Truth II: The Only Truth Existing Essay, Research Paper

Truth

The Only Truth Existing

[This is my second and last essay of Philosophy 201]-RJ

The Only Truth Existing

“We are, then, faced with a quite simple alternative: Either we deny that there is here

anything that can be called truth – a choice that would make us deny what we

experience

most profoundly as our own being; or we must look beyond the realm of our “natural”

experience for a validation of our certainty.”

A famous philosopher, Rene Descartes, once stated, “I am, [therefore] I exist.” This

statement holds the only truth found for certain in our “natural” experience that, as

conscious beings, we exist. Whether we are our own creators, a creation, or the

object of

evolution, just as long as we believe that we think, we are proved to exist. Thinking

about

our thoughts is an automatic validation of our self-consciousness. Descartes claims,

“But

certainly I should exist, if I were to persuade my self of something.” And so, I should

conclude that our existence is a truth, and may be the only truth, that we should find

its

certainty.

From the “natural” experiences of our being, we hold beliefs that we find are our

personal

truths. From these experiences, we have learned to understand life with reason and

logic;

we have established our idea of reality; and we believe that true perceptions are what

we

sense and see. But it is our sense of reason and logic, our idea of reality, and our

perceptions, that may likely to be very wrong. Subjectiveness, or personal belief, is

almost

always, liable for self-contradiction. Besides the established truth that we exist, there

are

no other truths that are certain, for the fact that subjective truth may be easily refuted.

Every person possesses his or her own truth that may be contradicting to another

person?s

belief. A truth, or one that is true for all, cannot by achieved because of the constant

motion of circumstances of who said it, to whom, when, where, why, and how it was

said.

What one person may believe a dog is a man?s best friend, another may believe that a

dogs

is a man?s worse enemy. What one may believe is a pencil, to another is not a pencil,

but

a hair pin. Where one may believe that a bottle is an instrument, one may believe is a

toy,

where another may believe is a beverage container. Where one will understand the

moving

vehicle “car,” one might understand “car” as a tree. Our perception of what is true

depends on our own experiences, and how something becomes true for us. Many

circumstances are necessary to derive at one?s truth, whether it is an idea, object, or

language. All perception, besides the perception of existence, is uncertain of being

true for

all individuals.

Every thought, besides the idea that we think, has the possibility that it may be proven

wrong. The author of the article, Knowledge Regained, Norman Malcolm, states that,

“any

empirical proposition whatever could be refuted by future experience – that is, it could

turn

out to be false.” An example could be the early idea of the earth being flat and not the

current perception of the earth being round. History tells us that at one time, the

perception of the earth was thought to be flat. This notion was an established truth to

many because of the sight and sense that people perceived about the earth?s crust. At

one

point, to accept the newer truth that the earth is round, meant that, what one believed

was

true, really wasn?t. And, what if, at some point in the future, we were told by a better

educated group of observers that the earth is not round, but a new shape we?ve never

even perceived before? Would we agree to the scientists? observation that they have,

themselves, agreed to this more accurate shape of the earth?. We would probably

agree to

change our knowledge of truth to the observations of experts. This is an example that,

what we may have once believed to be the absolute truth, may be proven wrong at

any

time. And what we actually know, may not be the truth after all.

Truth may also be refuted through the identified appearance or sense of an object. A

great modern philosopher, Bertrand Russell?s, idea of appearance and reality

explains that

perception of a table and its distribution of colors, shape, and sense, vary with each

point

of view. Commenting on the distribution of color, Russell states that, “It follows that if

several people are looking at the table at the same moment, no two of them will see

exactly the same distribution of colours, because no two can see it from exactly the

same

point of view, and any change in the point of view makes some change in the way the

light

is reflected.” What one person sees the table as green, one might see as red at

another

viewpoint. And what might seem to have color is actually colorless in the dark. What

one

might perceive as being rectangle, may look oval in another view. What may sense

the

table to be hard by a touch of the fingertips, may be soft by the touch of the cheek.

Determining hardness of the table depends on pressure applied and judge of the

sensation.

No assumptions can be absolutely true because there is no determining factor in

choosing

the right angle to look at or sense the table. There are no determining factors in which

angle or measurement is better to judge than the other in sense of color, shape, and

feel of

an object. Every object is determined self-contradicting which can be refuted by

questioning its perception and even the existence for its use.

Our experiences from our “natural” existence gives us a bias of all that is true, which

is

self-contradicting. The ideas and objects that we encounter are determined true by

personal evaluation in the relationships of those ideas and objects in connection with

our

being. The relationship of the ideas and objects in connection with another person?s

life

may be contradicting to my own beliefs. “I am, [therefore] I exist,” may be the only

statement with any validity of our certainty. We cannot test the validity of our reality,

reason, logic, and perception in relation to all individuals, but we can test to the

validity of

our existence by thinking, therefore, being.

Put your paper here.