

## Philosophy: Truth Lies Here by Rich Norman

I have been trained in the noble and ignoble discipline of philosophy. As a psychologist, I will introduce a philosophically uncharacteristic honesty into the discussion and expose the tricks behind the following truth: "The one who is victorious may claim the right of victory, but may yet, be far from right." In philosophy we are taught the practical application of logic and rhetorical expression so as to advance a position of argument. Please note that once it is stripped of its pretense, we can see the truth behind the philosophic facade which claims that philosophy is the pursuit of Wisdom, and might rather be rightly convinced that it is a practical matter to know these things, or: "It is wise to Win!" Few professors are brave or brazen enough to expose the matter as such, and I was fortunate to have one, Dr. Norman Care.

Dr. Care trained us with humor and challenge, exposing the utility of our minds and the way in which a supposed relation between one's truth and one's words is but farce itself. He would pair us off and assign a position to each, then, have us argue. I am pro-choice. I was assigned a pro-life position. Nothing could be farther from my belief or the truth as I understand and know it, however, I am an adept wrestler and will not be defeated! Soon the argument begins and I see her weak spot and strike, she becomes flustered and I advance with cool disregard, now more quickly, taxing her reserves. Soon, I have won. The lesson is clear: The better wrestler holds the laurel, truth is a but a fickle appearance! As an atheist I am reminded of the great Socratic argument deducing as a logical necessity the immortality of the human soul by way of the foundational assumption that the ideas of even and odd numbers are mutually exclusive. So it is plain: The problem with Logic "lies" at its foundations.

The next weeks taught me more, and soon I had found a fault in Professor Care's argument. I raised my hand and advanced the idea. His cool reply was indicative of a man in a superior position and indeed, he never lost a point. He was correct. I decided to try a stratagem, in truth I had no other recourse as he was correct, so I simply repeated my objection in different language, and he volleyed, and repeated his reply, cool and reserved. Again, I tossed him the ball back, and again he replied, but this time, his affect changed and he was a bit annoyed. A small crack. I rephrased and feigned stupidity, and again, the ball was his. Now he is irritated. As in boxing, I have engaged his emotions and reduced his intellect... he is becoming angry! A small thing, as he has more intellectual capacity than I, and can easily afford the loss. But now, he points to his example on the blackboard with great force, slapping his arm against the slate with a smack, the button of his sport jacket caught between the hard slate and his protruding wrist bone, and, "Ouch! Damn it!" Ha! His annoyance has beaten him! I have won! It just goes to show: Even the most intelligent man has a button somewhere. Look for it. Philosophy: Truth Lies Here.

Oregon resident Rich Norman, is a writer and musician with degrees in philosophy and music. Known as "The Laughing Recluse," he is the author of books spanning philosophy, psychology, and novels, with topics ranging from psychoanalytic theory to

existential philosophy, verse and fiction. All text in this column is printed with the permission of, and remains the sole property of, the author, Rich Norman. Contact: [rich@richnorman.com](mailto:rich@richnorman.com)