

Absolute/Berserker Shifts

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- N/A

I received the following ask on Tumblr:

"hih!! im curious how you "confirm" (unsure the wording, "verify" feels off) a kin? just curious your take(???) on it and methjod?? bad at words, but i like the way you word things a lot; it's blunt and makes sense. have a good timezone!!!!"

I wanted to archive my answer as a bunch of people on Discord found it useful. My answer is as follows:

Hey! No worries, I'll try my best to answer. Glad you like the way I word things lol.

So.. "confirm" or "verify" don't feel like either apply, honestly. I prefer something like.. *accept*, maybe? Something that sounds less final. I don't think there's a way I can ever be 100% sure that my kintypes are my kintypes and will remain throughout my life--there's no confirmation because there's always room for error. Identity is an ever-changing thing, and there's no set in stone rulebook to being otherkin, fictionkin or a therian aside from "I identify as [thing]". That can come in all sorts of different feelings and experiences so it can be hard to pick apart. Sometimes, as people, we can also be wrong, too.

To accept a kintype into my identity, I can only be sure enough that I *do* identify as them *currently*, and *kind of* sure that they aren't fictionflickers (temporary identities where you ID as a character for a bit, then stop) instead. And this can be tricky, because who *knows* how long a fictionflicker could last? How do you define the difference between a years-long fictionflicker and a kintype? Answers depend on who you ask, really. All this stuff is personal and it's up to *you* to decide when to accept something into your otherkin identity. I personally stopped engaging with Demon Slayer as a source for quite a while and still got strong shifts of Tanjiro and that feeling in the back of my mind of "yeah, that's me" never left. So I decided that I'd label it as a fictotype and see how it goes. I did the same with my Satoru Gojo kintype too--I deliberately stopped engaging with JJK and the feelings were still there. I tend to test myself like that.

Trial and error can be a part of it too. Sometimes, the best way of deciding if some kintype or identity fits.... Is to take on that label, accept it into yourself, and see how it feels. Does it fit you as well as you thought? Or does something feel off the more you think about it? Does it feel like you're acting instead of coming into your own identity? Does it feel natural to call yourself by that name? A lot of stuff there to consider, but the questioning process can (and usually should to a degree) continue after you accept a kintype. Because let's face it, you can be wrong. And that's all completely normal, too! There's nothing wrong with going back and reevaluating your identity even years down the line after accepting something into it. You don't have to stay static forever. People change, sometimes old clothes don't fit anymore, but you shouldn't feel guilty or "fake" over being unable to put them on anymore. You didn't "lie" about wearing them or having them fit, they *did* fit, once. You just get new ones instead now.

There's no manual to tell you what your kintypes are, what past lives you have, or what psychological imprints shows and books might have left on your brain. If I had a secret way to use google inside my own head to figure myself out I sure as hell would. For all I know, in 3 weeks time, I could stop identifying as Tanjiro altogether. This identification being "confirmed" is less of a metaphorical legal binding document, and moreso just a.. Potentially temporary stamp of approval. An outfit that I feel comfortable in, that feels like it represents me and maybe I wore it some time before, so I'm trying it on to see if it truly suits me in a comfy way. While the identity might be involuntary itself, the acceptance of it feels partially voluntary in a way to me and just.. furthers the questioning process altogether. Part of being fictionkin for me is trialing how it goes post-acceptance and keeping an eye on things to see if they really feel right, so that's where I'm at now.

I hope this makes sense. I know this might be an unsatisfying answer because I can't give you a step by step guide to figuring yourself out. My best advice is to trust your gut and try on as many labels as you want. It's no crime. If people somehow get upset that you swap labels "too much", that's on them. Good luck with the questioning, anon.