

Onto Greener Forests: Where We're Going, Why We're Going

[Background information: This piece was originally written and posted on Therian Amino after the staff team posted in their rules that “system” was a word specifically reserved for non-spiritual, DID-diagnosed multiple systems, and that anyone caught using it who did not fall under both categories was liable to be reprimanded for the spread of misinformation. This post in specific was sparked after HouseofChimeras, a mixed-origin system with trauma who has been formally diagnosed with DDNOS, was forcibly removed from a traumatic multiplicity oriented chatroom and switched to a chat currently titled “Servitors | Daemons | Tulpas”. Upon trying to explain that they were not a system without trauma, they were told that they were moved so as not to “take up space” that belonged specifically to systems with trauma-based DID, and that it “doesn’t matter what caused you to have your headmates, or if they were created by you or whatever.” They were also told that “medically speaking, you cannot have DID/OSDD,” before getting a warning strike on their account and being muted for anywhere from 12 to 24 hours. A day later, despite not speaking or arguing in the chat after the original mute, they were banned from the chat in question without warning. There have been additional problems other multiple systems faced in the Therian Amino during this time, such as unjust banning, the belittlement of one suicidal system, and moderators openly admitting that Therian Amino had considered issuing an outright blanket ban on non-spiritual, DID-diagnosed multiple systems and instead went with formal terminology restrictions as a “compromise,” but the original actions against HouseofChimeras is what spurred us to start writing this and formally exit the Amino. This post was originally written and published on 3/15/2021 by Page and Noel.]

We've enjoyed our time spent in Therian Amino. People here have been largely welcoming, and it's been refreshing to get to post resources useful to alterhumans and nonhumans-- especially given that so many of the resources we used for ourselves when we were younger, and would have liked to direct people towards, have sadly vanished from the Internet or gone out of date. The support we've gained for our webcomic and our writings is something we truly cherish, and we're glad to have been able to share our nonhuman-oriented content.

With that said, we're a nonhuman system and have never hidden that fact from the alterhuman and nonhuman communities. We largely don't talk about the details of

our multiplicity outside of clinical and academic contexts in real life with professionals, for a variety of reasons. We're private people online regarding much more than others probably realize, given that I know we often read like an open book-- we don't talk much about our pasts, or go in-depth on our beliefs, or even really talk about all that many of our experiences. We don't feel that people are owed such personal information, and we hate the idea of debating our personhood and the legitimacy of the things we have experienced (or had inflicted upon us) in our lives.

We've been trying to work on getting more comfortable with talking about who and what we are with others, because we don't want to continue hiding out of fear, and because we want to give solace to those with similar experiences to our own.

Leaving the otherkin and therian communities' terminology behind, and the boundaries and assumptions inevitably associated with both, was part of that. Leaving Therian Amino now that it has become aggressive and dismissive towards systems who do not have the most by-the-book dysfunctional and distressed DID experiences, is now also a part of that.

We do not feel comfortable being required to divulge extremely personal information to utilize vocabulary so old as to lack a definable, traceable coinage—and, to be honest, it makes us extremely wary to see individuals attempting to enforce vocabulary restrictions based on research regarding a disorder which no longer formally exists, Multiple Personality Disorder.

We feel trapped at the idea of being forced into a binary based around origins and diagnoses, especially when doctors are fallible and origins are often nothing more than theories and hypotheses. And we feel hurt by the idea that people would assume our understanding of ourselves to be illegitimate without even having the most basic knowledge of what it is, that they assume that our research and comprehension of our own experiences are ahistorical and unreliable without knowing even a single detail of the nature of our experiences. It feels unfair to us on the basest of levels, to be potentially ostracized based purely on ableist stereotypes than because of anything we've actually done wrong. To have people use outdated research regarding a misunderstood phenomenon specifically with the intent to do us harm, rather than to help or listen to us in any regards.

To quote Noel, one of the draconic members of the system, and her personal issues with what is happening:

“Even if we hadn't consulted with a multitude of academics and clinicians on the subject, I should not have to pull that as a "gotcha!" card to justify how we describe ourselves to others who have no business asking such personal questions. I should not have to defend our use of a term that is intentionally broad so as to include anomalous experiences without the need for explanation. The default position others have regarding our use of such a term should not be distrustful and suspicious. This distinction is significantly more for singlet comfort than system functionality, at the end of the day.”

With that said, we no longer want to be a part of or contribute to the community here at Therian Amino. We do not feel welcome and safe here, and we do not want any of our works hosted on nor associated with this Amino given its sudden turn towards the stigmatization and medicalization of plural experiences, and the dismissal and aggression outwardly that has been displayed even towards systems professionally diagnosed with DID/OSDD—the very individuals that the staff claim to be enacting guideline changes for. Therian Amino has been subsequently removed from our nonhuman resource pages and link lists on a variety of platforms as we no longer feel confident in recommending it to fellow nonhumans and alterhumans.

We know that the moderation team is only human and we hold no ill will towards them as they parse out problems as best they see fit, but exclusion and a reliance on medical rhetoric over lived experiences will never be something we can morally support. Not as transgender individuals constantly battling against pseudo-scientific “gender essentialism” research; not as demisexual people who are constantly told that there’s “no proof” such a thing exists; not as nonhumans that are endlessly told that their experiences are “just clinical lycanthropy!”

If we wanted to have our experiences reduced down to nothing more than medical problems by armchair psychologists and be inundated with pseudo-science, we would hit up the anti-otherkin tag on Tumblr, or tag TERFs on Twitter, or talk to a local right-wing pastor about how we are involved with multiple partners of genders different than our own. Instead, we would much rather avoid such needless confrontations and make an active effort not to engage in such self-destructive behaviors. When such

exclusionary types of dialogue begin to influence spheres we associate with we simply prefer to state our personal disagreements on the matter, and be on our way. Thus, this farewell post.

We will continue to participate in nonhuman communities outside of Therian Amino; you can find our writings on our personal website, Three Dragons and a Dog, and our comic, Shenani-kins, will continue to be receive at least monthly updates. We are also currently working as editors for our partner system, HouseofChimeras, and their ebooks related to the otherkin and therian communities. Our system is additionally preparing to be lecturers and artists at OtherCon 2021. As disheartening and demotivating as exclusionists are, our system and others will continue to create content for ourselves and other nonhumans like us.

For those who want to reach out to any of us, we can be found on Twitter as @Who_is_Page, on Tumblr as Who-is-Page, and on WereList as Who-is-Page. Exclusionists of any type who try to engage us and “debate” our existences will be blocked, and most likely mocked by Noel in-system.

Goodbye.