

## What is Revelation Movement?

"What is truth?" the Roman Governor Pilate *said* to Jesus dismissively, in response to his claim, "I have come into the world to reveal the truth" (John 18:37-38).

Why do you think Pilate didn't *ask* what truth is. Is this significant?

It is. It helps us understand our age. Pilate didn't *ask* for the same reason which made the postmodern Oaksterdam University (founded in 2007) invert an emblem of the modern age, the seal of America's first institution of higher learning, Harvard University, founded in 1636. Representing the new America, Oaksterdam has replaced *VERITAS* (truth) with *CANNABIS*—marijuana, a drug used by many Pagans to induce mystical enlightenment.



Oaksterdam may be extreme, but is there a secular professor in an Ivy League university today who can claim that he or she knows the truth—or is even seeking the truth? Why does this matter?

It matters because rejecting the very possibility of knowing truth *will* turn America into pagan Rome. Syracuse University has just appointed its first Pagan chaplain. *Avatar*, an unabashed apology for Paganism, has become the highest-grossing movie of all time.

Half a millennium before Pilate, Greek philosophers thought that the human logic could know the truth because *Logos*—i.e., logic, reason, sense, or word—was at the root of the

universe. If so, the Greeks should have sought revelation from *Logos* (the Divine Word). Instead, some Greeks thought that man was clever enough to find truth by his own rational effort. But it didn't take long for Skepticism to question philosophy's capacity to discover truth. When Alexander's military expeditions led to Skepticism's encounter with Buddhism, Greek intellectual confidence hit a dead end. Skepticism turned into cynicism. Religion was left without any foundations in truth—empirical, historical or philosophical. Myths were made up to promote Gnosticism just as is being done now by imaginative thinkers such as George Lucas, Dan Brown and James Cameron.

Following the Greeks, the Hindus, and the Buddhists, Roman intellectuals also concluded that the human mind was not an instrument designed to know the truth. In the absence of truth, what should govern humanity?

Pilate was a part of a Roman Empire that had been using myths, rituals, superstitions, and terror to enslave the world. Jesus was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus, who had turned republicanism into a sham. For parliamentary debates make sense only if our minds can know what is right and good. After Augustus, every Caesar began his reign by declaring that his predecessor was god. (Since a god can govern without a Senate) A religio-political myth, "Caesar is Lord" sustained Rome's brutal, intolerant imperialism. Needless to say, the contemporaries experienced Roman Empire as a kingdom of Satan, not as a kingdom of god.

Jesus saw Rome's subjects as "weary and heavy-laden," "sheep without a shepherd," "harassed and helpless," a people whose leaders had become "wolves." Victims of Rome's intellectual-political absolutism saw Jesus as a good Shepherd: a Messiah, who lays down his life for the sheep. The masses followed him in search of *shalom* (rest). Jesus said to his followers, "If you abide in my word (revelation), you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

The foregoing is not ancient history: there are plenty of totalitarian regimes today who allow no dissent, who suppress truth. The quest for truth is the very rationale for tolerance and liberty. In an article on this website, you will learn that tolerance was institutionalized as public policy following the arguments of John Milton, the Westminster Confession, and John Locke, so that free inquiry and discussion could make it possible to discern what is true, beautiful and good.

Can the human mind know what is true?

By the time I had gone through my undergraduate course in the history of Indian as well as modern Western philosophy,

I knew that

my professors knew that

the philosophers knew that

they did not and *could not* know the truth.

Modern rationalism, which began with Rene Descartes in the seventeenth century, ended the same way as Greek rationalism did. It was dismantled and deconstructed by its own logic. Today's universities know that (in the absence of divine revelation) human logic, rationality, and language can have nothing to do with truth. The cynicism that governed Pilate's intellectual world now rules ours. The dogma that defines our age says: Anyone who claims he knows the truth must be a bigoted fundamentalist.

The simple problem is: Is that child a bigot who insists, "I *know* that my mother loves me"? The child may be mistaken: he may be flattering or lying, but can't he also *know* truth? Can't his mother actually love him enough to lay down her life for him? If even a child can reveal truth in words, then could our cynicism toward ancient creeds be an expression of the bankruptcy of postmodern outlook rather than the nature of reality?

Revelation Movement exists to address the great gulf that divides the modern and postmodern world: that is, the possibility of knowing truth and the profound difference truth makes. Medieval and modern Europe were built on the Bible's revelation that the Creator had made human beings, including human minds, in His own image. Our minds were designed to learn, know, and communicate what is true, good, and beautiful. That confidence empowered Europe to pursue knowledge and make discoveries in theology, philosophy, history, science, politics, and law. The sanctity of the Constitution, for example, rests on the *logocentric* belief that words written by one generation can encapsulate truth and wisdom that should be binding on all generations.

Our age no longer believes that *Logos* (divine Mind) is the ultimate reality. It thinks, as did Pilate, that truth, goodness, and beauty are only our "constructs," means we invent to manipulate each other. In the absence of truth, politicians now pander to the desires of their constituencies; journalists are becoming "spin doctors" rather than objective reporters; and the media is making money by titillating our baser instincts. Even the natural sciences, once dedicated to following the evidence wherever it might lead, are now militantly suppressing evidence and distorting data for the sake of money or power.

So, how can we know the truth?

At the end of my course in philosophy, I began to feel that perhaps the Buddha was right. We humans may well be like the five blind men who were trying to know the elephant. "The elephant is like a snake," said the man who touched its trunk. "No, it's like a pillar," said the man who touched its leg. "You're both wrong—it's like a rope," said the man who touched its tail. And they began to quarrel.

Is this is the human condition? Doomed to quarrel forever because each of us, with our limited capacities and very limited experience, perceives reality differently? Or should we inhale marijuana, sit in meditation and practice Tantric or Gnostic sex to figure out the elephant in some non-rational mystical experience?

What if there is a sixth person who is not blind? Someone who knows and can say to me: "You think that the elephant is like a pillar because you are holding the leg. If you moved back a few feet you will be able to feel the 'rope' which is actually the tail." What if this sixth person told me that the tusk of the elephant is white?

If I am born blind, the concept of "white" would make no sense to me. But if I told you, "I know that the tusk is white," would I be telling the truth? Even though I am blind, is it not possible that I can know something of the truth if a person who knows reveals it to me? Revelation makes it possible for us to know and believe truth things about matters we don't fully understand.

The concept of blindness makes sense only if there is at least one person who is not blind.

Language is revelatory. My professors were *revealing* to us that revelation was impossible. They taught that while they ("the blind men") could speak, their creator could not possibly speak. That didn't make much sense to me. They wanted us to believe that while they could write books their creator could not possibly arrange to have His point of view written. That sounded arrogant. "Maybe," I said to myself, "you write books because you are made in the image of someone who has, and given you the ability to write one." If extraterrestrial intelligent beings exist, why can't they reveal to us what they know? That started me on a journey to examine if there was someone who knew and was kind enough to reveal the truth to us.

My discovery surprised me. My intellectual pilgrimage resulted in three books that explore how divine revelation resulted in India's nineteenth century renaissance. My latest book *Truth and Transformation* offers a *Manifesto for Ailing Nations*. Currently I am finalizing my next book, which explores how revelation reformed the West. If you subscribe to this website, you can access the content of my forthcoming book and much more as audios and videos. An 11-part video series is entitled "Must the Sun Set on the West? An Indian Explores the Soul of Western Civilization." A four-part video series explores, "Will America Become A Kingdom of Darkness?" An 8-part video series, "Wisdom from India," examines subjects such as yoga, vegetarianism, reincarnation, etc. Your monthly support will enable us to keep adding new resources.

Truth matters. German philosopher Nietzsche, who died in 1900, said that since we (the blind European philosophers) had killed God, everything (including goodness, beauty and truth) that flowed from God must die. Then Europe will be governed by nothing but brute force, the "Will to Power." Nietzsche's contemporaries thought that he was crazy. But within a generation, graduates of German universities were running history's most infamous mass-murder machine. Hollywood can make paganism enticing, but the consequences of America's rejection of truth could be far more terrifying than Nazi Germany's. Your study and participation is invited to help turn the tide.

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