

Article 46: Forever Living

We will begin describing Forever Living by declaring that you never know or experience individuals or things as they are, you perceive them **as you are**; ...and that's your greatest problem, difficulty, and frustration in life: since you don't know yourself, everything you believe, or think you know, is based upon false and misleading assumptions. Now, these are pretty broad and unequivocal statements, so let's see if we can, to your satisfaction, show that they are true ...and help you resolve this situation. But, before we can do that, you will probably deny our statements by saying, "But **everything** I believe can't be wrong because most things we believe today have been proved! Well, let's see if that's true; ...or are your beliefs like a primitive view of a flat earth resting on the back of a giant turtle?"

Years ago, when Einstein was lecturing to a group of physicists about his theory of relativity, he declared that, while Newton's view of a steady universe following constant laws and truths worked well for hundreds of years, this concept was, in fact, wrong. And when Einstein advised the scientists to reconsider all of their beliefs, assumptions, knowings, and certainties, they responded that it's impossible to know anything in a universe that is everywhere relative, following different laws for each observer, and constantly changing, because, to know anything, they had to have at least one steady or fixed point around which, or relative to which, everything could be known. "In your world," they declared of Einstein, "everything is relative and different, and nothing is fixed, ...so nothing can be known." In response, Einstein told the scientists to choose **any desirable point** in the universe ...and know everything relative to that point. He said they could then relate to and know each scientist's discoveries and field of expertise merely by understanding the relationship between the various established points of reference.

For you, one thing exists in every belief, thought, attitude, behavior, experience, circumstance, and situation in your life; ...and that one thing is **you**. You are the established point within everything in your inner/outer world, ...but, unfortunately, by not knowing yourself, you cannot really know anything in your life, ...for, remember, you only know things as you are. Ohh, certainly, you'll defend yourself, and your decisions and actions, by pointing to all the things in your life that "work", ...but, that's like Newton's universe that seemed to work well for centuries ...though it was completely wrong. As a result, for many, many lifetimes, you've been following, and in all things struggling with and against, a confusing standard of good/evil and right/wrong ...in the hope of "discovering" the truth of yourself and life, so you can live the happiness and wellbeing you desire. As Einstein advised

the physicists to establish a single point around which to know all things, we ask you to **declare yourself** and stop the endlessly futile struggle to discover and guide yourself by using good and evil as **two** conflicting points of reference. Besides, if you don't know yourself, you cannot know what you are looking for, so how could you possibly discover yourself?

In ancient Greece, a traveler, approaching the gate to Sparta, was confronted by two men, one of whom asked, "Stranger, my friend here is from Sparta, and he says that all Spartans are liars, ...is he telling the truth or lying?" If you assume the man is a lying Spartan, then he is telling the truth, ...and if you assume he is telling the truth then he is lying, because he is a truth-telling Spartan. Try as you will, you cannot resolve this "seeming" paradox (called the liar's paradox). In the same way, by using any opposing duality such as good/evil, nothing can be known or resolved, ...matters only get more complex and confusing. Centuries ago, Parmenides, a Greek philosopher, declared that, from the beginning, men have created many things that are not--such as evil, which is not good; hate, which is not love; or resentment, which is not forgiveness--and then struggled endlessly against those "not-things". Nothing in life can be shown to be, in and of itself, evil or bad, ...all things are judged to be evil or bad only as opposed to what is declared to be good, ..just as lies **seem** to oppose truth. **It is the self-constructed, false conflict between good and evil which makes life a burdensome struggle.**

