

Truth is hierarchical

by Caspar de Nada

This subject is intimately related to the concepts of the subjective and the objective and their relationship.¹

Before we go into the subject of the truth, there are two words that need to be defined first and those are truth and reality. It is not uncommon to find reality defined in dictionaries as: “The quality or state of being actual or true.” and truth defined as: “reality; actuality”.

Reality however is more accurately defined as *agreement* as to what is. There may not be such a thing as: “the truth” at all.

Truth as in “Is it true what you are saying?” could be defined as follows: Truth is a word describing a property of a communication relay, giving the degree of correspondence of what is communicated to reality.



Truth then is relative and contextual. That is to say it depends on who is saying so and what the circumstances are that surround the relay of the communication.

Absolute truth in a more philosophical sense could be said to be infinity, which is tantamount to the undefined and so can be absolute.

All else is relative truth. Can we get any closer to describe what may lie between the absolute and the relative truth? Yes, there is a concept that would be useful in providing a measure of degrees of relative truth.



There may be a hierarchy of truths. A well known model is the so called DIKW Hierarchy. (Data, Information, Knowledge, Wisdom). Ackoff’s original line up had a level between knowledge and wisdom: Understanding.

The common factor in such a line-up is increasing understanding as one goes upwards. More understanding one could say is more alignment of data, patterns and then principles.

If we take the following objects, a Rotan chair, a kitchen chair, a bar stool and a armchair we can easily name a common denominator. All the separate things mentioned are yet united at a higher level, this is the concept level of *chair*. Chair is then a symbol for a class of objects. Similarly one could take chairs, tables, cupboards and unify these under the heading or concept of furniture.

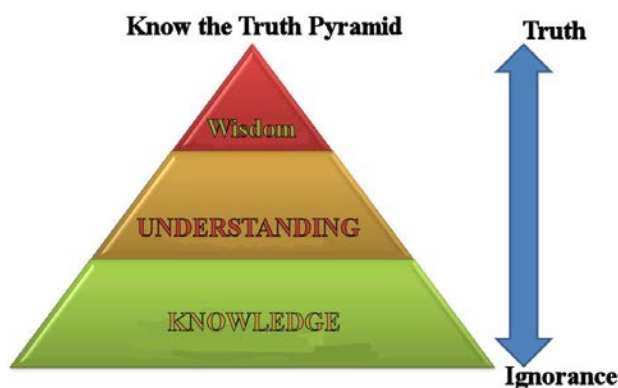
Using the same analogy for truth, we can see that greater understanding would provide a higher level of truth. So how can we measure the degrees of relative truth?

By using the following definition: *truth is the degree of unification of data and knowledge provided.*

When finding out the actual truth about something, you get those data that make you think ‘aha’. The truth has a higher explanatory power. Let’s say one is puzzled and irritated by a red bump on the skin which is followed the next day by a few more such bumps. Once it is found out that a few tiny insects were at work, the whole thing starts to clear up and even more so when one finds the hole in the wall through which they entered. The higher truth is actually the realization that we humans are not alone on this planet.

Reading the words of a sentence one puts together the meanings of the individual words – which often have more than one meaning – and it is not until one got each word correctly in the context that actual conceptual understanding will emerge. The complete concept of the sentence is the higher level truth.

If more understanding goes along with more truth and we more understanding in terms of more integration of data or a simplification of formerly unrelated data to form a significant new whole that encompasses all the data harmonically – Harmonically in the sense that they fit together.



The truth value of a datum or set of data can then be given as the relative height in the pyramid of truth, the highest level being absolute unity and full understanding, the lowest being disharmonic, unrelated, mysteriously disconnected data. (For example modern education teaching unrelated facts)

On the lowest level – not shown in the triangle - we find a complete reversal of truth leading to extreme disharmony. Such as exemplified in the poster of the ‘ministry of truth’ to the right. (George Orwell’s 1984)



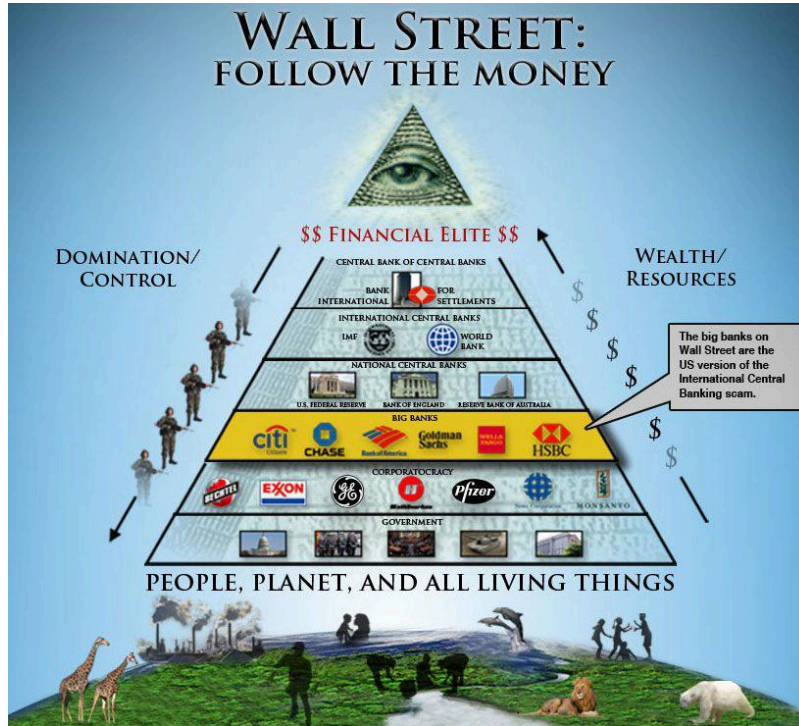
There are many other collections of data, on the bottom level, lacking integration or harmony, consisting of unrelated or mysteriously disconnected data.

An example is modern physics, as taught to university students, where endless particles are being studied leading to more and more mathematical complexity instead of more understanding, where gravity does not make much sense as a one-way (unipolar) vector where most of the other phenomena are bipolar and many other problems and confusions exist.²⁴

Modern education, being a control operation³, intent on making workers and functional literate individuals who can operate in tune with the requirements of the consumption world order, will generally lead to a dispersed knowledge, that is not connected and does not give a true insight into how the society actually functions.

Very few people learn anything about how the banking and money systems function in the

society in which they live, let alone how the mind works or how to get along with others in an optimum way, instead they are taught the history of wars and conflicts.



Now let's look at an example where the higher level of truth also aligns to the highest level of power and of the financial establishment. On the top there will be a much greater level of understanding of the world from the financial, power and control viewpoints.

This is an example where hierarchal truth is being applied

only to one aspect of reality, as the top level in this case is still far from a high level of truth.

As has been said before context is the key!

The advance of science will depend a great deal on the willingness of scientists to free their methods from the restraints of what is called *the scientific method*², which is limited to experimental proof mainly based on a three dimensional reality. If there are many more dimensions to be taken into account to make some sense of how things really work, then it is hoped that more scientists will embrace the many other – spiritual – sources of wisdom that are available beyond the realm of so called hard science.

¹ N. Huntley. Article [THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVITY](#)

² N. Huntley, The Emerging New Science.

³ John Taylor Gatto - the underground history of American education

⁴ Wallace, The Farce of Physics