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ON THE CREATION OF TRUTH

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How Nasrudin created Truth

'Laws as such do not make people better,' and Nasrudin to the King: 'they must practice certain things, in order to become attuned to inner truth. This form of truth resembles apparent truth only slightly.'

The King decided that he could, and would, make people observe the truth. He could make them practice truthfulness.

His city was entered by a bridge. On this he built a gallows. The following day, when the gates were opened at dawn, the Captain of the Guard was stationed with a squad of troops to examine all who entered.

An announcement was made: 'Everyone will be questioned. If he tells the truth, he will be allowed to enter. If he lies, he will be hanged.'

Nasrudin stepped forward.

"Where are you going?"

'I am on my way', said Nasrudin slowly, 'to be hanged.'

'We don't believe you!'

'Very well, if I have told a lie, hang me!'

'But if we hang you for lying, we will have made what you said come true!'

'That's right: now you know what truth is - YOUR truth!'*

"Elegant theories of sociology and psychology do not make social workers better" said the wise professor to the Dean.
"They must act and think in certain ways in order to become at-

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tuned to the reality and humanity of the people they work with."
"To swallow theories whole is to take a form of reasoning that resembles reality only slightly."

The Dean (a devout systems theorist) decided that he could and would make social workers observe the truth. He could make them recognize the elegant theories.

The Dean instituted a publish or perish program and allowed a period of time for his staff to prepare papers to demonstrate that systems theory could account for all social and psychological knowledge.

The deadline arrived and the committee was called to referee the papers and the announcement was made that the staff would be retained or dismissed according to their ability to demonstrate that systems theory encompasses all truth.

The wise professor stepped forward.

"What have you to report?"

"I am to be dismissed" the professor said "because my paper shows that systems theory encompasses all truth...it encompasses all knowledge, truth, half truth, untruth and speculation."

"This cannot be" said the irritated Dean quietly considering the equicausality of the statement.

"Very well then you must dismiss me then because systems theory cannot account for all knowledge."

"We can't dismiss you for proving the theory both true and false."

"Now you know what choosing an elegant theory truly does, it gives an illusion, the appearance of reality. The more you accept it the more you accept the errors and limits that come with it. By defining truth, a system silently creates lies."

Choose your own ending: The professor is now (A) selling love and leather goods in a head shop in San Francisco (B) Dean

P.S. For systems theory substitute ego psychology, social learning theory, medical model, etc.