Awareness, Illusion & Form

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ABSTRACT

Forms that arise within Awareness do not hide Awareness from Itself unless Awareness mistakes those forms for what is actually there where they only appear to be, and in so doing also mistakes those forms for itself. This is how Awareness becomes hidden from Itself. Not because Awareness isn't there, but only because Awareness mistakes what only seems to be there for what is actually there.

Key Words: Consciousness, Awareness, Itself, illusion, form.

When the awareness of an illusion that is not known as an illusion fills the space of Awareness there is no room left for the awareness of Awareness.

This is how Awareness becomes hidden from Itself. Not because Awareness isn't there, but only because Awareness mistakes what only seems to be there for what is actually there.

A reflection that rests on a pool of water does not hide the water unless that reflection is mistaken for what is actually there where the reflection only appears to be and the water actually is.

And forms that arise within Awareness do not hide Awareness from Itself unless Awareness mistakes those forms for what is actually there where they only appear to be,

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and in so doing
mistakes those forms
for itself.

That forms exist is not an illusion.
That what exists is what is actually there
where there is only Is-ness,
where there is only formless Beingness,
is the illusion.

Reflections and shadows
are not illusions,
and do not by themselves
obscure what is actually there.

Reflections and shadows
only become illusions
and obscure what is actually there
when the Awareness that is aware of them
mistakes them for what is actually there
where they only appear to be.

And in the same way
form only becomes an illusion
and obscures What Is Actually There
when the Awareness that is aware of form
when the Awareness that is the Is-ness
that is actually there
mistakes form
for what is actually there
where form
only appears to be.

The world is an illusion.
The world is not an illusion.
Both statements are true.
Both statements are false.
Because the truth or falseness
of either statement
does not lie in what is known
as the world of form,
does not lie in what only exists,
but lies instead
in whether the Is-ness
that is aware of form
that is aware of what exists,
knows those forms
as what is actually there
where they only appear to be,
or knows those forms
as only seeming to be
what is actually there
where they appear to be.

The world of form can appear
as either a rope
or as a snake,
as something neutral and harmless
with no life of its own,
as it actually exists,
or as something pleasing or dangerous
with a life of its own,
as it appears to exist
when form is mistaken
for what is actually there
by the Awareness,
by the Is-ness,
by the Life,
that is actually there
where form only appears to be.

And so whether forms obscure
the underlying Is-ness from Itself
or reveal the underlying Is-ness to Itself,
as a reflection can hide or reveal
the underlying mirror within which it exists,
has nothing to do with
the existence of form,
but has only to do with
how that existence,
how those forms,
are being known by
and so appear to
the underlying Is-ness,
the underlying Awareness,
that is aware of them,
as either what is actually there,
or as what only appears to be
what is actually there.

When an illusion
is not known to be an illusion
then the illusion remains an illusion 
and so continues to hide 
what is actually there 
where it only appears to be.

But when an illusion 
is known to be an illusion 
it is then no longer an illusion 
and so no longer hides 
what is actually there 
where it only appears to be.

And so when form is no longer known 
as what is actually there 
where it only appears to be, 
form no longer fills the space of Awareness 
leaving room then 
for the awareness of Awareness, 
leaving room 
for the Is-ness to know Itself 
as the Formlessness that is actually there 
where the forms it once thought of as itself 
still exist and so still appear, 
although those forms no longer appear 
as what is actually there 
since they are now known, 
when seen in the context 
of the awareness of Awareness, 
when seen in the context 
of the awareness of formless Beingness, 
to have only the appearance, 
and not the actuality, 
of being.