

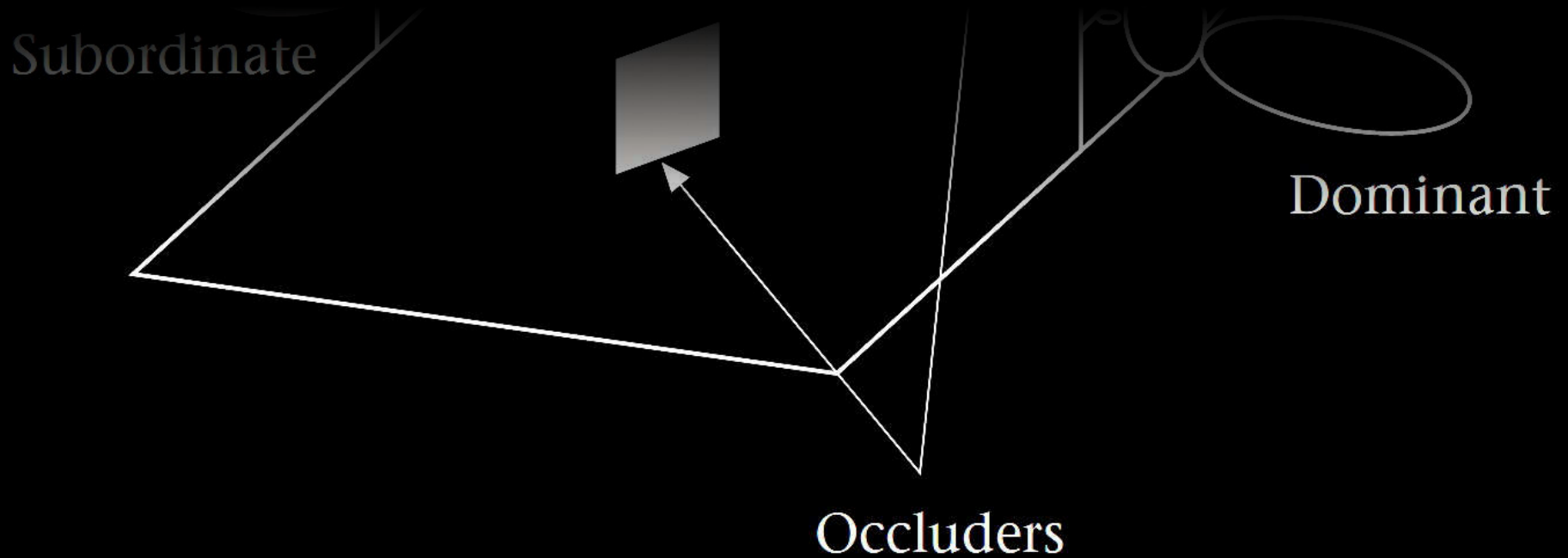
Mindreading & Joint Action

2. What are mental states?

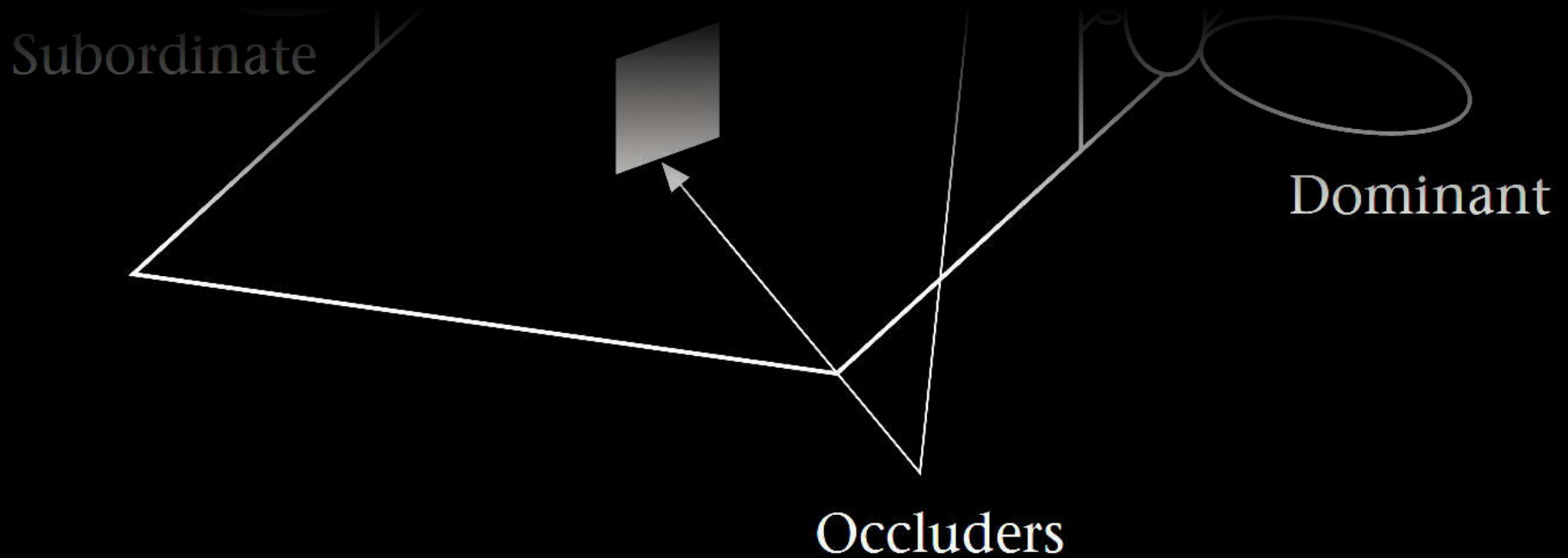
A person is standing on a beach at sunset, looking out at the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright orange glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The person is silhouetted against the bright light. In the background, there are dark mountains or hills. The overall scene is peaceful and contemplative.

butterfillS@ceu.hu

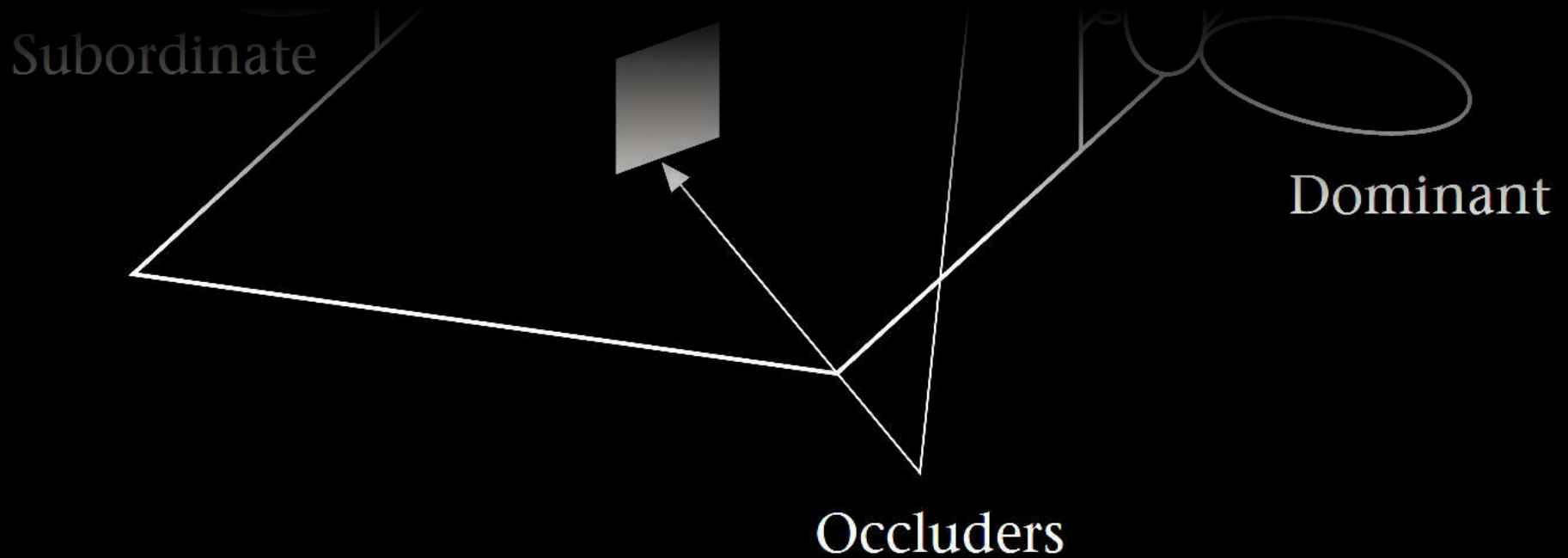
'chimpanzees understand ... intentions ...
perception and knowledge ... Moreover, they
understand how these psychological states
work together to produce intentional action'
(Call & Tomasello 2008:191)



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'our fundamental conception of what it is to know that P is itself an explanatory conception [...] we think of S's knowledge that P as something that can properly be explained by reference to what S has perceived or remembered or proved or ...'
(Cassam 2007:356)



‘chimpanzees understand ... intentions ...
perception and knowledge ... Moreover, they
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‘from 7 months on ... humans automatically
compute other’s beliefs and seem to hold
them in mind as alternative representations of
the environment.’

(Kovács et al 2010: 1834)

Henry desires that Ayesha will cycle up Hármashatár hill

Henry desires that Ayesha will cycle up Hármashatár hill

Subject

Attitude

Content

{
Ayesha
Steve
Henry
...
}

desires

that

Ayesha will cycle up Hármashatár hill

Subject

Attitude

Content

{ Ayesha
Steve
Henry
... } { believes
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Subject

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{ Ayesha
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Henry will win the lottery
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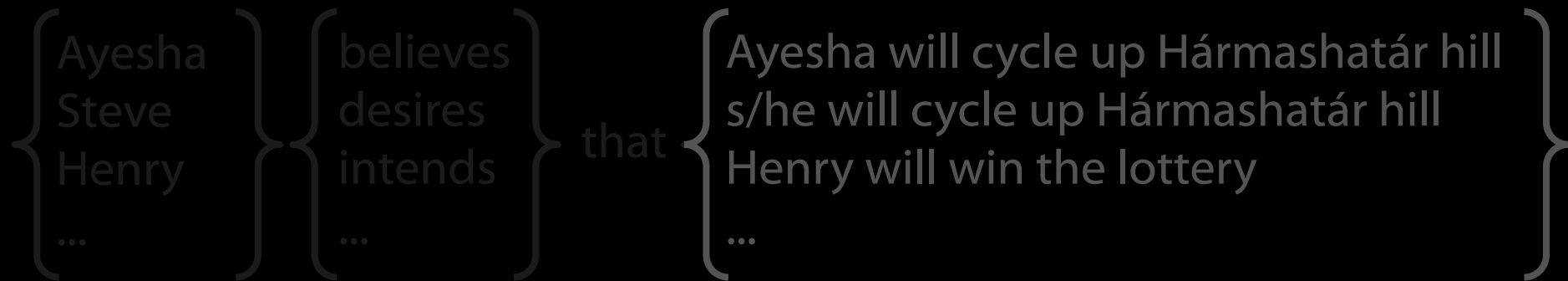
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'Propositions ...are the sharable objects of the attitudes and the primary bearers of truth and falsity' (McGrath 2012)



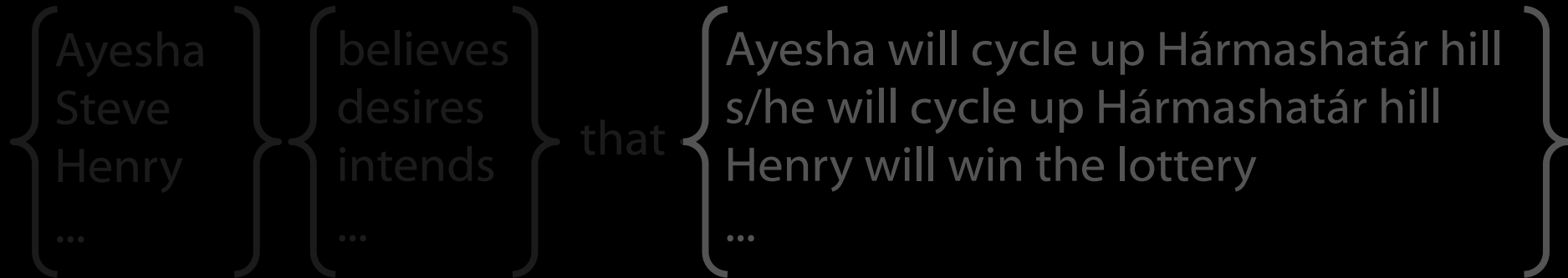
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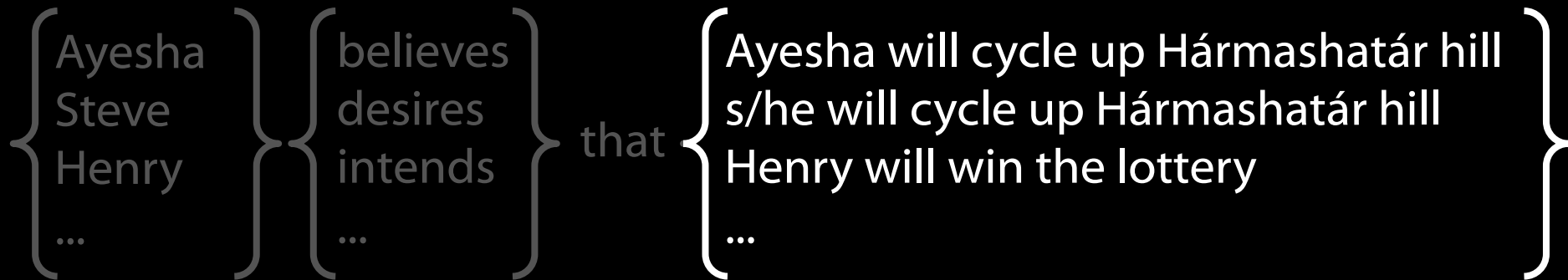
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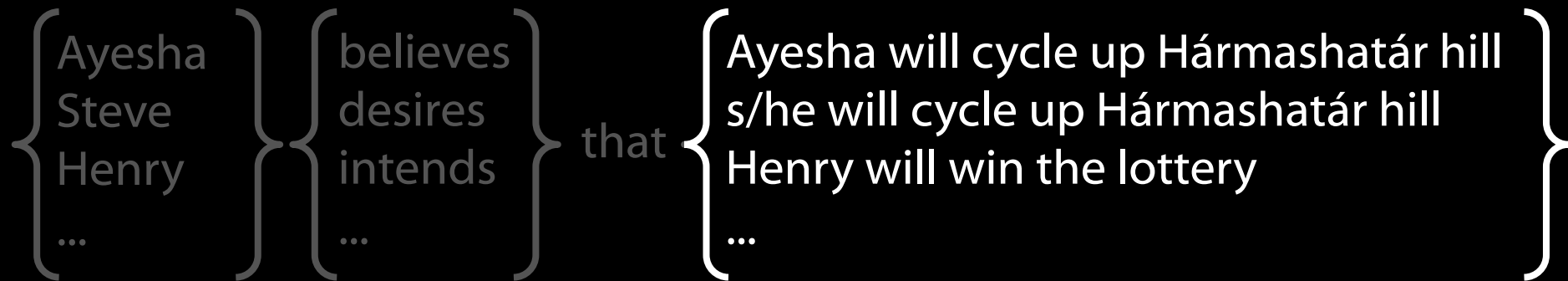


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Attitude

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proposition-1 : a set of possible worlds

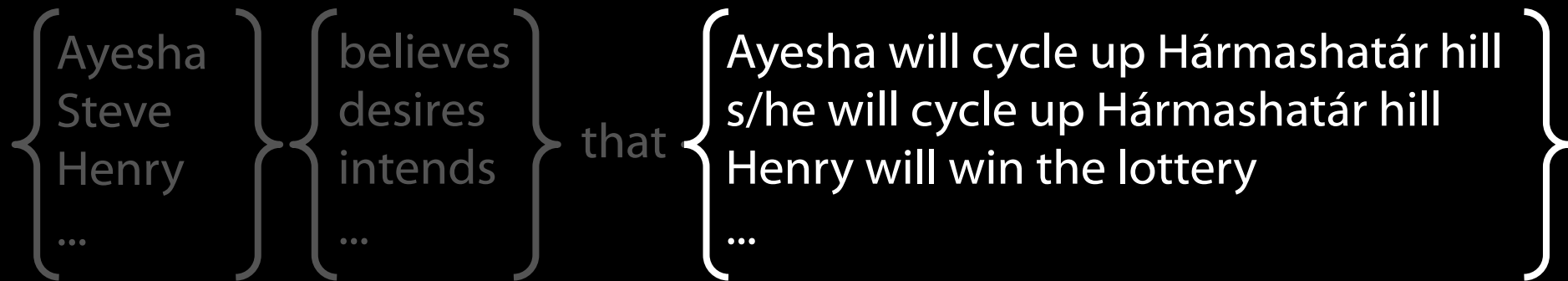


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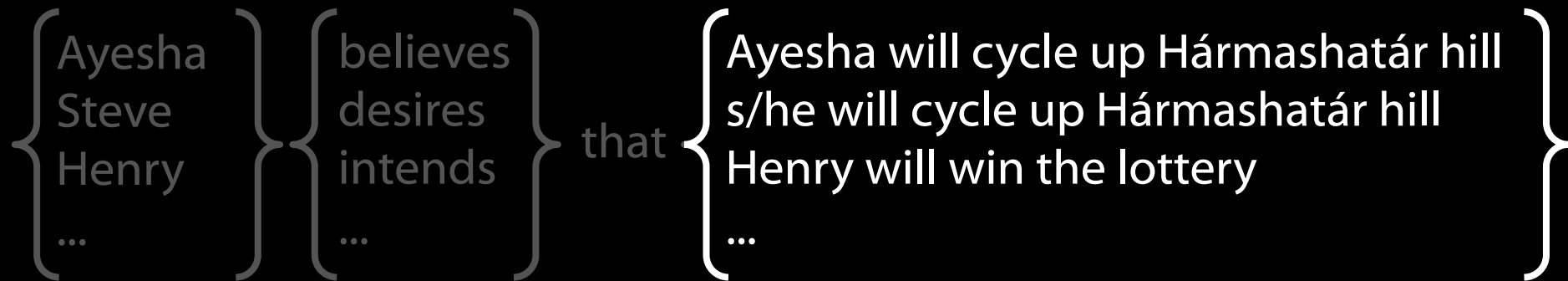


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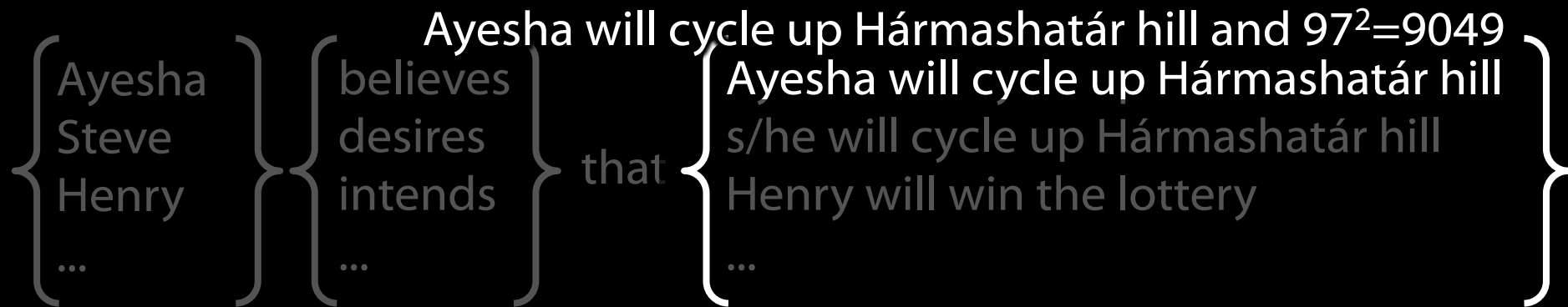


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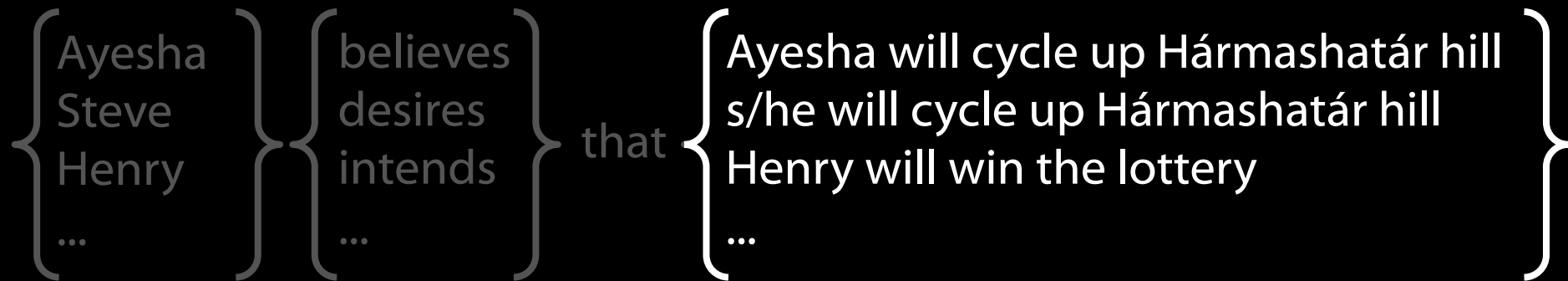
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Content

proposition-1 : a set of possible worlds

proposition-2 : a (nested) sequence of objects and properties



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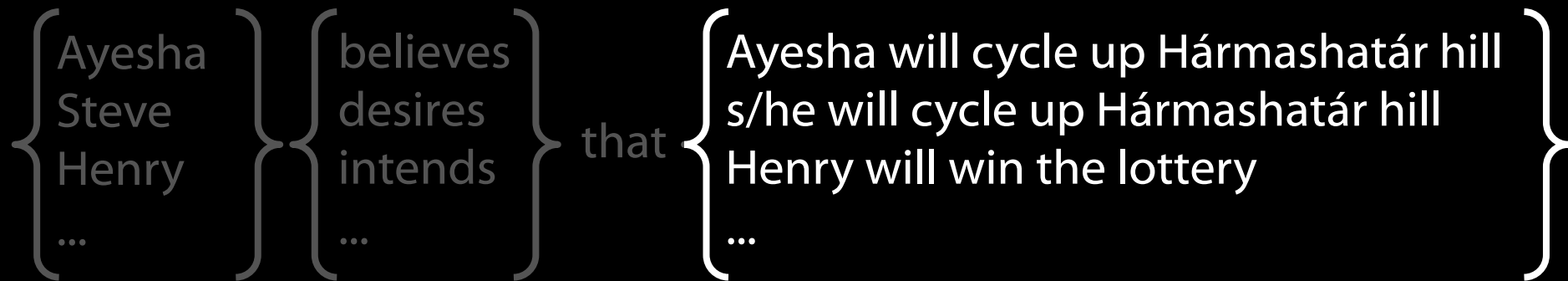
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< < Ayesha , Hármashatár hill >, cycle >



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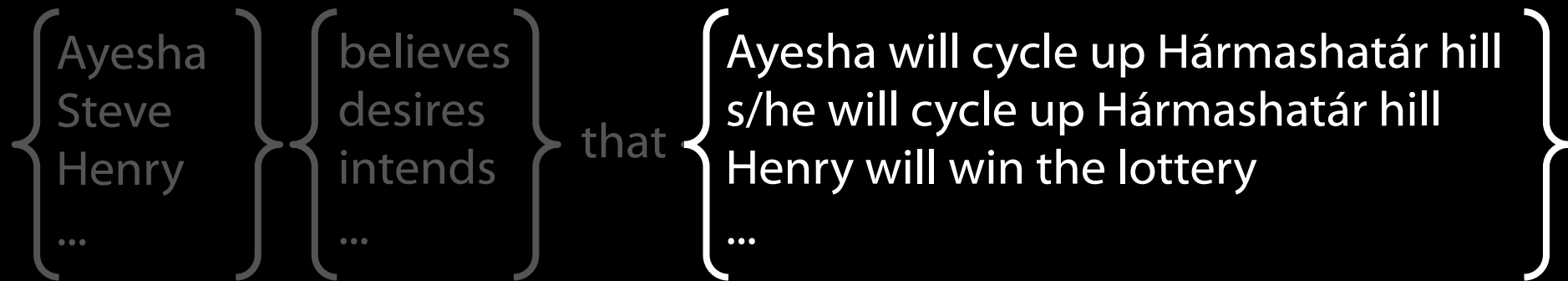
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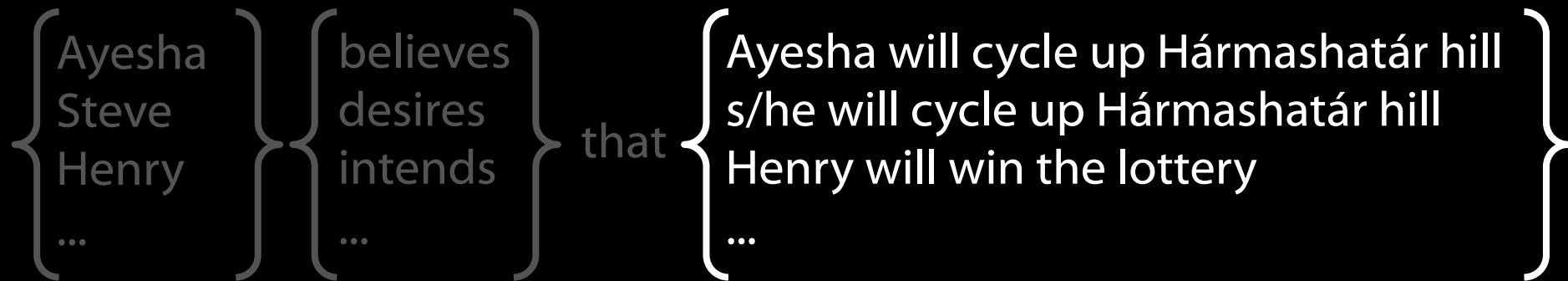
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Why not use sentences?



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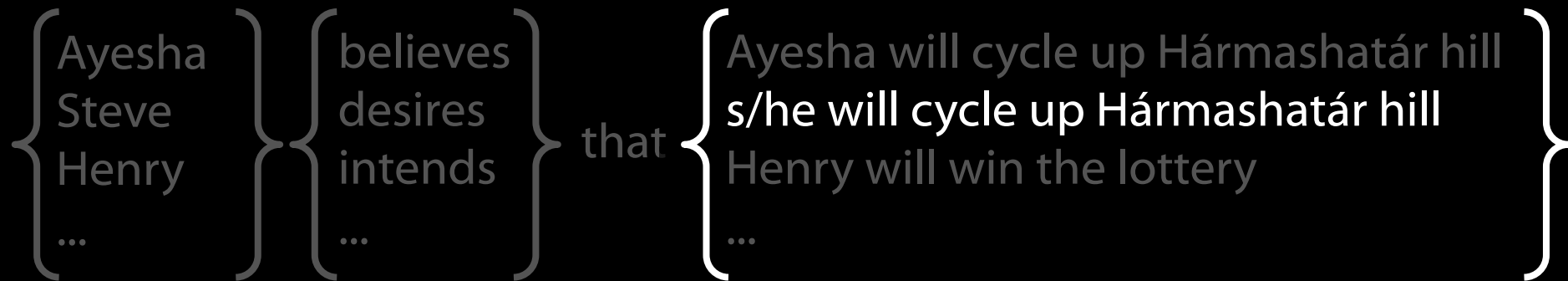
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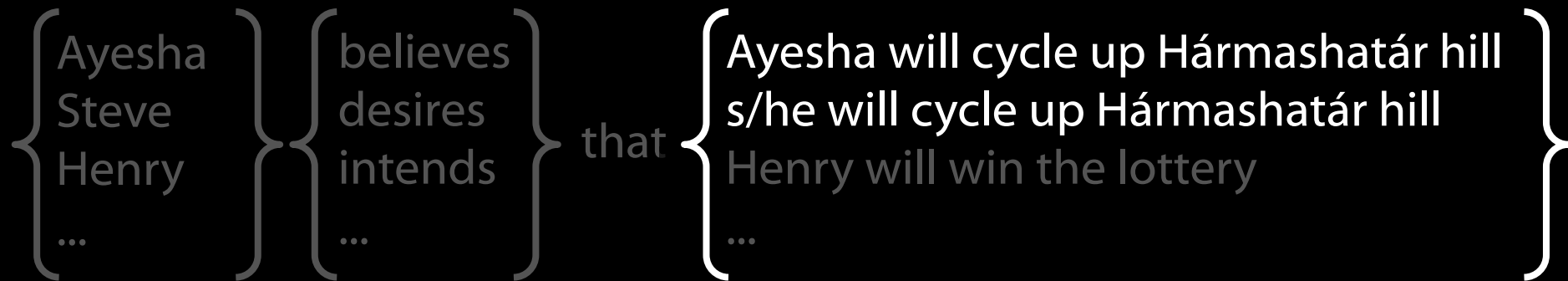
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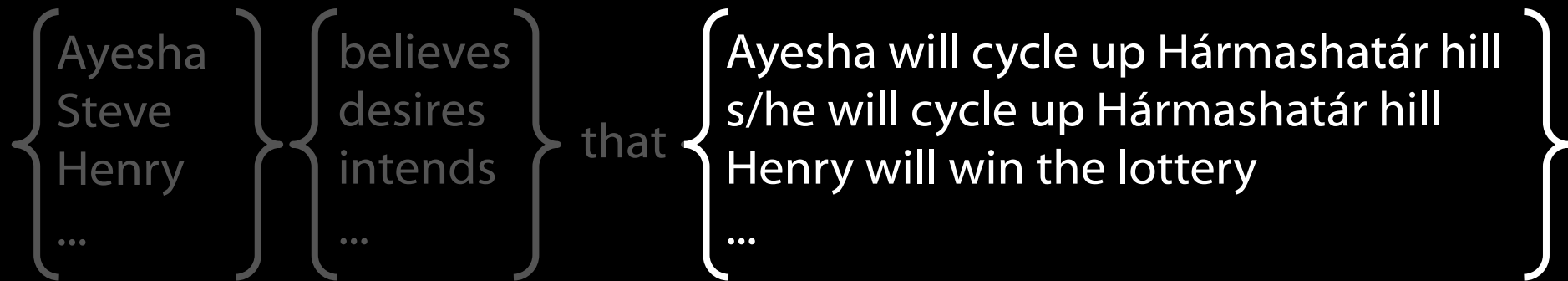
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proposition-1 : a set of possible worlds

proposition-2 : a (nested) sequence of objects and properties

proposition-3 : a (nested) sequence of objects and properties
and modes of presentations



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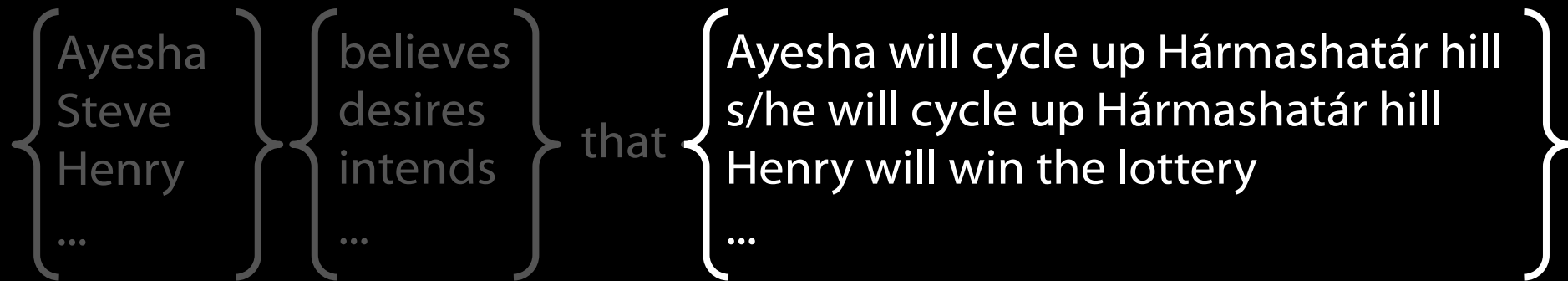
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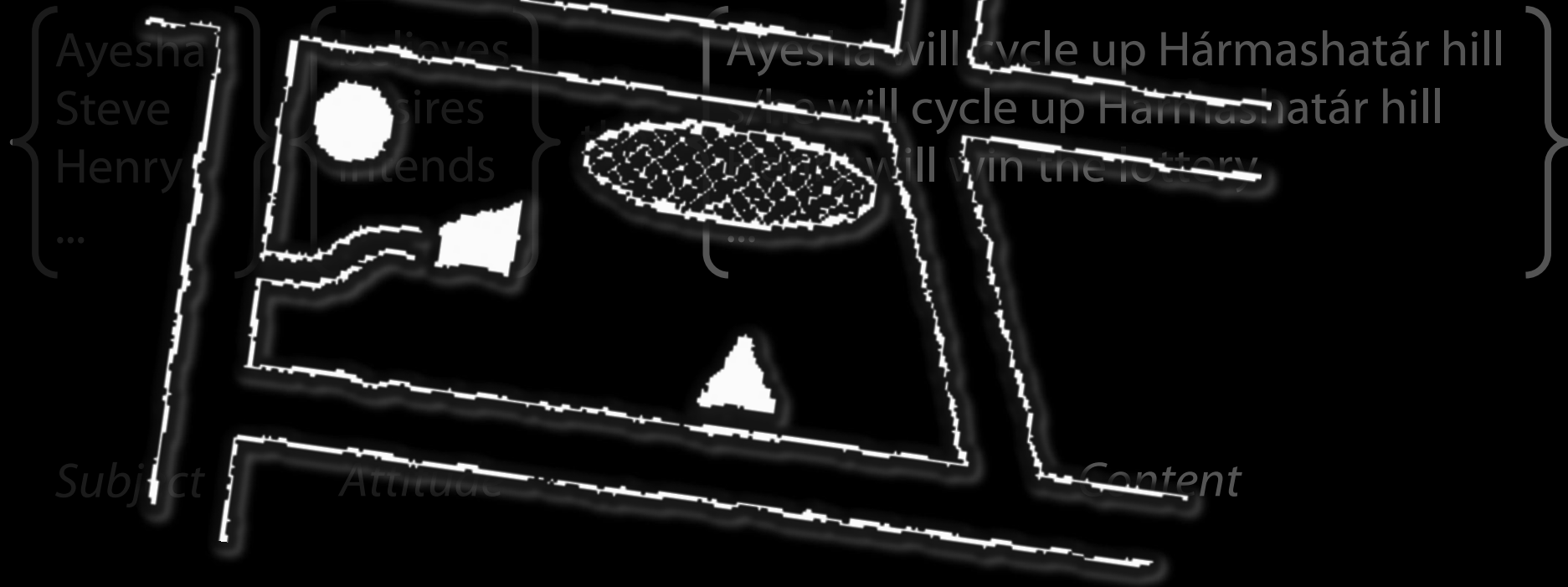
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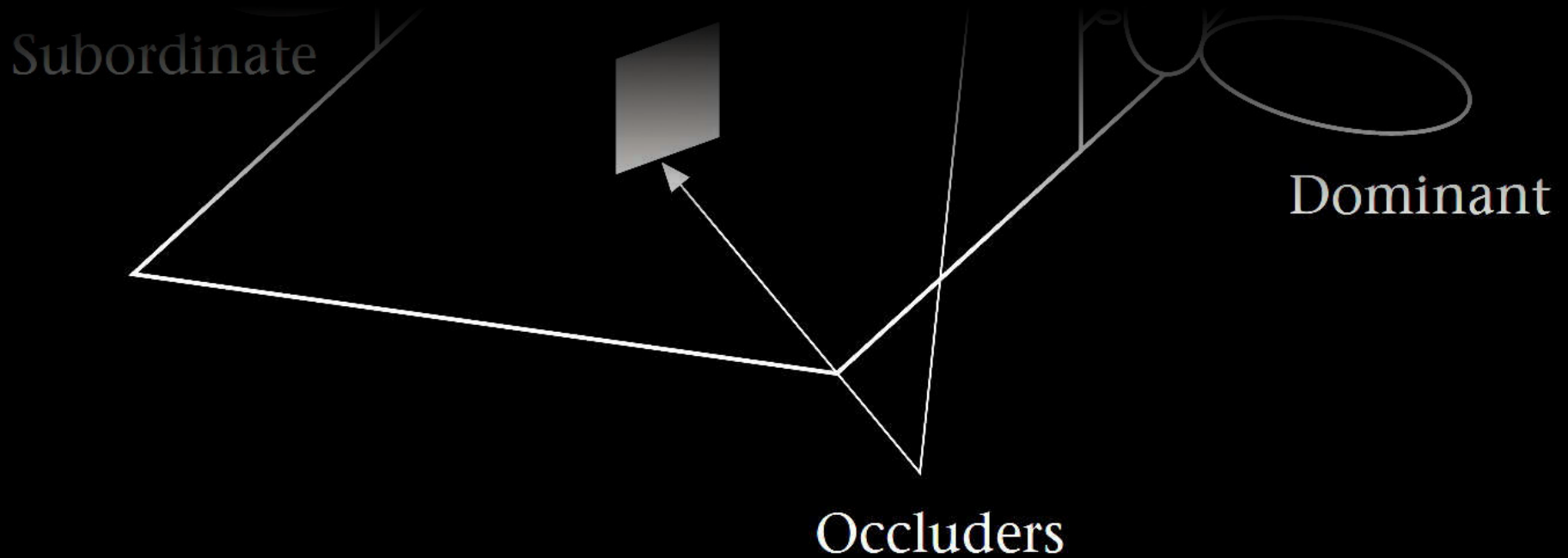
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Subject

Attitude

Content

'(4) For any p: One ought to believe that p only if p.

'the holding of this norm is one of the defining features of the notion of belief [...] That [...] is what makes it the state that it is.'

(Boghossian 2003:37,38-9)

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'the holding of this norm is one of the defining features of the notion of belief [...] That [...] is what makes it the state that it is.'

(Boghossian 2003: 37, 38-9)

'Aside from our purposes in forming beliefs or in using beliefs as guides to action, there is nothing they should or shouldn't be. ... The only fault with fallacious reasoning, the only thing wrong or bad about mistaken judgements, is that, generally speaking, we don't like them. We do our best to avoid them. They do not—most of the time at least—serve our purposes'

(Dretske 2000: 247-8)

'Rational intentions should be agglomerative. If at one and the same time I rationally intend to A and rationally intend to B then it should be both possible and rational for me, at the same time, to intend to A and B.'

(Bratman 1999:220)

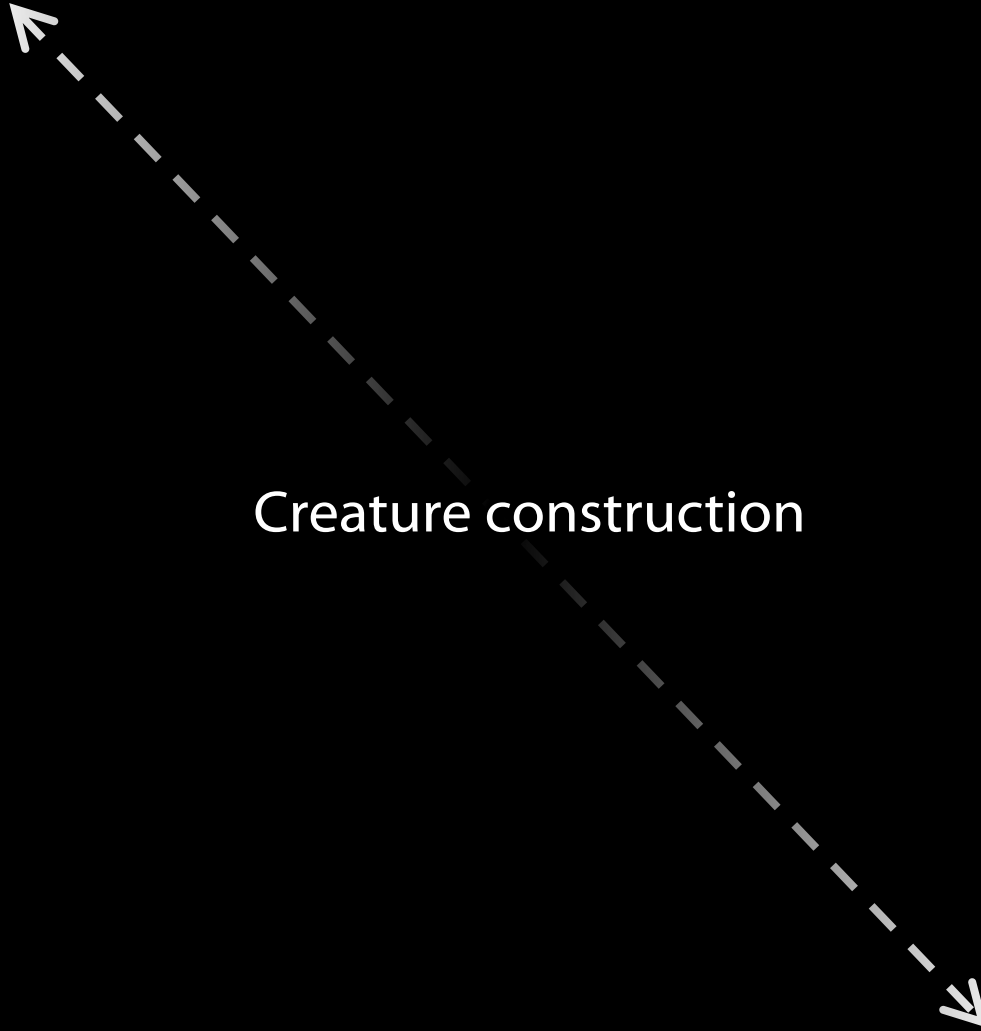
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Merely purposive agent



Creature construction

Self-knowing, truth-seeking, embarrassed ... agent

Actions, outcomes & conditions

get exercise and stay dry
get no exercise and stay dry

get exercise and get wet
get no exercise and stay dry

Actions, outcomes & conditions

action

cycle
take bus

get exercise and stay dry
get no exercise and stay dry

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Actions, outcomes & conditions

<i>action</i>	<i>condition</i>	
	no flooding	flooding
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	no flooding	flooding
cycle	probability of no flooding if we cycle: 0.3	probability of flooding if we cycle: 0.7
take bus	probability of no flooding if we get the bus: 0.3	probability of flooding if we get the bus: 0.7

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take bus	[get no exercise and stay dry] desirability of outcome: 1	[get no exercise and stay dry] desirability of outcome: 1

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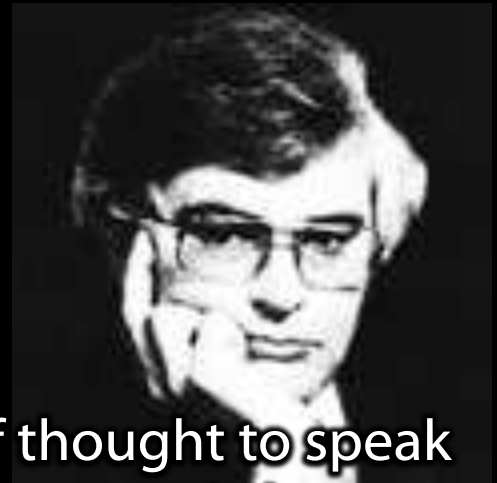
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'Suppose that A and B are [outcomes] between which the agent is not indifferent, and that N is an ethically neutral condition [i.e. the agent is indifferent between N and not N]. Then N has probability 1/2 if and only if the agent is indifferent between the following two gambles.

B if N, A if not
A if N, B if not'

(Jeffrey 1983:47)



'modern philosophers ... have no theory of thought to speak of. I do think this is appalling; how can you seriously hope for a good account of belief if you have no account of belief fixation?'

(Fodor 1987: 147)

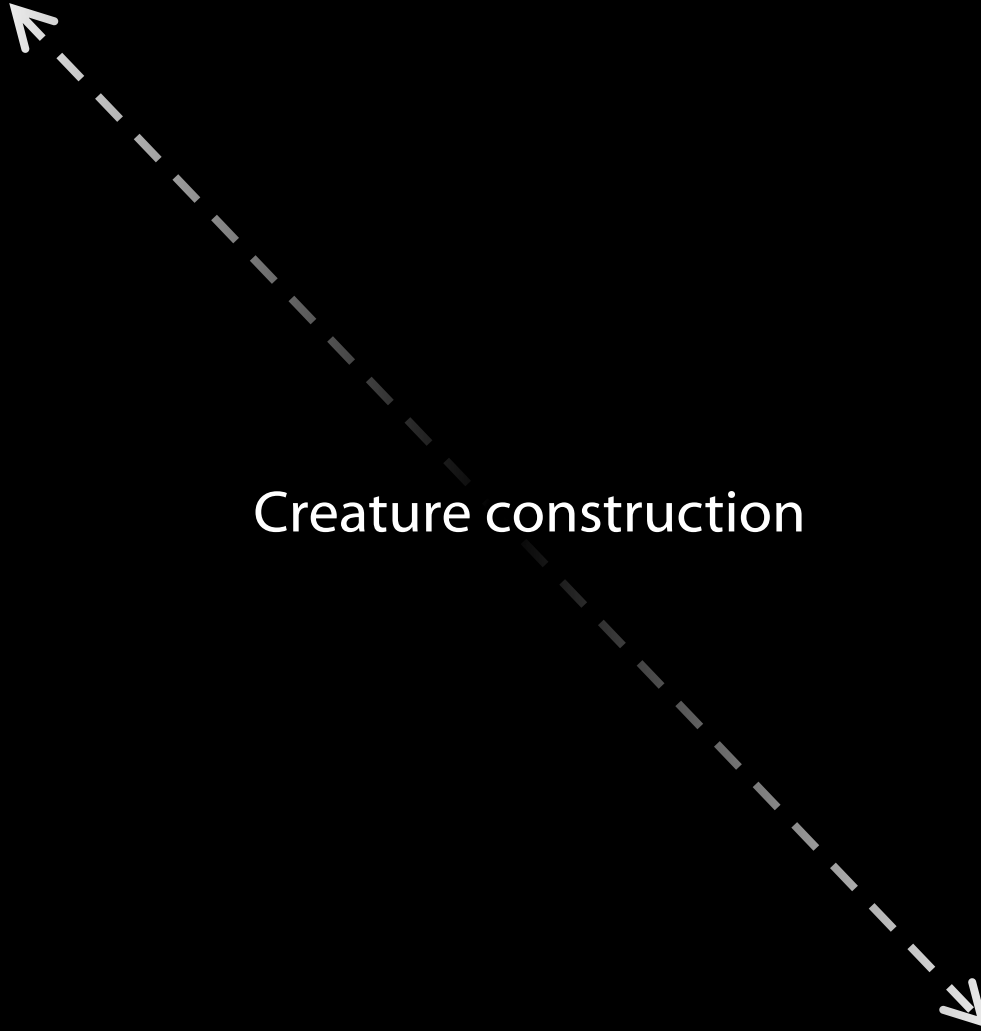
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Objectivity

Could there be mindreaders who are able to identify differences in belief despite not understanding what it is for a belief to be true or false?

Self-awareness

Does being a mindreader entail being able, sometimes, to identify one's own mental states and actions?

Evidential basis

What evidence could in principle support the ascription of a particular belief to a given subject, and how does the evidence support the ascription?

Holism

Could there be mindreaders who can identify intentions and knowledge states but not beliefs?

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