

Restrained Abdominal Posing (RAP) -
Instinctive and Purposed Communication

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Have you noticed the many video examples of animals, both domesticated and wild, seen posing where their front paws are brought together at their bellies displaying extremely contented behavior postures?

Here is a fascinating introduction to a complex social psychology among diverse life forms on Earth. Quadruped animals and bipedal humans both exhibit this motif. An oft, but not universally accepted title to this concept is called *Restrained Abdominal Posing (RAP)*, or *Consistent Cross-Cultural Hand Placement*.

We observe and recall many animals today exhibiting this motif, as well as both modern and ancient human depictions in statues and other architectural motifs. This phenomenon is a form of symbolic communication among intelligent creatures. As a tribute to my advocacy for coming to know our terrestrial animal kingdom as a far more intelligent one, and both Upper Paleolithic and Neolithic humankind in the same respects, here are some points to consider in an analysis to conclude that 'We are them and they are us'. The future course of our civilization will rely on adoption of this critical mindset!

The lowest common denominator in this analysis is that thoughts and knowledge are being symbolically communicated by all these species, though sometimes for different reasons, motivations, purposes and mindfulness when contrasting those attitudes and behaviors among the animal v. human.

There is instinctive psychology characteristics present in both animals and humans. The autonomic nervous systems of life forms on Earth rely upon the working presence of a basal brain core evolved in those species that have allowed it to survive for many millennia through natural selection and other survival forces. These instinctual pathways are activated upon the onset of an attitude and behavior episode such as RAP.

Animals perform the exhibit of front paws resting on their belly for a variety of reasons. The autonomic ones include instinctive protection of their body's most vital core biology; their abdominal core. Another reason is due to the involuntary reflex neuropathway that enables this behavior. Intense pleasure, to the point where the animal encourages the human to continue the interaction (the scratch, petting, etc.) acts as a form of social narcotic. Being that a human being is also an animal, we experience and display the same precise attributes.

Other messages to the RAP being communicated among all species include the emotional psychologies of love, passion, submissive bonding, affection and, for animals at least, glandular

territorial marking of the human they are connecting with during the activity. While the animal posing v. human type may not express as diverse a communication of multiple abstract ideas, data or knowledge as human v. human, our life forms are far more similar in these many respects than to which credit is being bestowed or advocated. This is a vital and expansive insight opportunity for humankind in our future direction.

While the neurological and psychological characteristics that humans display are like those of animals in this type of social communication, there are often additional symbolic mindfulness and purpose in their motifs.

This RAP motif is universal among both our ancestors and modern civilizations. Posing examples include museum-level artifacts of the Rapanui moai of Easter Island (Rapa Nui), the Gobekli Tepe statues of Neolithic Turkey, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Olmec, Maya, and Aztec of Meso-America, Native America, statues found worldwide today, and you and me as representatives of today's humankind. WE are them and they are us!

Among the reasons an assignment of additional motivations and purposes the abstract human mind applies to this activity include reverence to the subject, a ceremonial exhibition of the subject person, a form of life force centered and attributed to the subject, or/and a ceremonial posture that communicates and mnemonically connects the viewer to the subject. The latter two are powerful attributes to the social psychology assigned to and adopted by humans when they began to live in communal urban settings in the Neolithic Era. Ancestral worship was a driving force to the acceptance of communal living by our homo sapien-sapien ancestors and related homo species like Neanderthals, Denisovan, and others.

You can enjoy a more expansive and insightful discussion of the Restrained Abdominal Posing concept at my website, www.thehumaniverse.org.