

Untruth by Paul Constant

The Law of the Reversed Vector states that you cannot approach the Truth. You must become [a vector], but you cannot learn the absolute Truth. We must back into the Truth by backing away from untruth. —Richard Rose

In 1984, when I first encountered this bit of advice while reading *The Albigen Papers*, I was baffled by the thought of *not* finding Truth through a headlong acquisition of knowledge. Up to this point, the efforts that brought me to the door of a true spiritual search involved a keen interest in psychic phenomena. My teen years were filled with reading books and fueling a desire to manipulate objects and people with my mind. I also wanted to read others' minds as if I could turn on a switch and throw light on their innermost thoughts. Obviously, these fantasies were born of ego gratification.

In retrospect, such endeavors had nothing to do with a search for Truth. They are, in fact, personal examples of *untruth*. In examining my own life, I was fixated on acquiring supernatural powers and correcting personality flaws that I believed were hampering my search, especially in the early years. For example, personal pursuits of seeker-perfection included a strong desire to be more assertive and eschew all feelings of intimidation while engaging others in daily affairs. The desire for personality perfection was an untruth. But surely Richard Rose meant something more profound when he encouraged seekers to back away from untruth and employ the reverse vector. In a lecture titled "[Zen and Common Sense](#)," Rose said, "...if you train yourself to avoid the untrue, to reject and reject and reject as you find stuff absurd, you can only go in the opposite direction. Your intuition...[is] going to be skilled or directed or trained to move into a computation that is valid as opposed to something that you'd just like to believe because you're tired."

Along the way, it became apparent that the answer to life's mysteries involved an inward examination through honest self-inquiry and self-definition. Gurdjieff's and Ouspensky's advice (*In Search of the Miraculous* and *The Fourth Way*) involves rousing us from "waking sleep." Several weeks after reading these books and while on my way to a college class, I was startled as I woke up and became the watcher for a few minutes. The possibility of watching thoughts was no longer a concept; rather, a small realization occurred—up to that point in the day, the mind's activities had completely carried me away as if in a dream. Complete submersion in the mind became an untruth. A few months later, while reading Rose's *Psychology of the Observer*, I vividly recall puzzling over the prospect of whether I was, in his words, a Process Observer. Was I the Observer, or was I simply the observed mind processes? Who was the *true* Paul?

For many seekers, reading books and Web site material or listening to audio recordings can become an obsession. Numerous books and sites offer inspiration that encourage us to keep moving on the spiritual search. However, reading or listening to others may also become untruth. With enough introspection, some seekers will know they aren't going to learn the answer—they have to take action. Somehow, they have to *become* the Answer.

I met Rose for the first time in 1985, at the age of 22, during an August "Chautauqua." At these annual events, he invited spiritual seekers to his West Virginia farm to get the most out of introspection. His discussions encouraged us to observe mental processes and to become aware of the Observer. Some of us employed techniques that offered shortcuts on the spiritual path, including celibacy. Depending on the seeker, a celibate lifestyle can serve

as a temporary holiday from the loss of energy and the engagement in the games of life. Celibacy can improve intuition and reveal even more absurdities and untruths about ourselves and spiritual "systems." Rose encouraged each seeker to become a very determined person—a vector. He also advised us to *get our head on straight and get our house in order* by eliminating bad habits, including odd sexual practices, excessive alcohol, and indulgence in illicit drugs. In turn, discarding these untruths would keep us out of the mud and lead to a clearer mind, which enables a seeker to contemplate deeper questions about themselves. Often, I mulled over seemingly unanswerable questions about myself, life, and the spiritual path, and weeks or months later, answers would suddenly arrive out of the blue, and with conviction. Thus, I got my first glimpses of the true value of intuition.

As the years passed, I realized that Richard Rose was a crutch—meaning, I depended too heavily on his words to inspire me into action or to offer quick fixes to life's problems. This is not to imply in any way that Rose was an untruth. Without him, I would have been cast adrift at sea, floating for eternity in the doldrums. Encountering someone who has "made the trip" will shave off years of floundering on the spiritual path. In fact, as Rose faded due to his tragic debilitation from Alzheimer's Disease in the mid-1990's, my path became murky once again. Later, while encountering others who had experienced a maximum Realization, I understood that completely relying on a teacher—or for that matter completely relying on *anyone*—was untruth too.

A stark reminder of the true source of all answers is found in the works of Joseph S. Benner. Benner wrote *The Impersonal Life* as though the Absolute ("My") was speaking to the reader:

The time has arrived, if you can see it, when you must cast aside all accumulated knowledge, all teachings, all religions, all authority, even My authority as expressed in this and My other *outer* revelations; for I have quickened you to the consciousness of My Presence *within*, to the fact that all authority, teachings and religions, coming from any *outer* source, no matter how lofty or sacred, can no longer have any influence with you, except as they become a means of turning you *within* to Me, for My *final* authority on all questions of whatsoever nature.

And so it goes, you can't simply believe a teacher or what is written here; you must *know* the untruths for yourself.

Retreating from error. Employing the reverse vector. Backing away from untruth. These are phrases that Richard Rose used often. Rather than postulating an end result, the seeker doubts what he or she reads or hears, but maintains an open mind about the possibility of discovering helpful shortcuts. At some point along the path, determined seekers will have turned over every stone, looking for answers beneath. Each stone or untruth has been discarded, yet it is necessary to know with certainty that the stone did (or did not) remove erroneous concepts or beliefs, at least until we move on with improved intuition. In essence, the stones may serve as truth (small "t") until they become untruth. Diligent seekers know with certainty that tracing the awareness back to its Source is the only valid stone

remaining. The path becomes ever narrower until a cataclysmic shift occurs and the "I"—the mind—is left behind during the experience of One Awareness. The final stone is lifted for us...

The process described above is akin to unraveling a ball of yarn. The steadfast seeker unwinds layer upon layer, down to the inner core. Where substance was once contained, Nothing remains when the ball is completely unwound. Does not Nothing exist without the yarn?

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~ [The Albigen Papers](#) contains more information on the Maximum Reversal Technique and other *Laws* by Richard Rose. For more essays and articles by Paul Constant, visit [SearchWithin.org](#).

