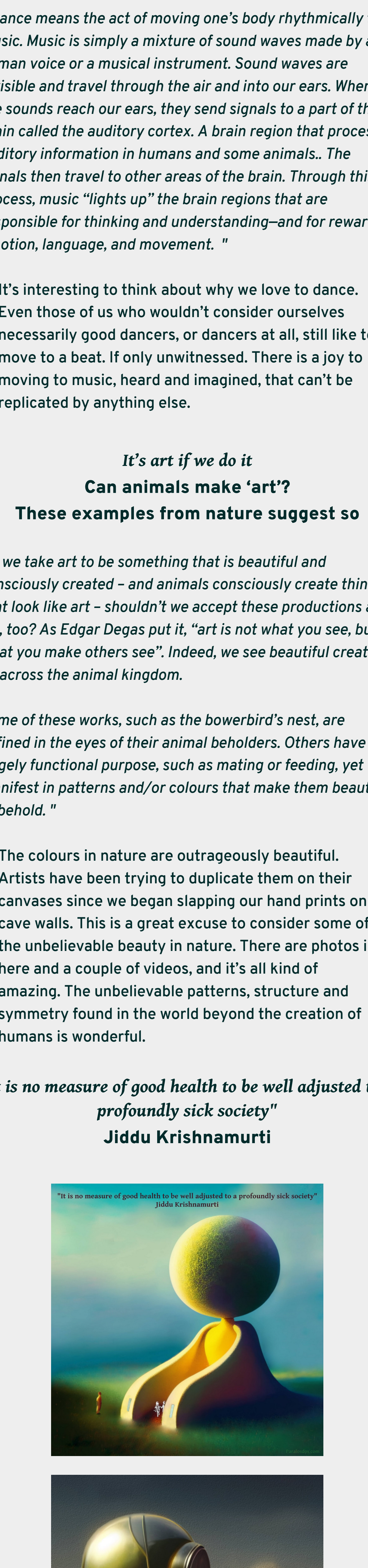
"In preparing for his oral qualifying examination, a rite of passage for every graduate student, he chose not to study the outlines of known physics. Instead he went up to MIT, where he could be alone, and opened a fresh notebook. On the title page he wrote: Notebook Of Things I Don't Know About. For the first but not the last time he reorganized his knowledge. He worked for weeks at disassembling each branch of physics, oiling the parts, and putting them back together, looking all the while for the raw edges and inconsistencies. He tried to find the essential kernels of each subject. When he was done he had a notebook of which he was especially proud."

- Mainly I included this article because I think everybody should have some understanding of Richard Feynman. And if you don't, you should definitely look him up, a very interesting guy. The technique discussed is one that he used to teach and for himself, it has a bunch of different variations, an interweb favourite. The basic technique is really valuable, and it's shown here in a very clear way. His biggest thing was that if you can't explain something, then you don't understand it. So whatever gets you to being able to explain something, that is what gets you to being able to understand it. He stressed that naming something didn't mean you knew it. Bit of a Taoist, Mr. Feynman.

January 1, 1818

Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley



Wiki Rabbit Hole

" Sitting around a log fire at Byron's villa, the company amused themselves with German ghost stories, which prompted Byron to propose that they 'each write a ghost story'. Unable to think of a story, young Mary Godwin became anxious: 'Have you thought of a story? I was asked each morning, and each morning I was forced to reply with a mortifying negative'. During one mid-June evening, the discussions turned to the nature of the principle of life. 'Perhaps a corpse would be re-animated', Mary noted; 'galvanism had given token of such things'. It was after midnight before they retired, and unable to sleep, she became possessed by her imagination as she beheld the grim terrors of her 'waking dream', her ghost story:

'I saw the pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together. I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life, and stir with an uneasy, half vital motion. Frightful must it be; for supremely frightful would be the effect of any human endeavour to mock the stupendous mechanism of the Creator of the world.'

She began writing what she assumed would be a short story. With Percy Shelley's encouragement, she expanded this tale into her first novel, Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus, published in 1818. She later described that summer in Switzerland as the moment 'when I first stepped out from childhood into life'. "

Nature has answers

**Farmers Are Using Wool To Save
Water in the Drought-Ridden West**

" That lightbulb moment flickered on roughly a decade ago. Since then, 47-year-old Wilde has been on a mission to educate sheep ranchers about a potentially lucrative market for their otherwise valueless waste wool. He's also working to explain to home gardeners and commercial farmers alike what wool can bring to their soils—namely, a holy trinity of organic nutrients, water-holding abilities, and oxygen-promoting porosity that outperforms traditional organic fertilizers for days-to-harvest and delivers nutrients longer than environment-damaging synthetic fertilizers do. "

- An article about a farmer repurposing wool. So this is cool, a guy named Albert Wilde was in the right place, right time mode to connect some dots. He noticed that when sheep swam, they came out twice as heavy as when they were dry. His wife's plants kept dying when they went on vacation. Armed with his new observation, and a new holiday, he put some water soaked wool around the plants and they thrived. In this case it's something that has a potential to scale, there are over a billion sheep in the world. Necessity is the mother of invention.

Because it's fun

**Why Do Humans—and Some Animals—
Love to Dance?**

" Dance means the act of moving one's body rhythmically to music. Music is simply a mixture of sound waves made by a human voice or a musical instrument. Sound waves are invisible and travel through the air and into our ears. When the sounds reach our ears, they send signals to a part of the brain called the auditory cortex. A brain region that processes auditory information in humans and some animals.. The signals then travel to other areas of the brain. Through this process, music "lights up" the brain regions that are responsible for thinking and understanding—and for reward, emotion, language, and movement. "

- It's interesting to think about why we love to dance. Even those of us who wouldn't consider ourselves necessarily good dancers, or dancers at all, still like to move to a beat. If only unwitnessed. There is a joy to moving to music, heard and imagined, that can't be replicated by anything else.

It's art if we do it

Can animals make 'art'?

These examples from nature suggest so

" If we take art to be something that is beautiful and consciously created – and animals consciously create things that look like art – shouldn't we accept these productions as art, too? As Edgar Degas put it, "art is not what you see, but what you make others see". Indeed, we see beautiful creations all across the animal kingdom.

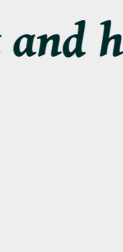
Some of these works, such as the bowerbird's nest, are defined in the eyes of their animal beholders. Others have a largely functional purpose, such as mating or feeding, yet manifest in patterns and/or colours that make them beautiful to behold. "

- The colours in nature are outrageously beautiful. Artists have been trying to duplicate them on their canvases since we began slapping our hand prints on cave walls. This is a great excuse to consider some of the unbelievable beauty in nature. There are photos in here and a couple of videos, and it's all kind of amazing. The unbelievable patterns, structure and symmetry found in the world beyond the creation of humans is wonderful.

"It is no measure of good health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society"

Jiddu Krishnamurti

it's your life
you understand



Please feel free to forward [Change Happens](#) to anyone you think might enjoy it and have a most excellent day