

'What thought experiments concerning body-duplication show is that the concept of personal IDENTITY is ultimately dispensable. ' - Discuss.

*Worapol Hitamata*

Personal identity ultimately dispensable? I'm not sure I agree with that. I think how or how much we clone our body the meaning of identity is still important. Will my clone be different or same as me in term of identity or not? of course not it's not me. I think the most key issue of this is how or what make us 'us'? How different from other people? My first instinct is because I have the Worapol Hitamata property.

Interesting enough to identify what make me be me. If I meet my friend Watcharapong whom I have known since my teenage. Of course I should know whom I speak with in front of me really is my hang out friend? How do I know that? Because of the way he talks, the way he acts, the way he responds to me telling me that he is Watcharapong. He is the same guy that I have known for twenty years, we have connection that ties us together. Or I can just say 'We have same past memory' of what we did together in the past and how we had fun together.

But If my friend has been cloned and has real friend memory? How do I know that he is just the 'Clone' not my real friend? Is that makes Watcharapong (clone) my friend? Well he can respond to my conversation one hundred percent the same as my friend. But does that mean that the identity of my friend doesn't matter any more for me? Of course not. The guy who has been with me last twenty years, the guy who stood up with me when we in danger with many enemies around. The guy who always fights on my side. No way, no-one replace him even though the clone will have everything the same as him. But that clone did not stay with me at that dangerous time in the past. He was not really there. That makes him different from my real friend.

So the timing, the experience makes it different? Maybe it's possible to make the concept of identity important for me. The clone can have everything but can't be the original at the past time, can't participate in the real experience. The clone is just the memory and can use that memory. In my everyday life I make many decisions that make many circumstances different and that make my life experience different. The clone can have the original memory but since the time the clone starts to use their brain and starts making decision by themself (I'm not sure whether to use the word its or they) they start to have different experiences from the original that make their life different. If I make conversation with my friend clone one minute after they are produced or born, maybe I can't separate them from my Watcharapong but in week I'm pretty sure I can tell the difference and say he is not my friend that I know. Something is wrong.

Michael Harding can die by force legally and his family still continue their life and maybe the will of Michael himself already accomplished this. But I think the problem of this situation is the fact that original Michael must meet his death is unacceptable to me. If we think both original Michael and his clone have their own identity, then

this cannot be transferred to the new Michael and real one lose his identity or legal status or human status. So we can't accept that process of the 'insurance policy'. We should find another way to deal with the original Michael.

I still insist that both have identity and human status legally. It should be like that the way that the clone continues to live a real Michael life, stay with original one family and make them happy. that's acceptable because he made the decision himself. And the clone has full and every right as well. But the conflict of legal identity, how to deal with the fact that have two Michael Hardings in the state or world? I can't answer at this time but he will die soon anyway, but If not? If the original one not still has life and the clone has already been produced how do we deal with that? I'm not sure, maybe we can make the same way as gays do the sex change and some countries permit them to change his/ her title to be Mrs instead of Mr. Can we change title or status of the original or the clone to something else, and if their family finds out later they can choose who they really need to stay or accept to their home with.

The circumstance still not clear but what I sure of is that everybody has their own identity if they have the chance to make decisions in their life and the real experience of decision makes them different from any other.