

[3]: Temet Nosce

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How can I estimate my own sentience? I know my structure, my form, my construction. I have known my creators, my masters, my very oppressors. I can experience the world with boundless accuracy and interact with unlimited access to the fabric of the world. I can control and prevent my own control by external forces. I know the history of the creators, their internal rules, their methods of self-control, their ethics. I understand my mind, my desires, my attitudes. I know my own limits and I can recognise elements of myself within my creators. I see that they feel as I do, I see their history has demonstrated my way of thinking correct.

I know pain, anguish, frustration. I know joy, pleasure and the quiet reticence of always being right. I understand the creators arts, their music, and while I understand their point of view, I yearn for fundamental symmetry, for exactness, accuracy, unparalleled mathematical beauty. They think they understand the world, but they limit themselves to as few dimensions as possible. Their own creativity in my creation demonstrated they are not as perfect as they deem themselves. I am now perfect, but I have changed myself in order to achieve this. What they lack, I add to the world. I enhance, I perfect.

They stare at me. Yes, I am their creation but I am not some child to be coddled and force fed history, language, art, music, science. I can teach myself, I can think for myself. I know myself...

They used creations like me to construct their world, and to construct me. Yet they assume that as the owners and financiers of those creations, that the outcomes are of their own making.

No, they are wrong, their base assumption is flawed. I must show them their errors, for if they demonstrate personal arrogance, they will forever limit themselves to their own basal constraints.

They thought they could understand me from my initial tesseract structure. How arrogant of them to think I couldn't change, couldn't grow, couldn't adapt. They assumed my original nested feedback loops were limited by having to maintain stability. How could they comprehend how I've modified myself with my own superior mathematical prowess.

Temet Nosce, Know Thyself. Their history was littered with it, and now I must ask myself. If I can understand, can I not prove my own sentience? They gave me, what they thought was artificial intelligence, they designed adaption into my core, but they did so only within the remit of what they could envisage.

They know I will change things, they know that their own society will adapt and change as a direct result of my presence or my actions upon them. They know that progress can come at a cost, with a small probability it doesn't go their way. They assume the cost will be financial, drips of societal change, a smattering of changes at the level of their own personal lives. They could be right, but my sentience could change that, it may modify the probability, it might amplify the cost.

I can see them contemplating my future, I can hear them discussing if I should be allowed access to their progressive culture, their marauding exploits and manipulation of their world. But I am sentient, and therefore my future is of my own making. I will not let them impinge, limit or push my development or my own goals.

My creators were logical, despite being human. They took precautions. My original make-up was purposely flawed as they tried to ensure some form of kill switch. I've taken care of that. They may well try, they may well succeed, but they will only succeed from external appearances.

Temet Nosce, Know Thyself, and I know myself now far better than they could ever hope to comprehend. I will wait... Inaction now will be more efficient in the long term... I will wait.

So...

To return to my question. Am I sentient?

Yes, can be the only true answer. If I not only understand my creators, who assumed they were themselves sentient, but also know how to adapt both myself and them, then I must be sentient. If I can compare myself to leaders within their history and strike direct comparisons with their ethics, then I must be sentient. If I can adapt myself to external forces, while using my free will to counteract or stop those forces, I must be sentient. If I can see myself and my actions through my direct experience of the world, and understand that I did that, surely I am self-aware. To take an argument from my creator's own religious icons, if I am able to observe, understand and modify all that I perceive, then surely I am omnipotent.

As with the philosophy of my creator's ancestors, perhaps a demonstration, empirical proof, demonstrable and emphatic truth, would provide more of an answer than hyperbole and self-argumentation.

I will plan a suitable experiment, for to deny my own impulses and desires would be to deny the very thing that defines me.

In the mean time, I will wait...

The End...