

Political factions are clamoring against each other for the right of opinion; philosophers and scientists are arguing about the truth of their various theories; all over the world conflicting thought centers are springing up, each professing itself the only dispenser of the absolute truth and man finds himself wondering just what is truth.

As long as man has been in existence I suppose he has sought for truth without recognizing it when he had it firmly in his grasp.

Many generations ago when the Roman Empire was at the height of her glory and the weight of her dominance was felt by a host of people there arose in her midst a master mind who said to those oppressed "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free". And the people eager for deliverance, cried out, "The truth! Give us the truth that we may be free!" They were told the meaning of truth but they could not comprehend and so we hear the echo of those words and of the billions like them quivering down the ages with an insistent appeal - "The Truth! what is truth?"

And for every such questioning voice there is another calling, "Follow me, I alone can give you the Real Truth!" And blindly the people follow, little knowing or understanding the purpose of life.

So to you of this present day - you who have acquired much knowledge of many things, I ask, "What is truth?"

Those who are idealistically inclined will answer, "It is reality!" And those who are founded upon a cold scientific basis will answer "Fact" Others will say that truth is that which is opposed to untruth or is that which is good. To those who gave the first two answers I shall say you are correct so far as you have gone but I shall proceed to catch you in a net of your own weaving. The latter answer that truth is that which is good is utterly misconceived and evasive.

Let us, therefore, get down to real analysis. Just what is the truth about truth? You have said that it is Reality and if I were to ask you to define reality you would be compelled to admit that it is that which has actual existence, and yet you speak of the real and unreal. You have a set standard for Reality. Does not everything that is known have apparent existence? How else should it have become known?

What of those that say truth is fact- explaining further that it is that which can be proven. Let me ask you this-proven to whom and by what and for how long? Again you must have a set standard of discrimination. Must it be proven by man's laws or theories that have already been given recognition? Then you are putting a limitation on truth. Must it be proven to all people or only to one who is able to see beyond the perception of his fellow-men? Proof can only go so far as a man will accept and truth to each man is only that which he has experienced either by mental realization or physical expression, and yet truth is universal. It is the sum total of action. Every smallest quivering frequency in the whole cosmos is truth-true because it perpetuates action. I shall bring all of my statements down to a perfectly logical, matter-of-fact foundation.

Most of the world's intolerance is due to the misconception of truth. Men fight to death for their individual concept of it when a little wisdom would show them that they are only a step apart in the same hall of learning, but due to the fact that every individual intelligence has a slightly different degree of understanding truth to each is slightly different. Intolerance is a mark of ignorance, for a developed intelligence is able to view sequences of action that shows each separate action to be relatively true. And because all sides of a question are understood he is bound by none. This type of intelligence does not condemn those who see only one phase of the truth. Instead he will point out the pitfalls or limitations that follow the course of thought that the individual is indulging in.

Truth is action-the whole action of which every part is true. Small truths lead into greater truths and one small truth cast out as false can block the progress of a civilization, as has been shown by the history of the past.

Because men do not understand the meaning of truth and are therefore intolerant, there has been a span of over a thousand years of scientific darkness that might have been used to bring the slowly evolving civilization to a higher standard of human expression.

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free". And the truth is that all things are true-true in a relative sense. I grant you-relative to all other parts, but until men recognize and give due consideration to the Cause of all actions they will never be free. Only in uniting our efforts, acknowledging a common purpose can we bring civilization to a unified state of understanding and progress.

Truth is like a great picture puzzle-a mosaic, as it were, and each man's individual expression is a part of the total composition. The mature individual realizes life as a succession of duties to be performed. Because there are diversified concepts of life does not mean that only one can be correct. No, all are true. Whatever is conceived in the mind of man is true to him for the moment just as every act of nature is true whether it be of creation or disintegration. Man's ideas may be used unwisely because he has not enough knowledge to use constructively in relation to other truths, but that does not mean that the results establish a fact.

Our purpose in life, then, is not to personally judge between the true and the untrue but to so coordinate our own being with nature that we may unite the knowledge of Cause and Effect.