

Universal Truths

One of my personal "obsessions"-- so to speak -- is to figure out the truth. I have been seeking the truth most of my life, and I believe there are levels to the truths I have found. My journey is never done. I have studied and participated in many diverse religions. My premise went against the teachings of my childhood church. I was told that God no longer spoke to people and hadn't since the Bible was written. I thought that perhaps God did talk to many people in many different cultures, and that if He or She did, certainly I would find things that people had in common in morals, ethics and a basic sense of wrong and right. I never believed that the Lutheran faith was the only way to the truth. I did discover, after 40 years of living experientially, that God or Goddess did indeed talk to many peoples, and that there are universal truths woven into the dogma and tenets of many different religions.

Love is a universal truth. Love is everywhere, even in nature. Animals love their young and take care of them. Some animals mate for life. Our pets undoubtedly love us, and often each other. 1 John 4:8 states that "God is love." On this premise God must be everywhere. I however believe it is more precise to say the Spirit is love. Most religions believe in the Spirit, even if they don't call it that. There seems to be a prevalent belief that there is Something that links us all together and links us to divinity. The Spirit must be the truth, then. It must be a reality. I have personal experience interacting with this Spirit that further convinces me it is a truth. I believe Spirit is an appropriate name for this entity, because many cultures use the word Spirit, in one form or another, to describe it even if different adjectives are used to describe it.

I believe that communication is an instinct of ours. Even when we try not to communicate -- we do anyhow. Furthermore, music is a universal language. We communicate raw emotion through music. The words may not be universal, but the music is. There are so many ways we can communicate with the Spirit. I'm not sure it matters to God or Goddess what name we call them by, actually. Many people believe that God and Goddess have many, many names. And They communicate with us as well in almost as many ways. Non-verbal communication counts as well. It is the intention with which we communicate that counts. Spiritual rituals and tools vary from culture to culture and person to person. It doesn't really matter to God or Goddess what tools we use. They really aren't the important part. If the request is sincere, it will most likely be answered. The Spirit knows what is in our hearts. That seems to also be universally accepted. It must be true that God or Goddess knows what is inside of us.

I'm rather fond of the expression, "all rivers run to the sea." Although, you have to be sure you're actually on a river.... Rivers have banks and/or boundaries. There are rules in life. Complete chaos is not good for us, and is not real freedom. You have to be on a river, and not stuck in a swamp.... If you actually go looking for God, you will most likely find Him or Her. God doesn't believe in atheists. You either believe in love, or you don't. People who truly do not believe in love, do not love others and tend toward hatred. Hatred is frowned upon by most faiths I have studied. It is not good for us. Love wants others to be in a better place, healthier, and feel good about themselves -- since emotional health includes good self-esteem and self-confidence. When we act against love we "sin." For example, sex without love is a sin; it doesn't make us feel good about ourselves in the long run. Sins keep us from feeling good about ourselves. Hatred is not a

river, it is a bog or even quicksand that will drag you down and I know that to be a universal truth too.

Speaking of hatred, rape is frowned upon by most of the world religions as well. Rape, especially against children, is an unforgivable crime (which is worse than a simple sin....) Murder is wrong, unless it is actually an act of justice. Capital punishment is a controversial issue, no matter where you are, but could be the right thing to do to hard core criminals.... Free will seems to be something we all agree on, in general. Freedom is our right and responsibility. Mythology and history abounds in stories where God or Goddess intervened on behalf of our freedom from oppression and slavery and such. People who do these things do them of their own free will.... And pretty much deserve what they get.

Everyone is created equal, therefore we all deserve our freedom. It seems to be accepted in many of the world's faiths that all have some spiritual gifts. Believing in "psychic phenomenon," the supernatural world, and spirits is very universal as well. There is an unseen world that we only get to catch glimpses of. It likely also follows that we would become a part of that world when we die. If the Spirit is love, love doesn't like to lose anyone forever. It only makes sense that there is life after death. Jesus said "Blessed are the poor in spirit." That means that the Spirit takes care of those that don't have many gifts and/or high intelligence. The statement supports the idea that the Spirit is love....

The "Shaman's Journey," as I call it, is also something that is often recommended in many worldwide faiths. The concept behind the shaman's journey is to leave everything of our material reality behind us, venture out, become "one" with nature, and wait for a vision or communication of some kind from the Spirit. The Spirit is everywhere, including in nature, and many faiths revere nature as a form of divine expression. The purpose of this is for us and the divine beings that are to get to know each other better. We co-create our realities with this Spirit. Many people believe in the power of positive thinking. Our perceptions affect how we experience reality. Since the Spirit knows what is in our hearts, we will "attract" our heart's desires. This is a basic premise of "magick" in many of the world's religions. Magick is simply focusing one's will to achieve a desired end. It cannot happen without a divine being....

Life is sacred in most people's beliefs as well. The sacred spaces vary widely between people, and to me this illustrates that everywhere is someone's sacred space. This only makes sense because the Spirit is everywhere. We can get in touch with God or Goddess anywhere we are at. This, too, is a universal truth. It is important we respect all life and all things that are sacred.

We co-create our Heaven as well. Life after death is almost universally believed in. Most people believe we end up somewhere more pleasant when we die. The scenery and ambience of this place can vary from person to person, and culture to culture, but I believe that Heaven, as I call it, is a universal truth as well. I have much faith in such a place, and personal experiences that support the idea that God, Goddess and Heaven are very real.