

Uncertainty and Truth

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All ideas are fractal. For every position, there is a counter and under each position there is a hydra of justifications and definitions proclaiming why each position is valid. I struggled with this as I entered adulthood, I still struggle with it now. This fact of the human experience can make it easy for one to take a nihilistic framing of the truth. The more I learn about the truth, the less I think that you should run from the innate essence of its ambiguity. I don't find it scary anymore, I think it is one of the beautiful aspects of life. My perspective can change at any time in almost any position. Your duty as a man is to know when life has brought you to a place where you must have a change of heart and learn how to effectively handle it. Facing uncertainty and dealing with new understandings of the truth is what man has done since the dawn of time.

We tend to think that we live in a new era in which things are so different from the past but this is not the case at all. We are constantly exposed to new ideas, new peoples, new places and new challenges every day but this is how the world has been since the beginning. A farmer in the 1300's might have farmed every day for most of his life but he never knew what was on the horizon. There could be a fire, a foreign army coming from distant lands, a tyrannical king coming wrong to his people, a new plague sent to destroy his family. To think that life was any simpler in times past is comical when you realize what men of the past went through everyday. Life has never been simple. No one has ever conquered the unknown. There has always been uncertainty and questions about what is true. Our time is no different.

I think it is important to not get lost in the quest for truth. It is more important to live and deal with the immediate challenges that face your day to day life. This is the only way to live. The ancient farmer didn't have time to dread over whether or not a drought was in the near future that would wipe out his crop. He simply sowed his fields and dealt with the challenges when they appeared before him. If he were to constantly spend his time thinking about a drought, he would never even get around to plowing his fields, and then he wouldn't be able to reap the harvest during the seasons when a drought doesn't occur.

I imagine it becomes much easier to deal with droughts, storms, famine, plagues, wars, et. as more of these events occur. Hardships are an aspect of life that must be dealt with, along with triumphs. What is most important is to not get lost during hardship and forget that triumph is also an aspect of life. The same is true for the pursuit of knowledge. The more exposure you get to challenges of your beliefs/ideas, the easier it is to accept when you are wrong and adjust your framing accordingly. A man should know when he is wrong. I have always known when I was wrong. I am becoming better at accepting my lack of understanding of the world and not becoming too concerned about being incorrect in the past. This is the only way to live. Every single great thinker/mover has wildly evolved their views over the course of their lives. Every one of them went through struggle and strife. We have collectively debated their ideas and the collective's opinion on those ideas has changed as the experiences of the collective has changed.

I do not think this means that there is no truth. I think instead that our understanding of the truth is malleable and that it is outside of our capabilities as mere mortal men to understand the infinite and true nature of the Old One. We only get hints and glimpses of the infinite, we are not meant to understand it in its entirety. This is why there will always be a push and pull towards left and right, freedom and restraint, piety and unrighteousness. To search for truth is to roll the boulder up the hill but the boulder will always fall back down. One must learn to be happy to pick it back up and attempt to carry it to the top.