



The Intuitive Nature of Wisdom

A COMMON ORIGIN FOR BOTH HAKHMA AND YIRA

A Synthesis

- ▶ Quotes Referencing Hakhma and Yira

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- ▶ **Quotes Referencing Hakhma and Yira**
- ▶ **Evolutionary Psychology**
 - Innate and Learned Behaviors
 - If Hakhma is an Adaptive Characteristic, It will Persist

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- ▶ **The Unconscious Intuitive Perception and Behaviors**
 - How We Perceive
 - Who's in Control?

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 - Prerequisites
 - Group Level Selection
 - Pattern and Agency Detection

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- ▶ **Natural Selection Recognizing Itself**
 - The Hakhma of Solomon
 - Awesome Art — The Yira of Intangible Forces Beyond Ourselves



“ The *Yira* of Adonai is the beginning of *Hakhma*; all who practice it gain sound understanding. God’s praise endures forever. ”

Psalm 111:10



“ I have endowed him (Bezalel) with a divine spirit, of hakhma, ability, and knowledge in every kind craft to make designs for work in gold, and silver, and copper. ”

Exodus 31:3-4



“ True wisdom is one that is put into action. For a person learned in the Torah might have no wisdom. And a person who knows not one letter might be very wise indeed. ”

Finger Pointing at the Moon
Jonathan Gross, 2011

Based on a Zen Buddhist story.





“ Where the World ceases to be
the scene of our personal
hopes and wishes, where we
face it as free beings
admiring, asking and
observing, there we enter the
realm of Art and Science. ... ”

Albert Einstein, 1927



“ ... If what is seen and experienced is portrayed in the language of logic, we are engaged in science. ... ”

Albert Einstein, 1927 (continued)



“ ... If what is communicated through forms whose connections are not accessible to the conscious mind but are recognized intuitively meaningful, then we are engaged in art. ... ”

Albert Einstein, 1927 (continued, emphasis added)



“ ... Common to both is the loving devotion to that which transcends personal concerns and volition. ”

Albert Einstein, 1927 (continued, emphasis added)

Evolutionary Psychology



The Study of Human Behavior from an evolutionary perspective

- ▶ **Human behavior is a complex of innate and learned behaviors**

Evolutionary Psychology

The Study of Human Behavior from an evolutionary perspective

▶ **Human behavior is a complex of innate and learned behaviors**

▶ **Reliance on large, complex societies with many specialized roles**

Subject to evolutionary adaptation and multiple levels:

Genetic (very, very, very slow)

Individual (especially sexual selection)

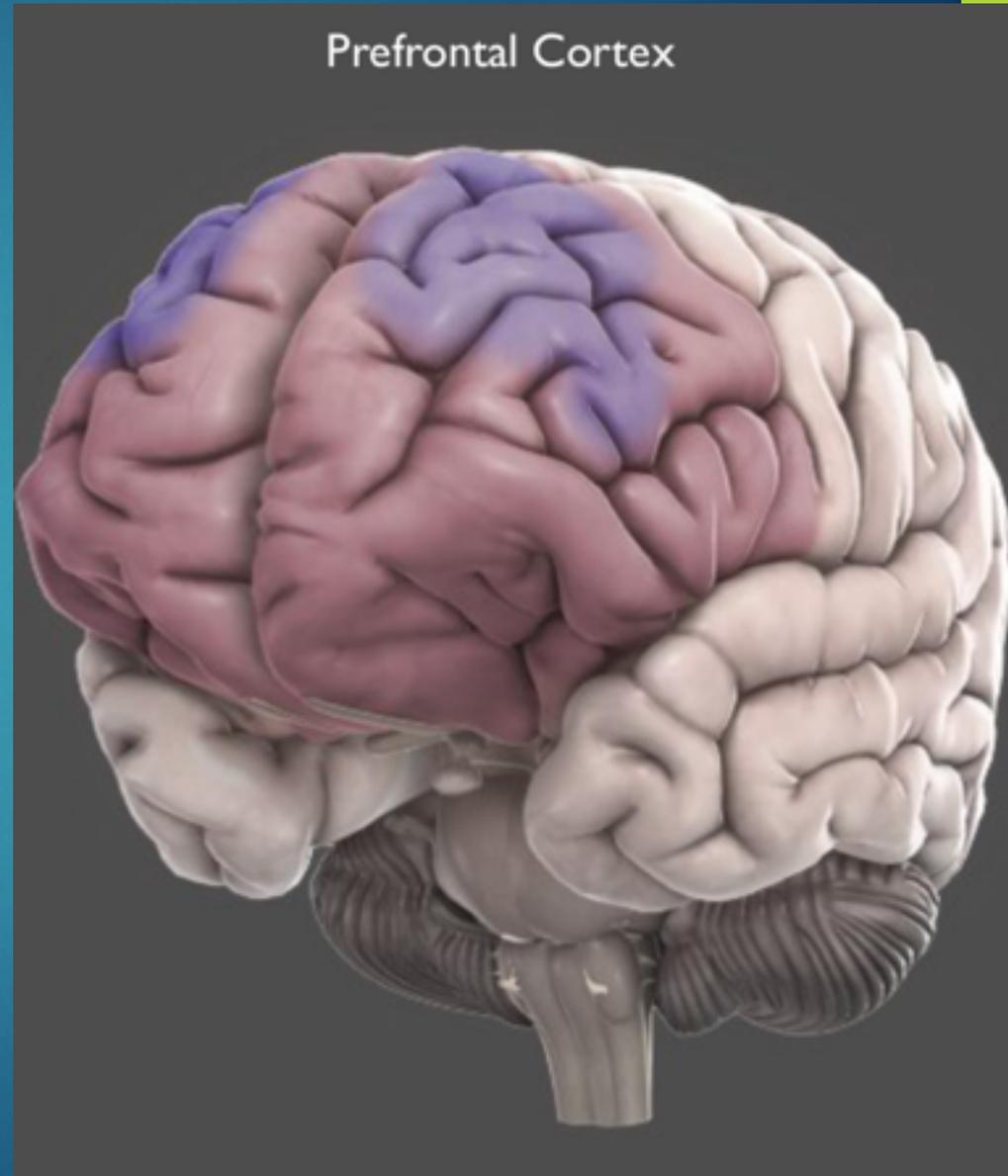
Kin (genetically related)

Group (interdependent Welfare and Survival)

Specialized Brain Structures

Prefrontal Cortex

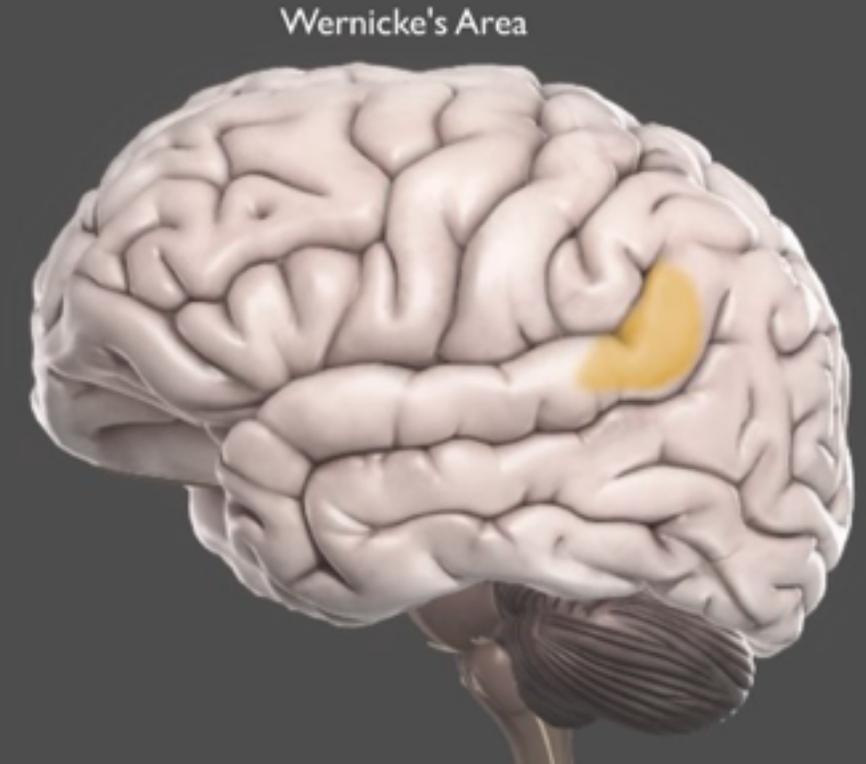
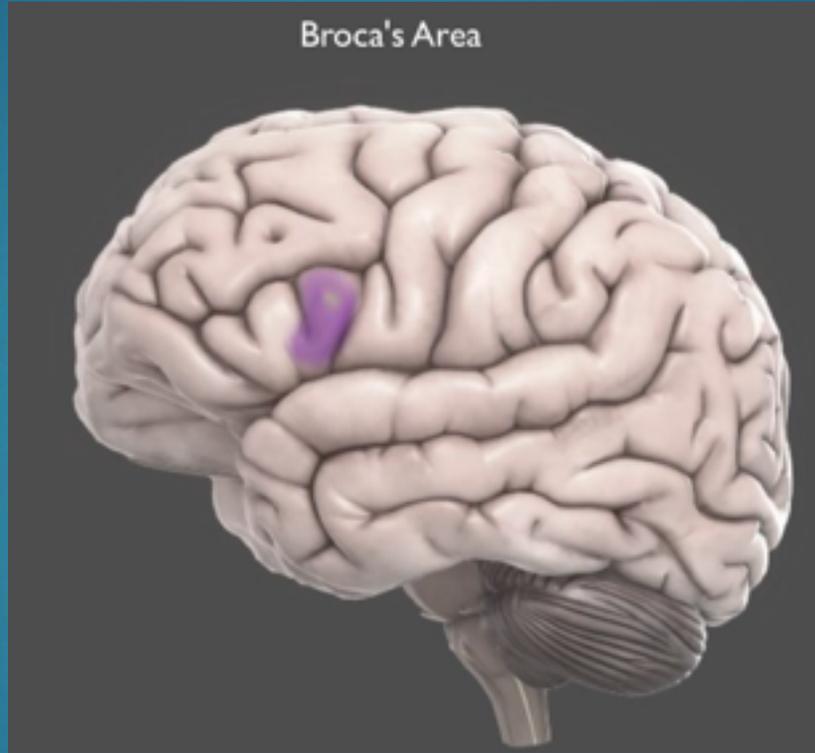
- Executive functions — voluntary behavior: decision-making, planning, problem-solving, and thinking.
- Attention
- Inhibition
- Intelligence
- Social skills



Specialized Brain Structures

Language Centers

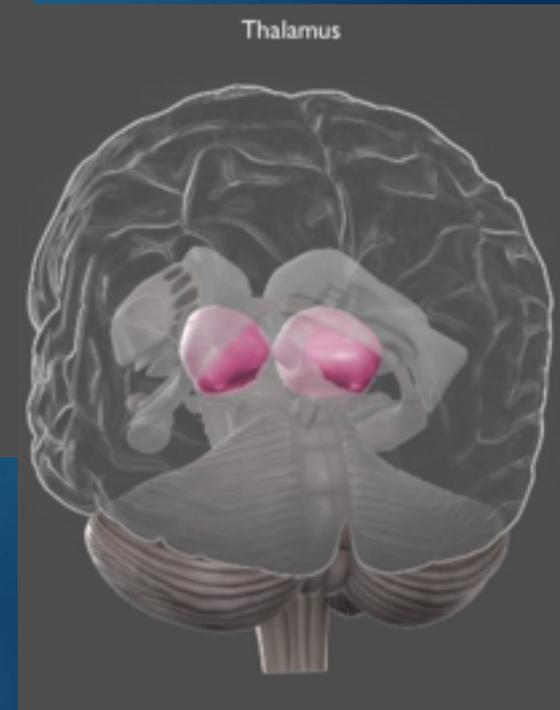
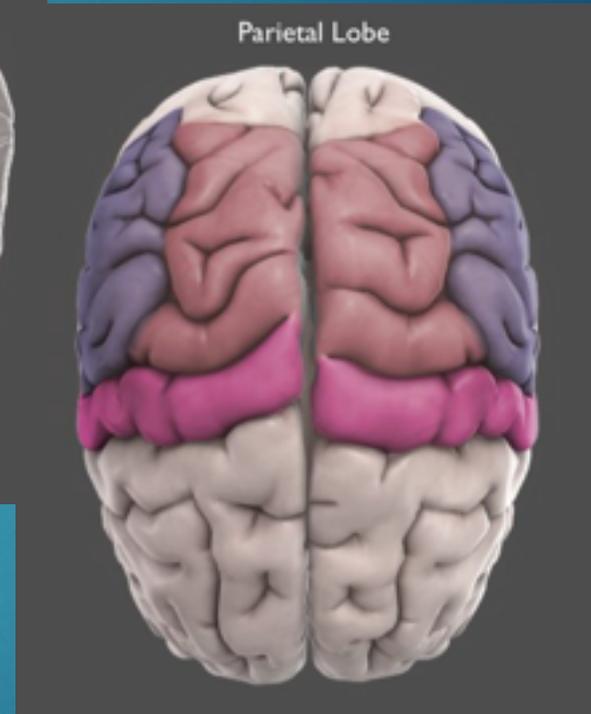
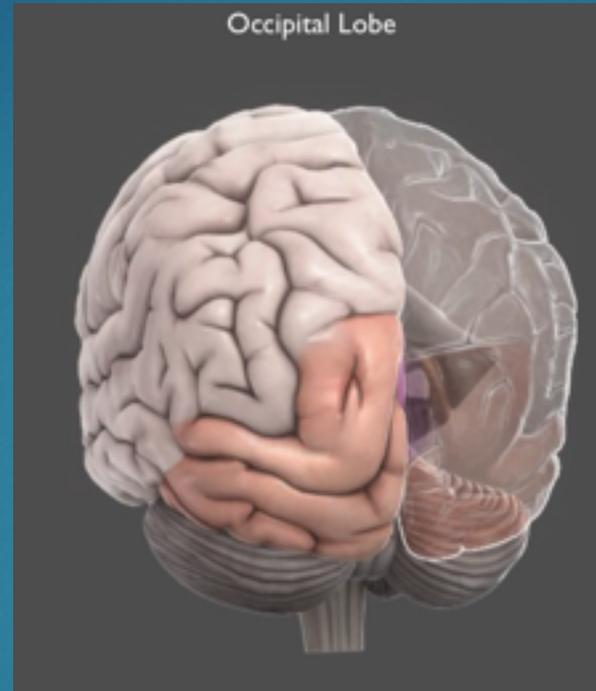
- Broca's Area
- Wernicke's Area (left hemisphere)



Specialized Brain Structures

Visual Cortex (~1/3 of brain)

- Occipital lobe
- Parietal Cortex
- Thalamus



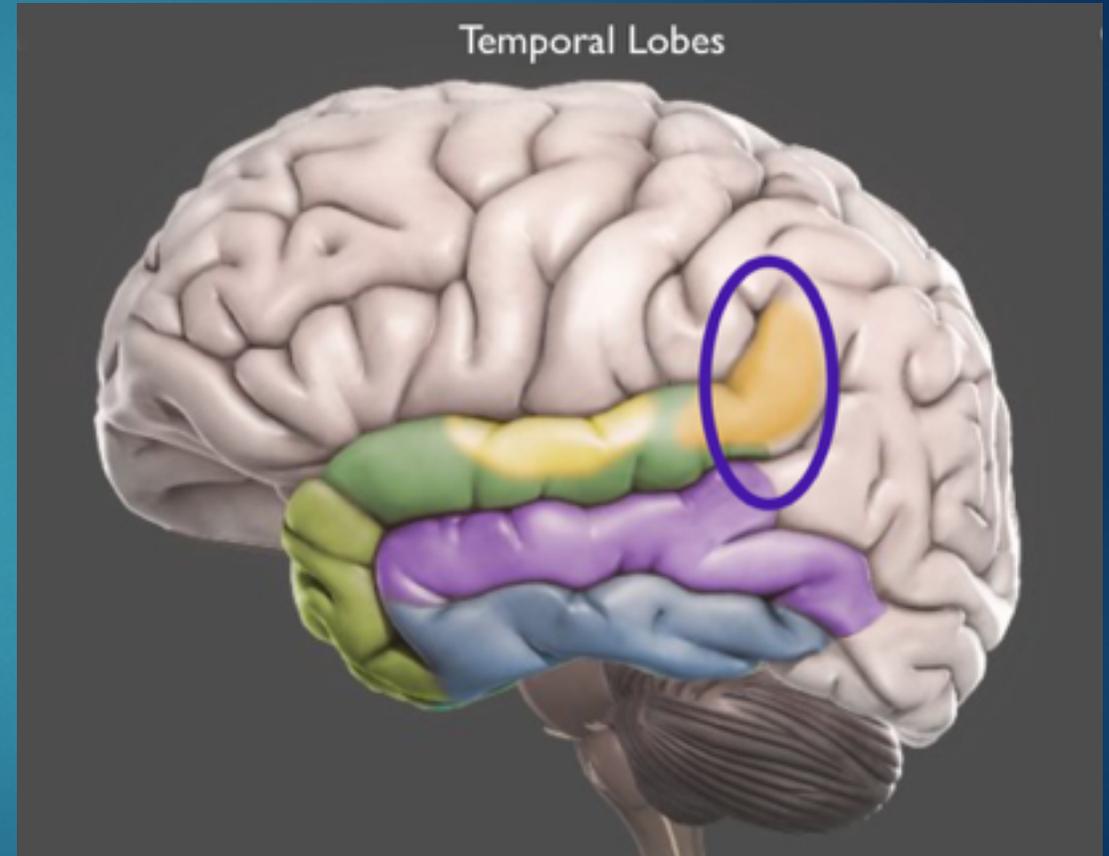
Specialized Brain Structures

Temporal Lobes

- Large number of substructures
- Deep stimulation produces profound religious and out-of-body experiences
- closely associated cognitive disorders aligned to dysfunction:

Schizophrenia

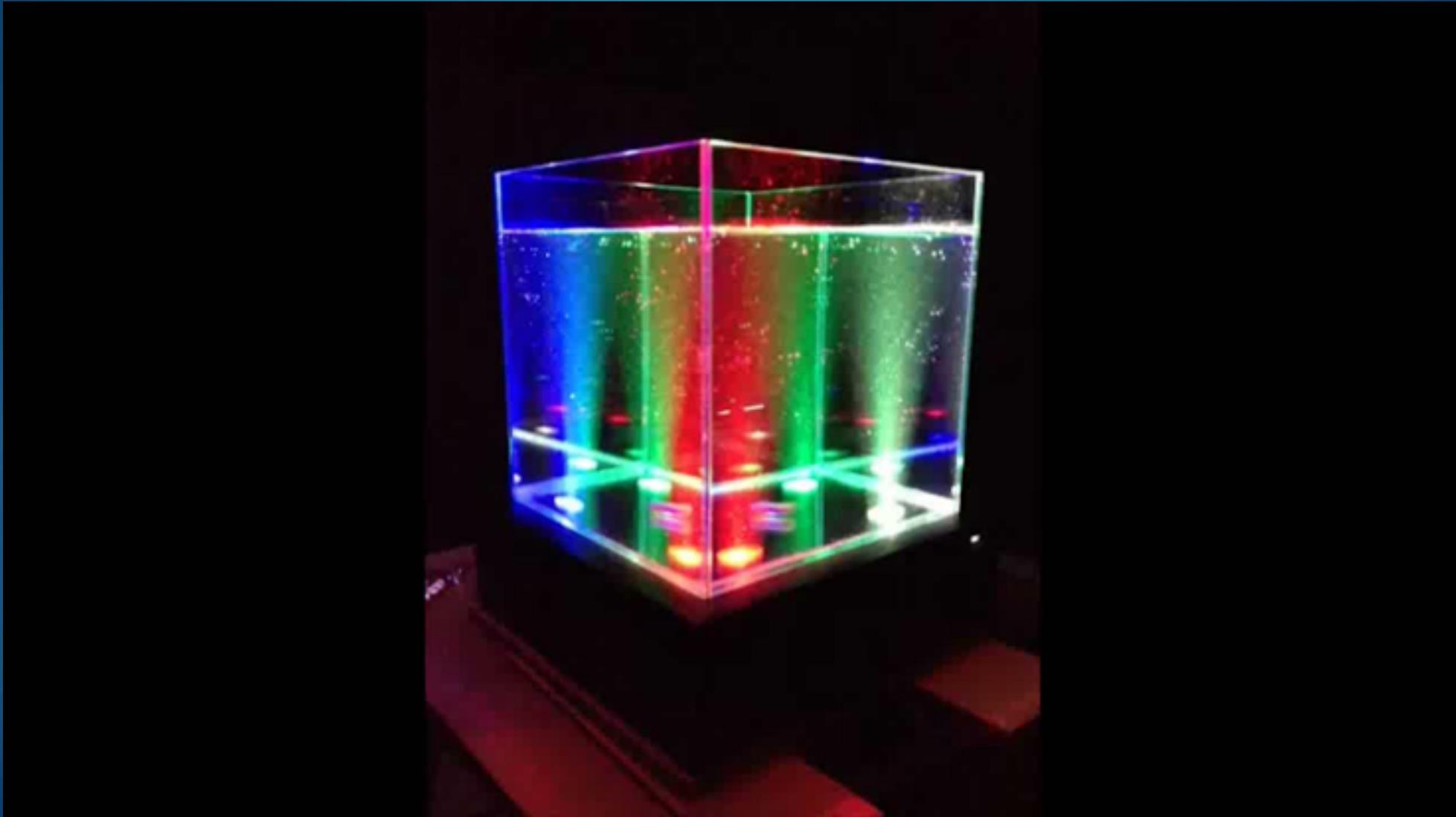
Temporal lobe epilepsy



How We Perceive



We See What We Expect to See



Who's in control?



Four Prerequisites to Natural Selection

- Variation
- Inheritance
- Non-Random Differential Survival and Reproduction



Evolved Psychological Mechanisms

- ▶ Adaptations
 - Language Capacity
 - Suckling
- ▶ Side effects
 - Thumb sucking
- ▶ Accidental
 - Left/Right thumb on top



Complex Human Behaviors

- ▶ Combination Innate and learned Behaviors
- ▶ Nonconscious Perceptions and Choices
- ▶ Group-Level Natural Selection



“

Our life is shaped by the mind:
we become what we think.

”

The Dharmmapada (core teachings of the Buddha)

Complex Human Behaviors

- ▶ Combination Innate and learned Behaviors
- ▶ Nonconscious Perceptions and Choices
- ▶ Group-Level Natural Selection
 - ▶ Natural selection within a population of loosely or unrelated, but committed individuals
 - ▶ Price's Equation: Ties the fate of a characteristic to a population that exhibit that characteristic.
 - ▶ How can reciprocal altruism and pure altruism ever arise?
Why don't cheaters (selfish strategies) dominate?

Cheater Detection and Altruism

- ▶ Temporal Lobe Agency Detector
Infers the “intentions of perceptions”
- ▶ Cost of False-positive almost always less than False-negative.
 - ▶ By-Product is Detecting “Agency” Where there is None
Seems like the “wind has it in for me.”
Conspiracy theories
- ▶ Price’s Equation
Ties the fate of a gene (behavior) to it’s effect on a population that has that gene (behavior).

Religious (Awesome) Experience

- ▶ Exists in All Known Cultures.
- ▶ Conviction that One is Part of a Greater Existence.
- ▶ A Mysterious and Unseen Force is Moving that Existence Forward in a Purposeful Way.

Is Hakmah the Recursive Effect of Natural Selection Recognizing Itself?

- ▶ Solomon's Wisdom: the recognition that ensuring survival of our offspring is a fundamental adaptive behavior.

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- ▶ Bezalel's Wisdom: knowing how to catalyze Yira through art—using visual perception to induce a sense of agency and an intuitive commitment to a force beyond understanding.

Is Hakmah the Recursive Effect of Natural Selection Recognizing Itself?

- ▶ Solomon's Wisdom: the recognition that ensuring survival of our offspring is a fundamental adaptive behavior.
- ▶ Bezalel's Wisdom: knowing how to catalyze Yira through art—using visual perception to induce a sense of agency and an intuitive commitment to a force beyond understanding.
- ▶ If Natural Selection is operating at the group level in human societies, then wouldn't it follow that behavioral adaptations that reinforce its own operational effectiveness will occur with increased frequency within the population—including the willingness of an individual to sacrifice itself for the defense of the group?

Deuteronomy 6:1-4

1. Now these are the commandments, the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God commanded to teach you that you might do them in the land to which you are going to possess;
2. That you might fear the Lord your God to keep all his statutes and his commandments which I commanded you, and your son, and your grandson all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged.
3. Hear therefore O Israel and take care to do it; that it may be well with you, and that you may increase mightily as the Lord your God of your fathers has promised you in the land of milk and honey.
4. Hear O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

5. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your might.
6. And these words which I command you this day shall be in your heart;
7. And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way; and when you lie down and when you rise up.
8. And you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand and they shall be frontlets between your eyes.
9. And you shall write them upon the posts of your house and on your gates.
- ...
24. And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes—to fear the Lord our God—for our good always that he might preserve us alive as it is this day.