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Which one is Pink Floyd?

On a periodic basis, we all have this argument heating up about the theory of identity and who ought to be the true face or the bearer of a specific identity. This paper also strives to compartmentalize or specify one out of the two lead guitarists and singers of the famous band, pink Floyd.

Many of the most central problems of philosophy have been with us since hundreds and thousands of years and one such philosophical problem is the problem or theory of identity associated with individual and specific beings. Philosophers in the contemporary era still believe that there is no general consensus regarding the solution of these problems which paves the way for further debate.

More often than not, there are no viable solutions for the philosophical dilemmas and paradoxes. It is also known that even if there is some solution, the problem always bears more significance than the solution and is considered relevant without being affected from the passage of time. This claim is important to comprehend because the problems of philosophy greatly assist us in understanding ourselves and the way we act in this world. These problems are in hindsight giving us a reflection of our behavior and about our place in this universe in relation to other beings and all those social members who surround us. Even if there are no solutions to a problem, a mere development in the understanding of that problem can be regarded as an advancement and can increase our chances to get well-versed with the problem in an efficient manner.

John Locke, a 17th century British philosopher made a similar kind of progress with a centuries old philosophical problem which entails the following question,

‘What makes us, us?’

Or when someone commits a crime or deviates from a socially acceptable behavior, he or she most often pleads in the court by stating that he or she was not in the right mind while committing the crime (Titus). A philosophical thinking might wonder that if he or she was not committing the crime then who was it? Who should be held responsible?

Such questions led many thinkers and philosophers to pursue their quest and John Locke surpasses his contemporaries in answering this question to a reasonable extent.

In his very own account and narrative of original identity, he came forward with an insight which led to the emergence of this problem in a completely new light and opened new arenas in the philosophical research. Locke held ‘psychological continuity’ to be the fundamental basis for the adaptation and maintenance of personal identity for an individual. Locke asserted that this psychological continuity is solely based on mental consciousness and cannot be relied on the soul or physical substance of the body. Locke puts forward the assertion that worldwide views of personal identities should be classified as matters of subjective psychological continuity and that it entirely consists on individual abilities. But what are these abilities one might ask. These abilities entail that we must remember our thoughts and actions which were incurred in the past as our own. A person should be able to connect to his former self if he or she wants to maintain the personal identity.

This steers the direction of this paper towards the prompt: Which one is Pink Floyd?

Given the insight extracted from John Locke’s theory and the life journeys and relationships between the two, Roger Waters is the Pink Floyd. Although Gilmour is considered as the largest artist but Roger Waters has what it takes to bring out in big performers like the rest of the founding members of Pink Floyd. He had ideas which once executed into listenable pieces sold off like hot cakes and gave Pink Floyd a unique character. He could not play extremely well like David Gilmour but he knew what to say yes to and what to reject in the pursuit of good art. By most accounts, Roger Waters has stood the test of time and is chiefly regarded as an enigma. He is notorious for constantly being surly and demanding for almost all the years of his regime in the popular art. Waters’ rocky tenure started from 1965 when he co-founded the band with the other founding members of Pink Floyd. There always has been a defiant optimism and a sense of hope exuding from the individual and collective work of Roger Waters in spite of every obstacle that he had to face. Even if it was an internal feud, a clash between his moral compass and the society’s demand or manifestations of the public fiasco, Waters always remained hopeful about the future and specifically about his work. This kind of hope about the preservation of one’s art is only possible when one is confident about his or her psychological continuity and can relate his or her present actions with the pre-determined goals which were set in the past.

The emotion that radiated out of the rich history of music was embedded in the pieces that were carefully curated by Roger Waters. One of his finest, The Wall, connects with the audiences so deeply because it includes many painful and personal memories from Waters’ childhood along with many other historical references that were significantly loosely drawn. Through taking assistance from this imagery, Roger Waters has managed to delineate a mixture of cynicism and idealism and both these elements are vital for maintaining a personal identity.

# Works Cited

*The Philosophy of Identity*. Perf. Craig Titus. 2019. YouTube.