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# Metaphysical LinX

Judi Harris
*College of William and Mary*

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## Logo LinX

### Metaphysical LinX
### by Judi Harris

In the beginning, there was Consciousness and only Consciousness. Consciousness knew that microworlds provide excellent learning opportunities. It decided, therefore, to create an ILLUSION microworld. Consciousness created four microworld primitives: PERCEIVE, MANIFEST, COMMUNICATE and EMOTE. The procedures looked something like this:

```
TO PERCEIVE :FORM
RUN [KNOWLEDGE]
END

TO MANIFEST :FORM
RUN [[PHYSICAL FORM]]
END

TO COMMUNICATE :FORM
RUN [INTERACTION]
END

TO EMOTE :FORM
RUN [FEELING]
END
```

Now that the five tool procedures were written, Consciousness created a key with which to invoke any of the procedures. It was the LOVE key.

But Consciousness wasn't satisfied. It had created the basic expression of the four-square physical universe (aren't you glad that it didn't call it TO SQUARE?), but the superprocedure from which all these are called had yet to be coded.

The ultimate goal, Consciousness reasoned, is awareness. The only true path to awareness' door, it intuited, is realization. So it coded:

```
TO REALIZE :TRUTH
TEST PERCEIVE :TRUTH DEFINEDP
   [KNOWLEDGE]
IFTRUE [OUTPUT [CREATIVE OUTLET]]
TEST MANIFEST :TRUTH DEFINEDP
   [[PHYSICAL FORM]]
IFTRUE [OUTPUT "ABUNDANCE]
TEST COMMUNICATE :TRUTH DEFINEDP
   [INTERACTION]
IFTRUE [OUTPUT "RELATIONSHIPS]
```

```
TEST EMOTE :TRUTH DEFINEDP [FEELING]
IFTRUE [OUTPUT "HEALTH]
END
```

Still, Consciousness sensed that something was wrong. When it commanded,

```
REALIZE :TRUTH LOVE
```

a single expression of All That Is would be produced...and then the illusion would disappear. Well, Consciousness knew that ILLUSION was valid for itself and certainly wasn't nothing...so it looked for another programming technique to employ.

It tried iterative structures:

```
REPEAT (RANDOM 1000000000000)
   [REALIZE :TRUTH] LOVE
```

that just took longer to disappear,

It tried variable inputs:

```
REALIZE JUDAISM LOVE
REALIZE CHRISTIANITY LOVE
REALIZE ISLAM LOVE
REALIZE BUDDHISM LOVE
```

that output different expressions of the same truth, and then disappeared,

It even tried turtle graphics:

```
FORWARD :TRUTH
```

which just created another type of illusion, which also disappeared.

Consciousness looked all around itself at the illusions that were being expressed. It looked deep into the crevices of the Nautilus shell, the golden-white depths of the Lotus flower, and the reflective structures of the quartz crystal. It attempted to code their patterns. Eureka! They were, in deepest essence, the same.

After learning from its experiments, as is encouraged in a microworld, Consciousness realized that illusion is expressed in self-referential patterns, and that patterns of illusion are created recursively.

## Logo LinX--continued

```
TO REALIZE :TRUTH
TEST PERCEIVE :TRUTH DEFINEDP
    [KNOWLEDGE]
IFTRUE [OUTPUT [CREATIVE OUTLET]
    STOP]
REALIZE :TRUTH + :EXPERIENCE
TEST MANIFEST :TRUTH DEFINEDP
    [[PHYSICAL FORM]]
IFTRUE [OUTPUT "ABUNDANCE STOP]
REALIZE :TRUTH + :EXPERIENCE
TEST COMMUNICATE :TRUTH DEFINEDP
    [INTERACTION]
IFTRUE [OUTPUT "RELATIONSHIPS STOP]
REALIZE :TRUTH + :EXPERIENCE
TEST EMOTE :TRUTH DEFINEDP [FEELING]
IFTRUE [OUTPUT "HEALTH STOP]
REALIZE :TRUTH + :EXPERIENCE
END
```

EXPERIENCE, you see, is a variable with a globally-defined value. Its value, of course, is inestimable, but equally so for all experiencers.

What language did Consciousness use to write its ILLU-SION microworld? The language of ultimate self-realization, which doesn't really have a name, since it is an unequivocal experience; but some entities call it ENLIGHTENMENT.

Won't you please beta-test Consciousness' instructional efforts? OOPS! I guess you already are.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

At the West Coast Logo Conference in Los Angeles in February of this year, Seymour Papert spoke about *instruction* versus *construction*. Logo encourages the latter. I looked down into my bookbag, and saw the copy of Dr. Willis Harman's *Global Mind Change* that I had just finished reading. It was more than a coincidence, I realized, that Harman, too, speaks of construction....but on a much larger scale.

Harman's eloquently-supported thesis is that we are in the midst of an age of pervasive change of consciousness. We are rapidly discarding notions of form being ultimate reality, and therefore creating mind, in favor of a more intuitively satisfying, albeit impossible-to-"prove" metaphysic: that Consciousness creates form. Harman cites many examples from disciplines as disparate as quantum physics, medicine, and economics to support his hypothesis.

Isn't programming in Logo a metaphorical representation of this process? When our students experiment with recursive structures, could they not be bringing some cosmically familiar creative drama into conscious awareness? Could that be one of the many reasons why Logo is so essentially satisfying and addictive?

Some LinX, dear readers, are metaphysical.

**Reference**
Harman, W. W. (1988). *Global mind change*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Knowledge Systems, Inc.

Judi Harris
621F Madison Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22903
CIS: 75116,1207 BitNet: jbh7c@Virginia