

Truth and Opinions

HARD QUESTIONS AND TRUTHFUL ANSWERS

If you take time out from your everyday routine, the various tasks and activities that make up your life, to consider the bigger picture - what your life and this existence is all about - you may consider that this world and our lives to be a very strange and perplexing phenomenon.

The following questions do not have any obvious answers.

What is the meaning of Life?	What am I doing here?
What am I?	Who am I?
What is really important?	Where did the universe come from?
How should I behave?	What happens when I die?

It is precisely because there are no easy or comfortable answers to these questions that many people avoid thinking and wondering about them and instead immerse themselves in the 'ordinary' issues, practicalities, and pleasures of life. Nevertheless these are important questions and they deserve serious consideration.

In order for a person to question and/or answer any query, that person must have a desire to know the Truth as it relates to the question being asked. It does not matter whether the answer is pleasant or unpleasant, comfortable or uncomfortable, expected or unexpected, wanted or unwanted. Genuinely asking a question implies a desire to know the answer – the truthful answer.

DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

EXISTENCE

If there is no existence, if nothing exists, then this text would not exist and you would not exist. It is therefore indisputable that there is an existence and that you and I exist. The nature of the existence may be open to debate, but the fact that there is an existence is not.

REALITY

Reality is that which exists. It is independent of human awareness. In order for something (or someone) to be real it must have an *absolute* existence – an existence that is not reliant on anything, or anyone, else.

TRUTH

Truth is that which is rooted in reality. Truth/Reality/Existence are absolutes and are not measured against anything (or anyone) else. Truth is the absolute standard by which the reality of all things, and everyone, can be judged or measured.

No individual truth is in conflict with any other truth. Truth forms a complete and consistent whole that is totally independent of anyone's perception of reality. If something is not true then it has no real existence however much anyone believes it to be true.

Creatures (created beings) are capable of altering the physical world but are utterly incapable of *inventing* any truth. Scientists cannot create laws of nature, only discover them. Inconsistencies in accepted laws of nature indicate an erroneous or incomplete understanding of reality.

OPINIONS

An individual's view of reality may be accurate or inaccurate and may exist on a sliding scale between completely accurate and completely wrong.

Consider the following opinions:

- (a) Your professional *opinion* may be that a computer relies on the movement of electrons through silicon. (Accurate as far as it goes)
- (b) Your professional *opinion* may be that a program you are debugging is taking a particular path when in *reality* it is taking another route. (sincerely mistaken)
- (c) An individual who has no knowledge of computers, but wants to appear as if he does, may have an *opinion* that computers involve the movement of hydrogen atoms in charcoal. (ignorant and arrogant)

Are opinions (a), (b), and (c) equally valid? What makes any one of these opinions any more or less valid than the others?

The validity of an opinion increases the closer it conforms to reality (Truth). It is less valid the more it diverges from the Truth.

We can change a raw piece of silicon into a computer by physical manipulation *within* the rules of physics. However, we cannot change raw silicon into a processor simply by thinking it is a computer, or by simply desiring it to be one

Value is to be found in the Truth (because it is *real*). Anything that is not rooted in Truth is worthless (it has no real existence). A £20 note in the hand is valuable – you can use it to purchase something. Fantasising that you have £1,000,000 in your hand is worthless – you cannot actually purchase anything with it.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(1) Is there such a concept as ‘My Truth’ and ‘Your Truth’?

Truth does not belong to anyone. It has an independent existence and is not dependent on the views of any person for its validity. No creature can own or invent Truth but an individual can know the Truth. Therefore there is no such thing as ‘my truth’ or ‘your truth’ – these are oxymorons.

(2) Is the opinion of one person as valid as the opinion of anyone else?

The opinion of a person, who claims computers work using hydrogen and charcoal, is not as valid as the opinion of a person who believes computers involve electrons moving through silicon. The validity of an opinion is only dependent on how close it is to reality.

Reality can be discovered through *reason* and *experience*. I.e. through logical arguments, mathematics, and the laws of nature, and/or from physical observation.

(3) Can we apply these arguments when considering the meaning of life?

The important point to bear in mind about one’s opinion concerning the meaning of life (or lack of meaning) is how close the opinion is to the Truth. In order to *discover* whether life has a purpose or not, one must have a desire to know the Truth and have reverence for Truth.

It is possible to argue with consistent logic that:

PROPOSITION ONE: “*There is an Absolute Meaning to Life*”

- (a) There is an existence.
- (b) This existence is Real.
- (c) Truth is what is Real
- (d) Existence, Reality, and Truth are valuable and important.
- (e) I can know the Truth.
- (f) Others can know the Truth.
- (g) Knowledge of Truth is valuable.
- (h) The laws of logic reflect Truth.
- (i) My opinions are valuable when they reflect Truth.
- (j) Other people’s opinions are valuable when they reflect Truth.
- (k) My opinions are worthless when they are not true.
- (l) Other people’s opinions are worthless when they are not true.
- (m) It is valuable to express these concepts.
- (n) I can know the Truth about myself.
- (o) Each person can know the Truth about his or her own self.
- (p) It is valuable and important to know the Truth about myself.
- (q) It is valuable and important for each person to know the Truth about his or her own self.
- (r) Knowing the Truth about oneself and being ones True Self has an absolute value (meaning).
- (s) There is an absolute meaning to life.
- (t) All of the above are true and are consistent within themselves and with the rules of logic.

QED

The opposite proposition, which is logically inconsistent and collapses into a heap, is:

PROPOSITION TWO: "There is NO Absolute Meaning to Life"

- (a) There is no absolute meaning or purpose to existence.
- (b) There are no absolute values
- (c) There is nothing with which we can measure value or validity.
- (d) There is no such thing as 'value'.
- (e) No opinion is valuable (no such concept)
- (f) This proposition has no value.

QED

Proposition one is logical and consistent. It is understandable in terms of both reason and experience.

Proposition two is illogical and inconsistent. It is not a reasonable proposition and cannot be confirmed by experience. It is unreasonable to state that simply because one does not know the answer to a question then the answer must be false.

It is also unreasonable to state that a question that does not have any obvious answers is an invalid question (or a 'non-question') as I have heard some eminent scientists state. Science is built upon the desire to truthfully answer questions that often have no obvious answer. The 'non-question' stance of some scientists is absolutely *unscientific*.

To publicly express proposition one is consistent with logic and all the arguments presented in this proposition. I.e. that expressing proposition one is valuable because it is expressing an *absolute* Truth, that Truth is an absolute, Truth exists, Truth is valuable, and that expressing proposition one is valid and valuable.

To publicly express proposition two is not consistent with logic or with the arguments presented in the proposition. I.e. if there is no absolute meaning to life then there is no absolute value in anything in life, and therefore no value in expressing this proposition. Furthermore, unless there is an absolute Truth on which to base this proposition it has no relevance to any other person since each person would define their own reality.

Proposition one is solid and consistent and may legitimately be expressed loudly and clearly. Proposition two is like a 'house of cards' which collapses in on itself, or to put it more crudely – proposition two 'disappears up its own backside'. It is foolish to believe proposition two or to express such beliefs in public.

CONCLUSION

The value of beliefs and opinions increase the more they reflect the Truth. Truth can be known, but not invented according to our desires. Truth can be determined through logical argument. Although we cannot *prove* the validity of mathematics and logic, they seem to represent the real world. Thus, we have *faith* in mathematics and logic. Inconsistencies in logic are taken as evidence of invalid arguments.

Reverence and appreciation of Truth are important prerequisites for avoiding a foolish life. This is particularly important when considering who and what one is. Human persons have a capacity for self-deception. Without making special efforts to discover and know oneself, a person can go through life with an idealised image of their own self. An idealised image is not the Truth and therefore does not have a real existence.

The vast majority of persons go through life without ever knowing who or what they are. These people squander the opportunity to know the real person they are. Of what value is an idealised image of oneself, an image that does not represent reality? It is of no value at all. The process of discovering the Truth about oneself leads us into the realm of spirituality. Much can be said about the spiritual journey, but that will be left for another time...
