

# Truth

The Four  
Domains

# Unitarian Universalist

## Principle #4:

**“A free and responsible search  
for truth and meaning.”**

**Webster: 9 definitions**

**Amazon: 444,000 Books**

**Google: 232,000,000 sites**

**So, there is plenty to read, but  
what is the truth about truth?.**

# THE NATURE OF TRUTH

Truth is  
Inherited  
Not Personally Discovered

# There are Four Domains of Truth

There is no Universal Truth

Truths are  
Irreconcilable

Disagreements between domains  
cannot be reconciled.

4 different  
**domains of truth**

based on 4 different  
**tests of truth**

producing 4 different  
**types of truth**

# Rhetorica

**Rhetorical truth  
of government and justice  
Truths of Democracy**

# Mystica

**Sacred truths of  
the mystical and divine  
Truths of Faith**

# Logica

**Reasoned truths  
of mathematics and philosophy  
Truths of Academia**

# Empirica

**Researched truths  
of science and history**

**Truths of Nature and Technology**

**RHETORICA**

**MYSTICA**

**LOGICA**

**EMPIRICA**

THE MOTHER LAND  
RHETORICA

RHETORICA

Method:  
Persuasion & Debate

MYSTICA

LOGICA

EMPIRICA

# RHETORICA

## **Temples:**

Capitols, Courtrooms,  
& Editorial Offices

## **Elders:**

Politicians, Judges, Editors

MYSTICA

LOGICA

EMPIRICA

# RHETORICA

**Example source:**

Declaration of Independence

**Example truth:**

All men are created equal.

# MYSTICA

# LOGICA

# EMPIRICA

THE HOLY LAND  
MYSTICA

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

Method:

Interpretation of  
Scripture & Revelation

LOGICA

EMPIRICA

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

**Temples:**  
Churches & Sanctuaries

**Elders:**  
Clerics, Gurus, Ideologues

LOGICA

EMPIRICA

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

**Example Source:**  
The Bible

**Example truth:**  
Miracles are possible.

LOGICA

EMPIRICA

THE LAND OF REASON  
LOGICA

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

LOGICA

Method:  
Logical  
Reasoning & Inference

EMPIRICA

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

LOGICA

**Temples:**

Liberal Arts Colleges

**Elders:**

Professors & Scholars

EMPIRICA

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

LOGICA

**Example Source:**  
Philosophers

**Example truth:**  
I think, therefore I am.

EMPIRICA

THE LAND OF REALITY  
EMPIRICA

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

LOGICA

EMPIRICA

Method:

Research & Documentation

Not personal experience!

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

LOGICA

**EMPIRICA**

**Temples:**

University Laboratories,  
Museums

**Elders:**

Scientists & Historians

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

LOGICA

**EMPIRICA**

**Temples:**

University Laboratories,  
and Museums

**Elders:**

Scientists and Historians

RHETORICA

MYSTICA

LOGICA

**EMPIRICA**

**Examples Source:**  
Biologists

**Example truth:**  
Humans evolved.

# CONFLICT AMONG THE DOMAINS

Mystica vs.

Empirica

Creation vs. Evolution

Empirica vs.

Rhetoric

DNA vs. O. J.

Rhetorica vs.

Mystica

Democracy vs. Theocracy

# OUR PERSONAL JOURNEYS

AND  
CIVILIZATION'S JOURNEY

# The Lens of the Understanding

We don't see the lens.

We see the world through the lens.

Clearer, stronger with experience.

# Three Filters of Truth

?? SOURCE

?? INTEREST

?? UNDERSTANDING

Truth: the  
Jigsaw Puzzle

FOUR SECTIONS  
CORRESPONDING TO  
THE FOUR DOMAINS

# Truths in the Wrong Domains

**PIECES FORCED OR DISCARDED  
RESULTS IN CONFUSION**

RHETORICA → MYSTICA

LOGICA

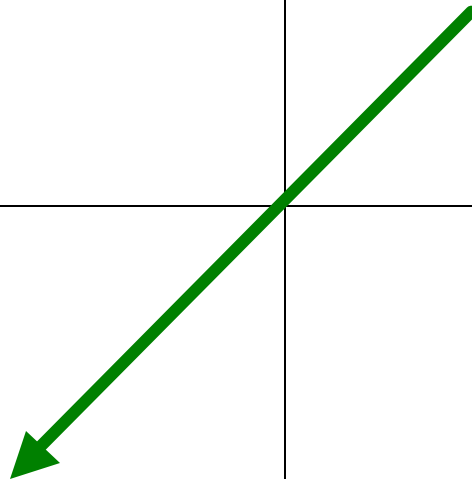
EMPIRICA

**RHETORICA**

**MYSTICA**

**LOGICA**

**EMPIRICA**



RHETORICA

MYSTICA

LOGICA



EMPIRICA

# SIREN SONGS OF TRUTH

# Absolute truth

Searching for truth  
beyond domains,  
beyond words

# Information

Gathering information,  
unvetted assertions

# Personal truth

I need no tests,  
I will know the truth  
when I see it.

# THE FUTURE OF TRUTH

We have entered an era of rapid  
change.....

*when one error can leave  
the world uninhabitable.*

*Truth has never mattered more.*

The 21<sup>st</sup> century....

*promises quite a show,*

*IF we do not make an error that*

*brings the curtain down.*

**The End**