

# What If Anything Has Changed About Human Nature In the Last 2000 Years?

Post by "BrainToBeing" of January 8, 2024 at 9:31 AM

## [Quote from Don](#)

Epicureans accept that the material universe exists "independent of our perspective on it." In fact, the universe existed before we were born and will exist after we cease to exist. That aspect of what you're calling "Truth" doesn't seem to be that big of a deal from my perspective.

[Don](#) Thanks Don. It might be that our use of the word "truth" is different. For example, it might be that you use the word "truth" to mean "accurate perspective". In that case we could take the view that "Truth" ("T") is "fully accurate or unassailable perspective". If that is the way Epicurus and you use the word that is fine with me. This is then just semantic differences in our use of the word truth.

In the life I have lived in medicine there was a different problem: opinion versus objective accuracy. For example, during the opioid epidemic I would have people come to me claiming 10/10 pain and "needing" opioids while they would sit in the waiting room chatting with family, eating munchies, and watching television. The claim did not match the objective data. In many examples of medicine there was marked differences between claims and what objectively might be called truth. In another kind of example I would see people claiming complete disability from back pain while fraud investigators had videos of them out playing golf with friends, moving in a perfectly normal fashion. And, we can't forget the doctors who were handing out opioids like candy claiming their patients needed them. So, in the journey of healthcare it became clear there was opinion or claim and there was objective truth. Where they were consonant that was wonderful and gave opportunity for classical professional care to proceed. Where there were marked disparities then decisions needed to be made: do we respond to opinion and claim, or do we respond to what is objective? In the "opioid epidemic" between about 1999 and 2010 half a million people died of opioid overdoses, a significant portion from prescribed opioids. So, you can decide what criteria should be used in such circumstances.

I found it useful to think of "Truth" ("T") as objective and independent of opinion.

## [Quote from Don](#)

You're simply describing "the way things are," as Lucretius' takes the title of his work. If that's what you're calling "Truth with a Capital T" that's like a physicist saying the sum

total of all laws of physics can be called "God."

This is, of course, unfair at a number of levels. The concept of "God" (whether true or not) is based on the hypothesis of a supernatural sentience that controls the happenings of the planet. The laws of physics are not supernatural nor are they a sentience. Rather, as far as science and objectivity can tell, they are fact.

Anticipating your possible question (prolepsis) "Does a supernatural 'God' exist?" I don't know. I operate under the presumption that there is no God because I see no evidence of same - at least not one that I can affirm taking an active role in shaping our lives. However, cosmologists now advocate for the majority of the universe consisting of dark matter and dark energy - based on objective facts. So, there seems to be plenty of place to put other sentience. Therefore, I'm smart enough to know I don't know everything and cannot exclude the possibility of God. In my journey I simply leave the issue as undecided.