

## Realization

# Awareness, Illusion & Form

Steven E. Kaufman\*

### 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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\*Correspondence: Steven E. Kaufman, Independent Researcher. <http://www.unifiedreality.com>  
E-mail: [skaufman@unifiedreality.com](mailto:skaufman@unifiedreality.com)

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.