

15. Feathertop, Breitmore, and Amenable Mirror Neurons



alone although, in his masterpiece *Feathertop*, Hawthorne discusses the simulacrum as a homunculus, a counterfeit witchcraft of a man; verily a stuffed scarecrow which old Mother Rigby's spell endowed with breath, fancy clothes, and enough accoutrements of a human self to deceive the majority of townsfolk into accepting and entertaining it as a live human.

In his influential *Origin of Consciousness*,¹ professor Julian Jaynes explains how our current version of self slowly developed from the internalization of an arguably schizophrenic simulacrum, which is typified by how the bicameral structure of our mind, in Iliadic times, would often conjure up imperative hallucinations of informative humanoid deities.

Baudrillard, of course, elucidated the simulacrum with his subtle sociological metaphors of deconstructionist cultural phenomena. But Hershman Leeson's *Breitmore*,² though a Twentieth Century empirical work, goes straight at what Sanskrit calls the *skandas*: the external agglomeration of tokens, signs, and signal experiences by which we create the simulacrum, or an awareness of the thing we call self. The arbitrary existentialist monad of

¹ Jaynes, Julian. (1976) *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*. Houghton Mifflin.

² Hershman Leeson, Lynn. (1973-1978) *I am not Roberta Breitmore*. Long-Term Documented Performance
SPM-586 SinglepagePostModernBook: Pataphy.com

I'm
It's like [insert simile here]