

The truth is out there (and in my pasta pot)

There is no objective truth! This is what many deep and philosophical intellectuals claim and preach with such a firm conviction that reveals at least one objectively true statement they believe in unconditionally. But in fact the thesis "there is no objective truth" is a contradiction in itself. If it were true, then at least true statement would exist.

Ergo, there is one objective truth. If one true statement exists, there can be two. And if there can be two the existence of 20000 is possible. What I am trying to say is simply that there is truth, an objective, absolute, unquestionable truth in many areas concerning us humans and the world and universe around us.

However, it is true that one objective truth cannot be found in certain fields like, for example, morality. (Is capital punishment good or bad? An answer to that question can be neither objectively true nor false.) But in other fields objectively true statements can be made and we rely on them every day even those who do not believe in them. Thinking about all this makes me hungry. I think I'll have some pasta. I'll go to the kitchen, put some water on the stove (in a pot of course) and boil it. For some reason every time I switch on the stove and put a pot full of water on the hotplate, the plate gets hot after some time and a little bit later the water makes funny bubbles and is hot as well. It works every time I do it. My friends tell me the same. It even works in other countries and cultures. Furthermore, I was told that the stove is not absolutely necessary. It works even over a nice, hot coal fire. Some objective truth seems to be behind all this. Water makes funny bubbles when it gets hot. Let's have a look.

OK, the water boils and I put the pasta into it. (The pasta always gets softer, easier to bite and more tasty to eat after some time in hot water.) Coming back to the water, I think we all had to learn once "water boils at 100°C" and we all experienced this as an objectively true statement. Now some will say: "If I add salt or increase pressure, the temperature when water starts to boil is higher or lower." But does that increase in complexity mean that there is no objective truth concerning water and the fact that it boils under certain conditions?

No! Objective truth apparently cannot be captured comprehensively in simple statements like "Water boils at 100°C", "E=mc²" or "There is no objective truth". But that does not mean that it does not exist. We know that water boils every time the plate gets hot enough.

The problem with objective truth is that it can be very facetious and complex. That is probably the reason why we doubt and question the objectivity of truth easily and not without pleasure compensating the frustration resulting from the fact that we often realise that we are not able to grasp the objective truth completely. (But this is just

a little Freudian theory of mine.)

Accepting the fact that an objective truth exists raises the question whether wo/mankind will ever know everything there is to know objectively.

Will we ever have the complete objective truth at hand? I do not think so. Not with our limited brain capacity. I do not think that there will ever be a person of the human race with our state of development who is able to explain, for example, where the universe ends and what is behind so that it is objectively, unquestionably true.

Concepts like infinity and eternity seem to be unfathomable for us, even if the best people try to deal with them. Obviously, the whole truth is unattainable for us. And even if wo/mankind were to find out every single fact, one individual person would not be able to know everything. We will always have a subjectively limited view of the world. But that does not mean that there is no objective truth. It is only the reason why people deny the existence of an objective truth. The two concepts "there is an objective truth although we have only a subjective view of it" and "there are only subjective truths" have completely different implications. Denying the existence of an objective truth enables us to claim virtually anything without any need to argue for/against it. Everything has a claim to some truth anyway. This is the death of all scientific research and thinking. It is impossible to use someone else's results (which are exclusively subjective) and build upon them to make progress. The stove that I have just switched off because my pasta is soft and edible now would have never been invented, planned, constructed and built unless the people who did that had not made use of the objectivity of truth.

Let me taste it quickly before I continue. Yummy, it worked again. This is the implication of the belief in an objective truth. Even if we cannot explore it completely, we can know and use bits of it. Our limited view on the truth can be widened. We can learn and know more; by learning new things our horizon widens. We can document what we consider to be true so that future generations build upon it. Sometimes they find out that something was wrong, but sometimes a true thing was found that can be built upon. This is pleasure people who jump from one subjectivity into another do not have.

Nevertheless, they can visit me, join me for some pasta and we will continue this discussion. In fact, I could be wrong. But people who do not believe in an objective truth cannot even be that. Eat this and Mahlzeit!

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