

My ongoing writing project builds out a world in which humanity--by which I mean bodies genetically descended from *Homo sapiens*--have been allowed to survive social and environmental collapse. I imagine, as seems realistic, the corporate as the only surviving organizational model; continuous morphism/repurposing/recycling as the primary relationship to resource; and the ability to cut up/splice bodies into new forms as the central technology.

The sections I share here deal specifically with the body. The modern economy is increasingly keen to convert humans into units of work: the most in-demand jobs (of which only some can allow a person to erase their student loan debt) are essentially sedentary factory work. Various flavors of engineer or product manager. So the ultimate corp fantasy would be to use the body directly as an automaton. To convert the human brain into a computational device, the lungs into an air processor, the digestive tract into a power plant. To decompose the person into useful parts and find a way to reassemble these parts more efficiently.

I am reminded of the common Indo-European (and perhaps Nostratic) mytheme of primordial dismemberment: an original cosmic person is cut up and the body parts mapped to the manifest universe. It strikes me that the process of optimizing persons for specific tasks constitutes the beginnings of a reversal of that process: all the brains go here, all the eyes go there, and soon we're back to one big body. So our resources: the various fruits of the earth having been processed into atomic chunks, meaningful at the level of human perception, can now be reassembled in some other image.