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## **Identity**

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# Identity

In this digitally-obsessed world,  
it seems everything has become  
digitized into strings  
composed of 0s and 1s.

Indeed, it seems little has value  
unless it boasts a binary code  
to identify it.

I expect many parts of my own identity  
have been condensed by parties,  
known and unknown,  
into strings of 0s and 1s.

Will there come a time when,  
what we know as our own names,  
will be obsolete,  
replaced by coded identifiers?

Faces, too, can be reduced to codes  
to be entered instantly into machines  
making them comparable  
to faces stored in a gigantic database.

And, there we have it:  
a universal system of coding  
by which all manner of entities  
can be reduced for identification,  
comparison, storage.

Just to be clear,  
I do not regard you as a string  
of 0s and 1s.  
I still regard you as old 0010011.  
Oh dear.

– Densley Harley Palmer

Densley Palmer served as director of counseling services  
at Linfield from 1983 to 1998.

