

ORTEGA Y GASSET: TRUTH AS PERSPECTIVE.

What is truth?

And not the opposite-of-a-lie kind of truth, but the feeling inside of knowing something. That kind of truth.

Here is a quick quote from Albert Einstein.

“If you can’t explain it to a 6 year old, you don’t understand it yourself.”

I will try to follow the suggestion from this quote and it is very possible that, six & seven year olds, and some advanced five year olds may understand this better than some adults.

So what is truth?

Let’s say we have a ball, the ball is two colors, split down the middle. Half of the ball is orange and half is green. Two people are standing on each side. Nobody is allowed to lie and must tell the truth.

Remember, it is not a test for verbally spoken truth, but rather the feeling of knowing, believing kind of truth.

The person on the left tells the person on the right, “it’s an orange ball.”

The person on the right answers, “No, it is a green ball.”

And they begin to argue about it.

This is what the person on the left sees (an orange ball).

And this is what the person on the right sees (a green ball).

One person sees an orange ball; the other sees a green ball. What is the truth?

Let’s bring in a third person.

That person is YOU. The person watching this video.

You see two people arguing whether a ball is orange or green and you know that the ball is both colors. You also know that neither person can see the other side of the ball. So you know from their point of view that they are both right.

This would be your perspective, or point of view, or truth.

Now, a fourth person is standing nearby and knows that there is a yellow light shining on the ball that nobody else sees which makes the ball look orange and green when in fact, it is a red and blue ball.

So what is the truth now?

Let’s use this multi-colored soccer ball to represent many people and let’s say each person can only see one spot or color on the ball. Once again, no one is allowed to lie and must tell the truth.

After everyone finishes saying “it’s a yellow ball”, “it’s a blue ball”, “it’s a white ball” and all the other colors, the ones who see yellow start grouping together because they see the same thing. And the ones who see blue start grouping together because they are seeing the same thing. And each group starts thinking that the other groups are wrong. So they all begin arguing about who is right.

The word truth means “a fact or belief that is accepted as true or something provable or verifiable.”

Have all the people who see the ball as yellow proved and verified that the ball is yellow? Yeah. Have all the people who see blue verified and proved amongst themselves that the ball being blue is indeed a fact? Yes again.

Now, remember that no one is lying. So let’s bring in a third person again. YOU.

What do you see?

Don’t you wish you could just tell them all it is a multi-colored ball and that they are all wrong? Or should you see if that fourth person is somewhere nearby with more information than what you already have?

Can truth change?

Well, if the two people in the beginning were shown that the ball has two colors, one on each side, then wouldn’t the truth that they believed in the beginning change?

And if they met the fourth person, who knows about the light, wouldn't it (the truth) change again?

Truth could be thought of as just a temporary belief of knowing something in a moment of time until it advances and then changes.

"Today you are you, and that is truer than true, there is no one alive, who is youer than you."

-Dr. Suess

Relativism states that each one of us has our own truth, thus there is not only one unique truth, different people have different ideas about what is true or false, and every person has their own reason. All reasons are valid. That was what Nietzsche thought about truth. Nietzsche defended relativism.

Ortega y Gasset were not a relativist philosophers, they were vitalists. Which means that life is the most remarkable philosophical concept. Our particular life is our "circumstance", in other words: the way you understand life, your values, your concerns and your point of view about human matters depend on the moment in history that you live.

Therefore, your idea about what is true or false is different from your parents' idea. Because your existence develops in a different time. It is more likely that your idea of what is true and valuable look more like that of your friends. You and your friends share a historical time, consequently you and your friends share a similar idea about truth. Ortega y Gasset state that you share the same "perspective" with your friends .

Who has reason, your parents or you? What is the truly truth?

As the video shows, your parents can see only the green side of the ball, whereas you see the orange side. Your perspective is different. But there are not two balls, one for you and one, different, for your parents.

Similarly, there are no different truths. Ortega explains that there is only one truth but it is understood from different perspectives. A super-mind could see all truths, in other words, all the perspectives. But this super-power, thought Ortega y Gasset, is only possible in a kind of a philosophical God.

1- According Ortega y Gasset, what is "perspective"?

2- Nietzsche is a "relativist", what does it means?

3- What is the difference between relativism and vitalism relating to the truth?

4- Could anybody get the whole truth? (compare Nietzsche's and Ortega's answers to this question)

Watch video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb46sTEhcY8>