

Postmodern Process Theology: Applying Reason to Multifaith and the Supernatural

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The function of reason in Postmodern Theology has to come clean on the incongruence of truth in multifaith and on the question of the Supernatural. The subjects of faith and reason are often treated as though they are diametrically opposed. It frequently appears that the operation of reason is on the quiet being temporally suspended. Rather magnificently the writings of Alfred North Whitehead seem to be able to keep both alive without any apparent problem between them. Nevertheless the quandary of which of the main religions has the real truth and of the validity of the supernatural (particularly the existence of the resurrection) has to be faced in postmodern theology. The existence of the supernatural challenges the nature of truth as much as the existence of other religions. How can they all be right? This paper seeks to show how while these problems could not be resolved up to and including the twentieth century but they now form a natural part of the diversity of reasoning for the twenty-first century.

In the new regime of postmodern thinking there are no facts in the past: for history is all a matter of interpretation. Two persons present at the same event will not give identical accounts and if they do it is evidence of conspiracy. There are no facts in the future and even an omniscient god cannot know the future for the future does not exist! The only possible facts therefore relate to the present— the ever present for the facts that were just now no longer exist. This Statement of Truth relating to the present however is not so straightforward as it may first appear on the face of it. It is also anticipatory of the future. For every system is an anticipatory system¹. Alfred North Whitehead moved twentieth century science on from a World of bottom-up independent elements to a metaphysics of top-down events where everything is connectable. The present is therefore connected to the future and every present event contains the future of the whole Universe in essence.

Reason requires the singularity of Truth in a Boolean World but the postmodern mathematics of Category Theory requires a unique Category of the Ultimate and admits Brouwer's World of intuitionistic Logic. Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc may all rationally exist therefore but with a single intention although many extensions. On the other hand the word 'supernatural' does not belong in God's vocabulary. Everything is natural. There are no miracles— just signs. Where does this leave the resurrection? Rationality compels it's existence but not in the past but rather only in the present where facts reside.

¹<http://nickrossiter.org.uk/process/liege%20heather%20abstract%202003.htm>