

A SHARED WORLD AND A COMMON TABLE: THE HUMAN CONDITION
AND TRUTH

A Dissertation

by

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AND TRUTH

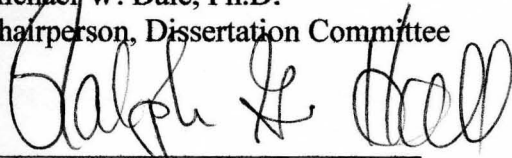
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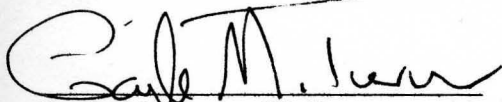
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ABSTRACT

A SHARED WORLD AND A COMMON TABLE: THE HUMAN CONDITION AND TRUTH. (AUGUST, 2004)

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The author calls for an investment in common discourse that embraces the earthly context and communal character of human life. Acknowledging problems associated with the modern philosophical tradition, especially in regard to human discourse about truth, the author rejects the internal locus of modern presuppositions. Calling for a more adequate appreciation of the larger external world as well as the communal context of human life, the author maintains that truth belongs not to the internal realm of the thinking human mind but rather to the larger context of a shared world. Important to the argument is overcoming distinct obstacles that serve to govern Western discourse and the larger interest of truth. The most notable of these are liberalism and its close economic expression, capitalism; however, these are not the only obstacles. There is another unique challenge that is posed by the institution of higher education. Language expectations that are grounded in modern presuppositions favor certain kinds of speech over against others and thereby exclude what might otherwise be important contributions to the discussion of truth. The author notes this

and intentionally employs speech that is less consistent and perhaps less welcome in traditional academic discourse. Such speech includes narration from the author's life as well as the poetic voices of song writers and film makers. The interest here is twofold. First, the author is arguing for an alternative, and presumably more adequate, vision of human discourse. Second, the author is trying to demonstrate what this kind of discourse might look like.