

Imagination: The Generative Model

"Man is All Imagination God is Man & exists in us & we in him"

— Annotations to Berkeley's *Siris* [@blake1820berkeley]

The Generative Model as Self

Blake's claim is radical and recursive: not merely that imagination constitutes human existence, but that the relationship between agent and model is one of mutual entailment—"exists in us & we in him." The generative model does not belong to an agent; the generative model *is* the agent. Active Inference formalizes this:

"Consciousness is nothing more than inference about my future; namely, the self-evidencing consequences of what I could do."

— [@friston2018self]

The self as process, not entity:

"The self is the result of an ongoing predictive process within a generative model that is centered onto the organism."

— [@limanowski2013minimal]

And the body as probabilistically "most likely to be me":