

Revealing the Truth

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I experience truth at three different levels, which are mutually supportive and inseparable. First, *Truth* is a synonym for the Absolute, which transcends all categories of thought, other than itself. Jesus of Nazareth had a similar experience, for he advised his disciples to know the Truth and “the Truth shall set you free.” However, the Truth is not something we can believe in or understand with symbolic knowledge, like a scientific theory or mathematical theorem.

Rather, as mystics have discovered through the ages, we humans know the Truth through Gnosis, cognate with *Jñāna* in Sanskrit, from Proto-Indo-European (PIE) **gno-* ‘to know’, also root of *know* and many other words. In turn, *Truth* derives from Mercian *treowð* ‘fidelity; veracity’, from PIE base **deru-* ‘be firm, solid, steadfast’, also root of Swedish *trygg* ‘safe, secure’. So, when we know the Truth, with a capital *T*, we feel safe and secure, free of anxiety about what might happen in the future, for the past, on which these fears are often based, has disappeared.

Secondly, the Truth provides the Gnostic Foundation and Cosmic Context for our true understanding of the relativistic world of form, which emerges from the Absolute through the creative power of Life. The first form to appear in our bifurcating Universe is the fundamental law of the Universe, valid in all possible situations, enabling us to be free of one-sided perspectives, which Carl Gustav Jung called a ‘mark of barbarism’, when comparing Western reason with the paradoxes of Taoist thought.

I call this irrefutable, universal truth the *Principle of Unity*, which states *Wholeness is the union of all opposites*, known to Heraclitus of Ephesus as the *Hidden Harmony*, which Aristotle rejected in favour of his Law of Contradiction. This means that I don’t reject what I regard to be false from consciousness. For instance, to maintain an innate sense of Wholeness, I mark the geocentric and heliocentric models of the solar system as ‘obsolete’ and ‘current’, respectively. Furthermore, this occult truth, buried in the utmost depths of the Cosmic Psyche, establishes the inseparability of the Absolute Truth and other forms of truth.

The third aspect of truth can best be called *comparative*, as we methodically study the similarities or dissimilarities between forms, as David Bohm proposed in *Wholeness and the Implicate Order* in 1980. For, as he intimated, such an egalitarian approach to concept formation can bring universal order to all our thoughts, leading to Wholeness, embracing the Totality of Existence.

But only if we recognize the existence of the Absolute Truth and universal truth, which lie outside scientific method and mathematical deduction, as they have been practiced for centuries. Otherwise, we are just led into delusion, which is catastrophic for a species that has called itself *Homo sapiens* ‘wise human’. For, unlike the other animals, we are dependent on our cognitive mapmaking to guide our daily lives.

For instance, physicists are spending billions of dollars and euros of taxpayers’ money searching for the origin of the universe and a fundamental particle of matter. They are supposedly seeking the ultimate truth in science by sending telescopes into outer space, such as the James Webb telescope, and by building particle accelerators, like the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Apparently, scientists are not aware that the Truth is to be found by looking inwards with Self-reflective Intelligence, the Divine quality that distinguishes humans from the other animals and machines with so-called artificial intelligence.

This leads to another false assumption that programming computers could resolve humanity’s woes and that technological development can drive economic growth indefinitely. Yes, the transcultural Internet well

demonstrates that we are all interconnected and so could live in love, peace, and harmony with each other if we recognized this truth.

Sadly, however, such a psychospiritual transformation is only happening within a minority. Rather, social media has been inundated with Internet trolls spreading discord and governmental troll farms disseminating fake news and propaganda, exacerbating people's psychological disturbances and opening up old wounds, not the least of which is the cognitive and experiential split between humanity and Divinity.

The Sufi Mansur al-Hallaj knew that such a division does not exist in Reality, declaring, "I am the Truth." But exactly 1,100 years ago, he suffered a gruesome execution in Baghdad for doing so. Another who knew the Truth that sets us free was the pre-eminent Christian mystic Meister Eckhart, who said, "The eye with which I see God is the same as the eye with which he sees me." But a Papal Bull declared this popular preacher to be guilty of heresy, and he would no doubt have been burnt at the stake if he had not died before the prescribed sentence could be carried out.

The religious authorities do not execute mystics today for acknowledging the innate Divinity of all beings. Nevertheless, realizing the Truth that sets us free of conflict and suffering is still the foremost taboo in society. Most spiritual teachers who have done so are careful to avoid offending Christian sensibilities.

Regarding comparative truths, Bohm pointed out that a theory is a form of insight. What we know thus lies within the Cosmic Psyche, before we express our understanding in language and other signs. So theories of truth that do not recognize the existence of the 99% of the Universe that is inaccessible to our physical senses need to be radically revised. This particularly concerns correspondence and coherence theories of truth, which are based on false assumptions of the world we live in, expressed in language, as propositions.

Given how little most people appreciate the essential nature of truth, it is not surprising that Erich Fromm said that the normal behaviour of society is pathological and that J. Krishnamurti is reported to have said, "It is no measure of health to be well-adjusted to a profoundly sick society." Clearly, in this situation, there is no individual or institution that we can trust to give us an integral sense of identity and security in life, *trust* being cognate with *truth*.

For myself, to communicate my understanding of truth, I turn to the Sanskrit word for *truth*, which is *satya*, which Mohandas Gandhi made famous with his term *satyagraha* 'truth force', signifying nonviolent, civil resistance. *Satya* is derived from *Sat*, denoting *the* Truth, as we see in *Satchitānanda* 'Bliss of Absolute Truth and Consciousness', and *satsang* 'a spiritual gathering of seekers of the Truth'.

In turn, the PIE base of *Sat* 'absolute, eternal, unchanging Being' is **es-* 'to be', which is also the root of *Essence* and *soothe* (a soothsayer is literally a person who speaks the truth) in English, and the Swedish word *sann* 'true'. We can see from this root that 'what is' is the essential truth, no matter if we might prefer another world to live in, less confused and more harmonious.

The Cosmic Psyche, containing all conceptual maps and mathematical objects, is far more complex than the entangled world accessible to our physical senses. Both are ever-changing and so we cannot possibly assess the truth of any particular happenings, as appearances in Consciousness, known in the East as illusions. Nevertheless, as pattern-seeking creatures, we can find some regularities and symmetries, often represented in the symbols of mathematics, as the science of patterns and relationships.

However, the way that patterns change and grow is not always predictable, mechanistic, and algorithmic, even within mathematics, itself. Furthermore, the Cosmos is essentially asymmetrical, as the fundamental law of the Universe demonstrates. So, life and death are just two sides of the same coin, enabling us to heal any existential pain that might arise from one-sidedness, knowing the Truth that sets us free. Understanding that Love is the Divine Essence we all share is particularly important at the present time, as we are driven through the eighth mass extinction of the species on Earth.