

## Question

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Can you help me to better understand the distinctions between the meanings of the words "true", "real", and "actual"?

Answer by Chris Halvorson

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Toward further understanding of "real" and "actual", consider, for example, the origination of the Eternal Son. As a conceptual sequence, the Eternal Son went from a potentiality to an actuality, and then to a reality. The Deity Absolute is the reservoir of the potential for spirit substance. In the Deity Absolute, the form (body) of the Eternal Son was a potentiality. When this potential was actualized by the First Source and Center, the Second Source and Center became an absolute, infinite, purely spirit actuality--but not yet a reality. The superadditive relationship between the First Source and Center and the Deity Absolute "is" the spirit body of the Eternal Son.

The First Source is the reservoir of will, and individuated will is personality. When the First Source and Center bestowed personality upon the Second Source and Center, that actuality became a reality--the Eternal Son, a person; and also the Universal Father became a reality. Personality is spirit pattern, and pattern purposes substance. A spirit reality is a purposed spirit actuality. Likewise, an energy reality (a power) is a purposed energy actuality, purposed by energy pattern (usually referred to as simply "pattern", in contrast to "personality"). The superadditive relationship between the First Source and Center and the Unqualified Absolute "is" the energy actuality of the Isle of Paradise, and the reality of this relationship is between the power of the Paradise Isle and God the Father as the Universal Controller.

Now, in regard to "true", truth is the superadditive consequence of the relationship between fact and goodness; it is the dynamic flow from the individuality-likeness of fact toward the unity-likeness of goodness, and vice versa. The words "fact", "truth", and "goodness" express the threefold form of our mindal relationship to the threefold actuality of the cosmos--the harmony of things, meanings, and values. Since there is no truth without fact and goodness, to label something as "true" is to indicate that it is a facet of an integrated cosmic whole. True religion is cosmically integrated with true science through true

philosophy. Also, truth is living: you can obey truth, but you cannot obey fact or goodness.

When you, as a person, choose to obey truth, you purpose the spiritual actuality (the goodness) in your mind, making it real, along with the whole threefold cosmic form of which it is a facet. Such reality of conformity with the cosmos is righteousness. However, if you purpose ungoodness (badness), you make it unrighteousness (wickedness). Merely giving ungoodness form in your mind is evil, but to choose to pattern such an ill form is sin. And since giving ungoodness form in your mind gives untruth (falsehood) form in your mind--which is error, even if the badness is in relationship with fact--sin is also the act of consciously choosing to obey falsehood.

Notice the parallel between "actual and real" and "true and righteous", and it is important to remember which word in each pair indicates a relationship with pattern. Righteousness is the "reality" of conformity with the cosmos. In contrast, truth indicates the "actuality" of conformity with the cosmos. If you are right with the cosmos, you are perforce true to the cosmos; but pattern must be chosen. Nothing, no actuality, is automatically purposed.

Conformity with the cosmos means conformity with God the Mother; and since the mother-likeness of God is not as distinctly personal as the father-likeness of God, this conformity is directly more of an actuality than a reality. If I were to say that I really and truly had a wonderful time visiting with you, what I would mean by that statement is that both my spiritual personality (my Father-likeness) and my mindal self (my Mother-likeness) had a wonderful time--my personality, whose will is consecrated to the perfect will of God the Father, and my self, whose mind is consecrated to the cosmic harmony of God the Mother.