



## THE QUEST FOR TRUTH

**The prophet spoke: \*None are so blind  
as those who will not see!+  
He meant these words for all mankind,  
the man from Galilee.**

What is truth? A simple question, but not so simply answered. A common belief is that everyone has to find his or her own truth, an inner truth, which may be different for each person. As valuable as this personal truth may be for the spiritual development of the individual, there also has to be an external, immutable, universal truth *C The Truth*. Our personal quest should be directed towards the understanding of this unremitting truth.

Throughout history, people have depended on their parental and pedagogical authority figures and on their political and religious leaders to tell them what is true. Religious organizations have traditionally tried to instill the belief that they, and only they, hold a monopoly on the truth. Wars have been fought over this. Independent thinkers, who found a different truth through observation of reality, have been stoned to death, crucified, stretched over the rack or burned at the stake. In order to dominate and control people, a powerful religious sect must not only claim to be representing the truth, but it must control access to this truth. Our organized religions are obsessed with such power and control. This obsession for control is in itself an observable historic truth and makes any *truths* sanctioned and proclaimed by organized cult religions highly suspect.

The truth cannot be legislated by a representative government. It cannot be determined by popular vote. It cannot be ordained by a religious authority, or decreed by a court of law. The truth just is C period. Many people who believe otherwise have much housecleaning to do in their minds and spirits. Misconceptions and confusion about the truth and the sources of truth are widespread among people of all ethnic backgrounds. Just how easily the truth can be distorted and covered up was demonstrated in the widely televised coverage of the O. J. Simpson murder trial. Defense attorneys Johnnie Cochran and Barry Scheck repeatedly argued that the jury was going to determine the truth. How naive can a person get? As the record shows, the jury promptly ignored all evidence relating to the truth and announced a verdict which satisfied no one with even an ounce of intelligence. This illustrates the futility in looking at our public institutions for providing us with any worthwhile insight, or even with an intelligent analysis of the true nature of things, or with what is right or wrong. Another example of how alienated from the truth our leaders are, is given by the behavior and remarks of the last US president of the twentieth century, the ultra-liberal Bill Clinton. He has been known to lie, cheat and deceive with impunity, not to mention that he may also be challenged in other moral aspects. The moral vacuum at the top is evident from a recent quote originating at the White House: \*The truth is whatever you want it to be.+ Such a position leaves no common ground for any intelligent discourse. Not until we demand the highest standards of intelligence, education, wisdom and moral fortitude from our public servants can we hope to look for any truth or justice from our public officials. After all, the administration of justice demands wisdom. Anybody running for public office should first demonstrate meeting a strict level of prerequisites pertaining to character, education and experience. This is most important for presidents, congressional representatives, governors, judges, jurors and anybody else we elect or appoint to hold power of life and death over us.

Since no such standards exist in our present society, its representatives cannot be trusted to determine the truth; nor can they be relied on for establishing a value system for us. In the present

scheme of things, the search for truth remains a personal quest of discovery.

**Life and the quest for truth and freedom  
are do-it-yourself propositions.  
Nobody can do them for you!**

We must also recognize that the distinction between inner truth and external, absolute truth is an illusion. We often talk about two different worlds, an inner world of experience and an external world of realities. We differentiate between inner strength and external worldly power. Personal integrity and character give us inner strength, whereas external power is wielded by society's ruling elite, which exercises power over the population through control and manipulation, usually for its own glorification and gain. The artificial differentiation between inner and absolute truth, between inner and external power, between inner beliefs and external reality, exists only because our internal world is segregated from external reality. It is out of touch and inconsistent with the outside world. We need to bring the two into balance and harmony. Otherwise, we will continue to lead a schizophrenic existence.

How this can be accomplished is a question of utmost philosophical and sociological importance. Adjusting our inner world to conform with what our deluded human society perceives as reality might beckon as an easy compromise. But besides leading to death and destruction, it would mean abdicating our responsibilities, and it would deny our divine heritage and our innate moral convictions. Just as Immanuel Kant [*Critique of Pure Reason*, Königsberg, 1781], expressing his awe about the grandeur of the starry cosmos without and the moral principles within, we cannot ignore our connections with our spiritual nature and the universal truths. Any thinking person should realize that human society has taken the wrong turn a few centuries ago and is now in the fast lane, barreling headlong towards moral and physical suicide.

We have raped mother Earth and have amputated her limbs by driving an uncounted number of her life forms into extinction. We have denuded her forests, squandered her resources and destroyed her natural beauty. We have poisoned her rivers, lakes and oceans, polluted her soils and her atmosphere, all under the pretext of liberty, property rights and progress. Through lack of self-control and faulty reasoning, we have burdened Earth with more children than our ecosystem can sustain. We have done so in a selfish effort to validate our existence and prowess. We have confused and misled the masses with religious half-truths and called it faith and devotion. We have abused power and called it politics, economics and diplomacy. We have inflicted unimaginable pain, suffering and death upon human populations in order to maintain and enforce political power structures.

During the last few decades of the second millennium, the crises afflicting Earth's society have been reaching the boiling point. We have allowed our governments to become bloated bureaucracies, which spend our hard-earned money on weapons of mass destruction. We have allowed these bureaucracies to rob the resourceful and industrious benefactors of society in order to reward the lazy under the guise of fair taxes and welfare. We have allowed them to use criminal force and state sanctioned executions in an effort to contain street crime, instead of eliminating the causes of criminal behavior. We have allowed our elected representatives to be bought by special interest groups, whose greed and corruption work against the well-being of life on this planet.

We have run after pleasure and instant physical gratification, but have neglected to nourish our spirits. We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle. We have killed the unborn and called it choice. We have fouled our communication channels with violence and profanity and called it freedom of speech. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have exploited the poor and ignorant and called it lottery.

It is time for each individual to wake up and take corrective action, while striving to influence society as a whole to save it from decay and destruction. Instead of capitulating to an ignorant society, we must reform our beliefs and attitudes, so as to build an inner world of truth and conviction, thereby transforming society from within. As indicated above, the internal world of the individual and the external world of society are not separate and thus can only be healed as a unit. We have a hope of accomplishing this, if our beliefs and attitudes are solidly founded in the eternal natural laws of the universe and are in alignment with the Creational Spirit.

There is no need to search for the truth. The truth is always readily observable. It is simple, abundant, and it can be found everywhere and anytime. Seldom is it hidden. Yet most of us do not make the commitment to recognize the truth when we see it. For it takes wisdom to recognize the truth, to sort the wheat from the chaff, the true reality from the deceptions, illusions and lies. Wisdom teaches us to distinguish, to pick out the sparkling diamonds of truth from among the glitter of worthless would-be truths.

#### **The power of distinction is vital.**

Many deceptions and lies masquerade as the real thing. Even in the natural world such mimicry is common. Harmless snakes take on the threatening color patterns of poisonous coral snakes, harmless flies may look like wasps, and so on. Being able to distinguish between harmless and dangerous species can save your life.

Among human populations, differences in physical and psychological makeup also exist, and it is foolish to disregard these differences. Practicing racial and ethnic color blindness is desirable when it comes to loving your neighbor, but it can be tragic when differences in a group's biological or psychological heritage are not taken into account. Different races have different tolerance levels to drugs, are prone to different illnesses and allergies. They are motivated by different values; they respond

differently to stress, to threats and to psychologic treatment. For example, certain indigenous tribes of the Americas and Australia have a different perception of time and of what is important in life. We are not doing them a favor by forcing them to fit into the industrialized way of life of white society, or by imposing our Caucasian work ethics on them. This is precisely why Afro-Americans and Native Americans suffer in Northamerican society, why their economic well-being is below average. It is a tragic consequence of not recognizing their differences.

**Recognizing differences and making a distinction  
is prudent;  
judging a person's value because of these differences  
is bigotry.**

Life and things have no hidden meaning, they just are. We create the meaning and the values by how we live our lives. We give significance and meaning to the things and events around us by bringing them into our consciousness. The purpose of our existence is to experience life as an adventure and to grow spiritually through that experience.

**\*Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.\***  
[Helen Keller 1880-1968]

The universe with its natural laws was brought into being by a living Creator for the sole purpose of supporting life. It was created by Spirit and provides the arena for Spirit to grow and perfect itself. Spirit manifests itself and expresses itself in all there is and in all life forms, including you and I.

**Life is an opportunity for experience and growth!**

Living in truth means being aligned with the all-powerful Spirit of Creation and with its laws and principles. The universe is with us when we come from the truth. For a while we can deny the truth, but it does not change what is and what is not. We can cheat and lie to get what we want through the power of our ego. Such

alienation from the all-supporting spiritual life force, however, will cause us to live in a non-responsive universe. Ultimately all must come back to the truth, because that is where the real power resides. The truth is not what our president or we pretend it to be, but what the Eternal Spirit designed it to be. Real truth is endowed with the power of Creation. There is nothing else of value. By living in conformance with the laws of nature and with the will of Creation we learn to recognize the truth.

Is recognizing the truth and telling the truth the same thing? Yes, one is a consequence of the other. Once we have recognized the truth, we have an obligation to live according to this truth and to pass it on, to tell it like it is. To live a lie and tell a lie are not only deplorable, but are the most basic blockages that impede a person's spiritual growth.

In order to find the true nature and purpose of life, we must embark on a journey of personal discovery.

**The search for the truth is a journey of self-discovery  
out of the darkness of ignorance  
into the light of understanding.**

Understanding sifts the truths from the falsehoods in a person's mind. The emphasis here is on understanding, not just on being aware of it or superficially knowing it. We all have accumulated a lot of knowledge, but we understand so little. Only through wisdom can we recognize and understand the truth. Knowledge can make us powerful, but wisdom makes life joyous and meaningful. As we will explore in a later chapter, recognition of the truth allows us to break our inner chains, making us free. The creative and responsible exercise of this freedom then leads to a more joyous experience of life. This is also expressed in the biblical scriptures:

**\*And you shall know the truth,  
and the truth shall make you free.+**

[John 8:32]

At birth, we instinctively know the truth. But we soon forget it, because we are preoccupied with learning the physical survival skills necessary to sustain our lives. Also we are busy developing our individual personality and are learning to relate meaningfully to our surroundings. After the first two decades of life, we have secured our physical well-being by having adapted to the rules of nature and society. At that stage, we know how to assert ourselves to obtain what we need while maintaining our personal sovereignty. We have also made progress in controlling the part of our mind that is capable of rational thought; and we have succeeded in programming our thought processes, often incorrectly and in a manner that is not logically self-consistent.

The need to assert ourselves as individual entities, separate from the rest of the world, may at first appear as a step backwards in light of the spiritual truth that all living spirits are one and the same. The latter realization, however, comes only after sufficient spiritual growth makes us wise enough to accept this reality. Hence we must look at the ego stage of our spiritual evolution as a necessary stepping stone toward enlightenment, and we must do so without guilt.

To fulfill our mission of spiritual growth in this life, we need to rediscover, as an adult, our connection with the universal life force, the Spirit of Creation. This religious inquiry starts with a deliberate effort to commune with life and the nature spirits, and with rediscovering who we are by turning our attention inward. The movement is from the shallow layers of existence to the deeper roots of life. As we progress, we become environmentally sensitive, abhorring all destruction of nature and all brutality afflicted upon living beings. Not only do we honor our body as the temple in which our spirit resides, but we also recognize and appreciate the natural ecosystem of planet Earth as our life-sustaining mother.

The initial, most important step in our earthly mission is to wake up to the realization of our spiritual heritage. We need to accept that we chose to be here for a divine reason.

**The path, as well as the goal, is spiritual growth  
C for its own sake.**

To embark on the narrow path leading to enlightenment, we must be willing to discard our learned preconceptions and wrong beliefs. For many of us, our Earthly teachers have not been gifted with true wisdom. Thus, we need to be fearless and daring enough to throw out the old concepts and find the truth anew. By transforming our beliefs and convictions, and by living according to our newly found wisdom, the world will automatically be transfigured for the better. To restructure our minds and our belief systems, we must be prepared and willing to overcome the inertia in ourselves and in society, which tries to maintain the status quo. Truth is not arbitrary or elusive, we only need to be willing to recognize it when we see it. Our willingness to recognize and accept the truth is all we need. Such is the road leading to truth and freedom.

**\*Be not conformed to this world,  
but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.+  
[Romans 12:2]**

Persons following their individual paths in their quest for truth and freedom will advance their own personal growth. But will society as a whole advance and benefit from this? The answer is yes, society will progress and benefit, because it consists of individual persons who progress. Society and its people are one and the same and have to support each other in a symbiotic interrelationship. If they do not, society will become impoverished and will thereby keep its members from flourishing, which in turn impoverishes society further. The interdependence is a vicious circle, amplifying all tendencies. It will drive the society and its people in a positive or negative direction. Culturally, a society will either advance or decline. A static society is not stable and thus does not exist. This argument must not be construed to mean that the population must increase for a community to prosper. Often the opposite is true. For society to keep prospering physically, intellectually and

spiritually, two interactive processes must become well established within that society. To support personal growth, it is essential that:

1 Society must have a self-correcting mechanism for *accumulating* knowledge and wisdom and for amalgamating newly recognized insights with previously established facts, so as to build this body of knowledge and wisdom into a consistent and logical world view. The body of knowledge and wisdom is never complete or without error. It needs to be amended as it grows in an ongoing process, in which new insights replace previous theories, assumptions and *facts* that are found to be in error. The body of knowledge and wisdom is the foundation of human culture and must be safeguarded. It is the source of capability and power in the society. It affects all areas of human endeavor, including science, philosophy, religion, law, art, sociology, politics, industry, economics, health care, environmental concerns and so on.

2 Society must nourish personal development by *dispensing* true knowledge and wisdom to the younger generations in a supportive and loving manner. This educational support must be provided in a nonauthoritative way by guiding the thought processes of students on their path of discovery, emphasizing logic and spiritual insight. The educational system must address the needs of the bodies, minds and spirits of the young and must assign the proper resources to satisfy these needs. Students must be taught without bias and in conformance with the natural laws of Creation. Transfer of knowledge and wisdom is needed at all levels of the community, in the family, in institutions schooling mind and spirit, as well as in social programs connected with arts, sports, nature and recreation.

Thus, society needs to preserve and perpetuate knowledge and wisdom in order to have a guaranteed future. We may ask: How well are Earth's civilizations meeting these requirements for sustained cultural evolution? Western science appears to do a good job of accumulating, updating and preserving knowledge of material things and processes. But it falls pitifully short in the philosophical and spiritual arenas. Science takes no responsibility for making unwise

decisions, as was amply demonstrated by the abuse of nuclear energy for death and destruction. Furthermore, the science establishment has become authoritative and biased. New ideas, observations and discoveries are often ignored, suppressed or hushed up if they do not fit the theories of the establishment. Prime examples are the scientific debunking of spiritual phenomena, of UFO experiences and of prehistoric archaeological discoveries.

On the spiritual side, our religious institutions, churches and cults are more concerned with domination and ritual than with spiritual knowledge, the source of wisdom. The three world religions originating in the Middle East have failed miserably in their obligation to provide people with truth and purpose in life. The major Eastern religions were founded on ancient philosophical wisdom, but have since also been corrupted during the last few millennia. Whereas all organized religions contain kernels of truth and wisdom, the messages given to lay people are designed to confuse, rather than to enlighten a person searching for truth and freedom. For spiritual teachings to be of value, the motive for dispensing spiritual wisdom must be pure and not be contaminated by ambition, greed, envy and lust for power and control.

Knowledge, logic, wisdom and love belong together. They do not simply coexist but are interdependent. Similarly, our scientific knowledge and spiritual wisdom must be consolidated for true values to emerge. The separation of religion and science, or of church and state, is not healthy for the future of humankind. It makes it extremely difficult to establish and teach values based on truth and wisdom.