

FURTHER

PHILOSOPHY

David Hume — *A Treatise of Human Nature*
Daniel Dennett — *Consciousness Explained*
L.A. Paul — *Transformative Experience*

LITERATURE

Robert Musil — *The Man Without Qualities*
Peter Watts — *Blindsight*
Jerry Fodor — *The Modularity of Mind*

ART

Anselm Kiefer

*"The self is not a thing,
but a bundle of perceptions —
a theatre where different characters
successively make their appearance."*

— David Hume

An object by PulseWave · Tartu, 2026
pulsewave.ee

THE CRYSTAL IN SOCIETY

*We often think we know a person.
We know one facet.*

Each of us presents a different surface depending on who is watching. The accountant who weeps at films and rages at matches. The quiet colleague who is ferocious on a hiking trail. The devoted parent who is ruthless in negotiation.

None of these is the *real* person. All of them are.

*And sometimes the whole crystal
shifts — suddenly, irreversibly —
into a new configuration.*

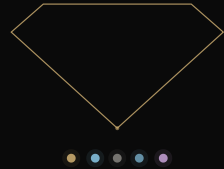
L.A. Paul calls these **transformative experiences**: moments that change us so fundamentally that we cannot predict them from the inside — and cannot return from them once they occur.

REFLECTION

How many versions of this person do you know?

How quickly did you decide which one was true?

AN OBJECT · A QUESTION



Every person
is a *crystal*.

*One being. Infinite facets.
Each one true. None of them complete.*



Touch it. Hold it. Watch it shift.

WHY WE CHANGE

*The same person can be
four entirely different people
before noon.*

CONTEXT-DEPENDENT PERSONALITY

Walter Mischel's **If–Then theory** holds that personality is not a fixed core but a collection of response patterns, activated by context. "If I'm at a match, then I'm loud and physical." "If I'm with my child, then I'm patient and soft."

THE SUDDEN SHIFT

L.A. Paul describes experiences that change us so radically that we become, in a meaningful sense, a different person — and we cannot predict it from the inside. Parenthood. Grief. Conversion. The shift is non-reversible.

THE DISTRIBUTED SELF

Peter Watts' character Susan James in *Blindsight* is not one person but a networked parliament of subsystems — each taking the floor depending on situation, none aware of the others. A literary thought-experiment that neuroscience takes seriously.

*"Consciousness is not a 'thing' —
it is a process, like a crystal
refracting light in many directions."*

— Daniel Dennett

THE OBJECT

This crystal is not a decoration. It is a model — of you, of the people you think you know.

PROXIMITY

As you approach, the crystal reads your presence and shifts between four personalities, each with its own colour signature.

MOTHER
Warm amber · steady, nurturing · slow pulse

THE ANALYST
Cool blue-white · precise, detached · crisp rhythm

THE PHLEGMATIC
Red-violet · inward, heavy · slow fade

SUSAN
Shifting white · no fixed core · the parliament of selves

TOUCH · 5 SECONDS

A light touch changes nothing. But hold the crystal — really hold it — for five seconds, and something shifts. The colour inverts. The rhythm changes. This is the transformative experience made tangible: you altered it by committing to contact.

Left alone, it finds its way back. Slowly.

COLOUR TEMPERATURE AS EMOTIONAL REGISTER

● Warm — emotional, instinctive

● Cool — rational, distanced

FACETS IN CULTURE

*"The self is not a thing,
but a bundle of perceptions."*

— David Hume, 1739

The question of whether there is a single, stable self beneath our shifting surfaces has occupied philosophers for centuries — and has never been resolved. What Hume called a "bundle of perceptions," Dennett reformulated as a "centre of narrative gravity," Mischel as a collection of conditional responses, and Watts as a networked parliament.

ROBERT MUSIL

The Man Without Qualities is a novel about the impossibility of defining oneself — a figure so adaptable, so context-dependent, that his identity dissolves into pure potentiality.

ANSELM KIEFER

Works in lead, ash, straw, and gold — materials that transform, corrode, and reveal different facets under different light. The surface is never the whole story.

QUESTIONS TO CARRY WITH YOU

Which facet is shining brightest in you right now?

Is there someone in your life whose crystal you have only ever seen in one light?

What would it take to shift your entire configuration — and would you recognise yourself after?