"The world is illusory.  
Brahman alone is real.  
Brahman is the world."
- Ramana Maharshi

"The whole world in all ten directions  
is a single bright jewel.  
What’s it got to do with understanding?"
- Gensha

I

All is as it is.

It’s a magical world; it’s all done with mirrors.  
If this dream has any rules,  
one seems to be that if you turn away from something  
you will be facing it again.  
What you turn away from  
what you turn toward  
is yourSelf.
Perfect Brilliant Stillness

Only the one who sees their true face
without a mirror
knows the Self.
Then the magic bubble is burst
and all projection ceases
for there is but one
without a second.

There is no separation or distance
because there is nothing to be separate or distant.
That which is seeing
through the eyes of a loved one,
through the eyes of a stranger,
(the eyes of the mouse, the hawk,
the brightest star, this stone;)
is that which is seeing through
what you call ‘your’ eyes.

And on some ‘level’ all know this.
This is the whisper, the haunting, the sensing,
(so often misunderstood)
like a splinter in your mind:
That which is seeing is All.
And All is as it is.

II

In his remarkable little book, Gifts of Unknown Things,
biological Lyall Watson mentions, among many other
things, ocean squid. From a biologist’s point of view there
are some odd facts about squid, which add up rather
strangely, if they add up at all.

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The squid has an eye which is astonishing to find in a mollusc such as itself, a fairly undeveloped unsegmented invertebrate. The eye of the squid is extraordinarily developed: an iris, a lens that can focus at variable distances, and a retina with both rod and cone cells for seeing both contrast and color. The eye of the squid is every bit as developed as the human eye and has the ability to see as well. In spite of this, the animal to which this eye is attached does not have a brain with anything close to the capacity to process the visual information provided by the amazing eye. In fact it doesn’t really have a brain at all. Its nervous system has only very rudimentary nerve ganglia which serve the basic motor functions of the organism; no brain, no optic center to form images from the vast information received by the complex eye.

Also, there are literally billions of squid. They are highly mobile, and are present throughout the oceans; at every depth, every temperature gradient, in every ocean of the world, day and night.

An eye capable of the best vision on the planet. Attached to a highly mobile and ubiquitous but extremely simple and easily reproduced organism, with a rudimentary nervous system having hardly any optical processing ability.

I read the book many years ago, but I still remember being absolutely floored by the implications of the one-liner with which Watson concluded his discussion on the squid:

“Visitors are warned that this facility is under constant closed-circuit surveillance.”

I wonder now if Watson knew how close he was:
"Seeing truly is not merely a change in the direction of seeing but a change at its very center, in which the seer himself disappears." (Ramesh)

It is clear that it is not the body/minds, not the organisms, human or squid, that are seeing.

That which is seeing
through the squid's eye
is that which is seeing through
what you call 'your' eyes.

That which is seeing is All.