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Spinoza's Theory of the Human Mind: Consciousness, Memory, and Reason

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Propositions belonging to the thesis

**Spinoza's Theory of the Human Mind:
Consciousness, Memory, and Reason**

Oberto Marrama

1. Spinoza's theory of the human mind is consistent with panpsychism, the view that mentality extends to all things.
2. For Spinoza, all mental states (called "ideas") are conscious, and all minds are conscious of their ideas.
3. For Spinoza, our capacity to recognise other individuals as human depends on the mechanism that he names "imitation of the affects": it requires us to be able to ascribe to other individuals the same subjective character of experience.
4. For Spinoza, lies and systematic deceptive behaviour can dehumanise, since they can prevent us from recognising similarities in our ways of thinking and ways of experiencing the world.
5. For Spinoza, human memory consists in networks of interconnected ideas. Recollection of one idea causes all ideas pertaining to the same network to be simultaneously perceived.
6. For Spinoza, human reason is a natural activity by which associations between mnemonic items are reconfigured.