

## Who Do You Think You Are?

*a man's a man for a' that*  
*-Bobbie Burns*

And for that matter, what? For sure,  
a thinking, feeling being with some sense  
of self-identity (memory,  
let's call it: a narrative continuity  
actual, syntactic or imaginary).

And *that* too: imagination. And dreams.  
And will, free or not: motivation  
coupled with ability to act —  
or imagining a self so equipped).

Not much in the way of long-term purpose  
but common sense survival instincts —  
exercise bodily functions, stimulate  
physical senses: eat drink sleep  
work play have sex eliminate  
communicate participate unwind,  
self reliance self-restraint breathe.

To give emotions desires drives humors  
whims doodles curiosity and brainstorm  
their due: to laugh cry fear triumph  
be proud humble ashamed pious hateful  
helpful caring healing productive creative.

To be sheltered. To be held and to hold,  
to know and be known (holding and knowing  
together being the very heart of love).  
To have at least a modicum of the means  
of sustenance wherewithal goodwill  
fair share of the commonwealth and a feel  
for what is, was, will or may be.  
*This*, then, is both what and who.