

# “The Real World”

## (T-11.VIII)

This section introduces an important Course term and concept: the real world. What is the real world? It's what is *really out there*, implying that right now, we aren't seeing what's really there.

What does it mean to see what's really there? It means, in an unreal world, to see those elements that reflect true reality, and are therefore the most real aspects of this world. What does this section say about that?

What, then, is the world that awaits your perception when you see? Every loving thought that the Son of God ever had is eternal. Those which his mind perceived in this world are the world's only reality. They are perceptions, because he still believes that he is separate, yet they are eternal, because they are loving. And being loving, they are like the Father, and therefore will not die. (2:1-5)

We have to be willing to see only the loving thoughts. That means 1) see the goodness in the world; 2) don't see the rest.

The real world can actually be perceived. All that is necessary is a willingness to perceive nothing else. (3:1-2)

The perception of goodness is not knowledge, but the denial of the opposite of goodness enables you to perceive a condition in which opposites do not exist. (4:4)

In my experience, there are three relevant options in relation to seeing only the goodness in the world, and I've spent my life slowly crawling through them.

### **1. The world is basically good and makes sense**

I started out assuming that the adults had it all figured out, that they had constructed a world in which everything was governed by just rules and thus was more or less fair. Sure, some people broke the rules, but that was obviously dumb, because they always got caught.

### **2. The world is a jungle, red in tooth and claw**

Slowly, through life experience and through the Course, the nice masks and happy propaganda got peeled away, and I found myself increasingly face to face with a world of contending egos. Rather than a tidy system of rational rules, it's survival of the fittest. The primary institutions—government, business, science—are not actually driven by the ideals they professed, but are a mass of contending egos, each trying to serve itself.

### **3. The world is the real world—the “world of love” (T-26.V.12:7)**

This is where you see realistically the forms out there and what they're doing and why. You have no illusions about the fact that they are driven primarily by ego. But you focus on the love, because it is the only thing *that is what's real and endures*. It is the window onto eternal reality,

and it is the window onto the real nature of all those minds out there. It's thus the only thing *worth* focusing on.

We can spend forever in 1 or we can move on to 2. We can then spend forever in 2, or alternately, try to combine 1 and 2, or go back and forth between them. Or we can push on to 3.

### **Exercise**

Let your mind roam over the world.

While you do, look for the loving, look for the goodness.

As the Course says, "A brother smiles upon another and my heart is gladdened."

See an instance of that.

Then keep looking.

The Course says, "Someone speaks a word of gratitude or mercy, and my mind perceives this gift and takes it as its own."

So see something like that.

Keep looking.

The Course says, "And every one who finds the way to God becomes my savior, pointing out the way to me."

So see an example of that.

Now collect up all the instances of love and goodness your mind found.

Say to yourself, "*In a world of illusion, only this is real.*"

*"In a world of time, only the love is eternal."*

Try to imagine what the world would look like if you saw it in light of only the love.

What does it look like?

Wouldn't you prefer that that be the world you live in?

Wouldn't you prefer that that be the world that is real?