

## October 2021 Entry (on the Human Condition)

“Did I request thee, Maker, from my Clay, To mould me Man, did I sollicite thee, From darkness to promote me, or here place?” – [John Milton, Paradise Lost \(1667\), Book 10, 743-745.](#)

1. I did not [consent](#) to be here, you did not consent to be here. The [bacteria](#) in your pants didn't consent to be here, the [squirrel](#) in your backyard did not consent to be here. Nobody and nothing consented to being here. It is [logically impossible](#) to have consented to being here, based on what we currently know. Through [reproductive drive](#), parents are 'tricked' into doing the universe's 'dirty work' in placing a new generation here without their consent (and you are not allowed to sue your parents for it!).

2. Since we didn't consent to being here, we should be able to choose to have never existed. But that is a logical impossibility because of [irreversible causality](#) (i.e. the [arrow of time](#)). But if I never existed, then I could not be offended at being here against my will; my dear grandmother would have said, “Ah, don't think like that!” – she said that to me several times in my youth. But why not? If it is undeniably true, or would you prefer we just make something up and talk ourselves into believing that instead? Which happens to describe about half of what we call culture.

3. The *condition of life* then is one of being trapped between two logical impossibilities, the squirrel and the bacteria probably don't know it. The *human condition* is the [sapience](#), [consciousness](#), [cognition](#), [perception](#), extended [self-awareness](#) and [autobiographical memory](#) to understand the illogic of the logic trap, to perceive the injustices of it, and the reproductive consciousness understanding. The *human condition* is the ability to perceive, understand, abstract, and project and to be emergently annoyed and discomfited by it.

“Secondly, You have no reason, on your theory, for ascribing perfection to the Deity, even in his finite capacity, or for supposing him free from every error, mistake, or incoherence, in his undertakings.... But were this world ever so perfect a production, it must still remain uncertain, whether all the excellences of the work can justly be ascribed to the workman.... And what surprise must we feel, when we find him a stupid mechanic, who imitated others, and copied an art, which, through a long succession of ages, after multiplied trials, mistakes, corrections, deliberations, and controversies, had been gradually improving? Many worlds might have been botched and bungled, throughout an eternity, ere this system was struck out; much labour lost, many fruitless trials made; and a slow, but continued improvement carried on during infinite ages in the art of world-making.” – [David Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion \(1750-1776, pub. 1779\).](#)

[David Hume is likely the inspiration for [Robert Heinlein's Job: A Comedy of Justice \(1984\)](#) which in turn is the likely inspiration for the [Lucifer TV series \(2016-2021\)](#). See also [Type V civilization on the extended Karadshev Scale](#)]

4. In addition to being imprisoned by logic, we are assaulted on a daily basis, on a moment by moment basis, with petty stupidity, malfunction, malfeasance in everything we try to do. It is almost impossible to simply do something, to go from A to B, without some intervening stupid

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event, something falls over, something isn't right, something doesn't happen, something takes too long, you trip over this or that; everything takes three times longer and is five times more complicated than it should have been! But unlike the other animals, humans have the sapience, cognition to notice it, and our response is emergent, if not entirely helpful or constructive.

Is there anything that you can think of that is more *fundamentally wrong* than being placed here without our consent, being kept here against our consent (not being allowed to choose to have never existed), being enticed to do the same to the next generation, and being assaulted and insulted by the universe on a daily basis? All for no particular reason, but also then, given the intelligence to know it for what it is?

“Welcome to Earth! (punches alien fighter pilot & then pulls out a big cigar) Now that's what I call a close encounter!” – [Will Smith, Independence Day \(1996\)](#).

Happy Halloween from Earth!

By Charles W. Phillips