

Fluidity and Permeability

Clottes: Traditional people and, I think, people of the Paleolithic had very probably some...two concepts which change our vision of the world. They're the concept of fluidity and the concept of permeability.

Fluidity means that the categories that we have...man, woman, horse, I don't know, tree, et cetera...can shift. A tree may speak. A man can get transformed into an animal and the other way around, given certain circumstances.

The concept of permeability is that there are no barriers, so to speak, between the world where we are and the world of the spirits. A wall can talk to us, or a wall can accept us or refuse us. A shaman, for example, can send his or her spirit to the world of the supernatural or can receive the visit, inside him or her, of supernatural spirits. If you put those two concepts together, you realize how different life must have been for those people from the way we live now.

Humans have been described in many ways, right? And for a while, it was Homo sapiens and is still called Homo sapiens, "the man who knows." I don't think it's a good definition at all.

We don't know. We don't know much.

I would think Homo Spiritualis.

Cave of Forgotten Dreams

Jean Clottes

Vocabulary:

Fluidity	Permeability	Concept	Shaman
Supernatural	Sapiens (Latin)	Spiritualis (Latin)	

Essay: (Include an introduction, 2-3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion)

How do the concepts of fluidity and permeability, as described by Jean Clottes, show themselves in Paleolithic Man? Are these concepts still active in our world?

You can use what you learned in the film “Cave of Forgotten Dreams” and in class/textbook to answer the question.