

THE GREAT IDEA: TRUTH
From the Syntopicon

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

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|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1. The nature of truth | 1a. The signs or criteria of truth: methods of verification
1b. The relation between truth and being or reality
1c. The relation of truth, goodness, and beauty | |
| 2. The modes of truth and falsity | 2a. The distinction between truth and falsity in the mind and in things: logical and ontological truth
2b. The distinction between truth of statement and truth of signification: the distinction between real and verbal truth
2c. The distinction between theoretical and practical truth: conformity to existence and conformity to right desire
2d. The comparison of human and divine truth: finite truths and the infinite truth
2e. The distinction between truth and probability: its relation to the distinction between knowledge and opinion | |
| 3. Truth and error in relation to human knowing and learning | 3a. Truth in the apprehensions of the sensitive faculty
(1) The truth of sensations: judgments of perception
(2) Truth in the memory and imagination | |
| | 3b. Truth in the acts of the mind
(1) The truth of ideas: concepts and definitions
(2) The truth of propositions: the special problem of judgments about future contingencies
(3) Truth in reasoning: the truth of premises in relation to the truth of conclusions; logical validity and truth about reality | PAGE
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| | 3c. The principle of contradiction as the foundation of truth in judgment and in reasoning | |
| | 3d. The nature and causes of error
(1) The infallibility of the senses and the mind: the respects in which they are incapable of error
(2) The nature and sources of error in human perception and thought: the distinction between error and ignorance
(3) Rules for the correction or prevention of error in thought | 930
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| 4. Comparison of the various disciplines with respect to truth | 4a. Truth in science and religion: the truth of reason and the truth of faith
4b. Truth in science and poetry: the truth of fact and the truth of fiction
4c. Truth in metaphysics, mathematics, and the empirical sciences: the truth of principles, hypotheses, and conclusions in the several speculative disciplines
4d. Truth and probability in rhetoric and dialectic | 932 |
| 5. The eternal verities and the mutability of truth | | 933 |
| 6. The accumulation or accretion of truth, and the correction of error, in the progress of human learning | | |
| 7. The skeptical denial of truth | 7a. The impossibility of knowing the truth: the restriction of all human judgments to degrees of probability; the denial of axioms and of the possibility of demonstration | 934 |

7b. The defense of truth against the skeptic

8. The moral and political aspect of truth

8a. Prevarication and perjury: the injustice of lying or bearing false witness

8b. The expediency of the political lie 935

8c. Truth in relation to love and friendship: the pleasant and the unpleasant truth

8d. Civil liberty as a condition for discovering the truth: freedom of thought and discussion 936

8e. The love of truth and the duty to seek it: the moral distinction between the sophist and the philosopher; martyrdom to the truth