

The Origin of True Lies

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“A lie is really useless to gods [the rulers] and useful to human beings as a form of remedy.” So has Plato have Socrates say in *The Republic*. Once the city in his imagined formation has developed beyond the primitive communal stage into a class divided one, it must in relations at home and to other cities close and far, have a well trained ruling (guardian) class for its defense. From this need comes the art of the true lie which Plato likens as the form that poetry takes in delivering its message. The truth is made indirect and portentously embellished by means of artful fictionalizing – enveloped in a tale it becomes a truthful lie. And in order to make this work in the creation of an orderly society, the guardians must absolutely forbid any suggestion that the gods (who happen to be themselves) can be in error.

Plato’s plan was for a benevolent dictatorship. The rulers would be the best philosophers in the land no other profession is more skilled at delivering a truth every which way. And that is how we came to have a world governed by true lies, though even those with the lowest regard for philosophers would admit that what we now have in charge is beneath the dregs of the community of philosophers.

We have true lies galore but not only are they not presented creatively, the truth has been made secondary to the lie. A common example is how the strength of the economy is enhanced by stating that such-and-such is now at its best level since 2011 or any other year following the great slump. True, but that such-and-such was also lousy in 2011 is left unstated. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has had something like ten growth sessions in a row during which it set many new all time highs. True, but for comparison purposes dollar figures should be adjusted for inflation, and more importantly, the DJIA deck has been frequently reshuffled in order to toss out the weaker companies for the stronger that there is scarcely anything “industrial” about the Dow Jones Industrial Average. New home sales have now reached an annualized 550,000, a great improvement when it was 200,000 in 2009. True, but still in a miserable state when compared to the 1.4 million in 2005.

True lies of a political nature are much more artful. Some, like the current great concern about fake news, are breathtaking in their deceit. Like the mainstream tells us we are supposed to be greatly concerned about the danger of crackpot Internet fakery while they generate a flood of media lies whenever their nation needs a defense for their latest crime.

True lies are the core of communications between dictatorships designed to be democracies and their servants. Absolute dictatorships deliver their lies with an implied threat.

The entire world has been having an equity boom regardless of the state of their respective economies. This week revealed possible signs of a slowdown that took definite form abroad while still experiencing some resistance at home. Nasdaq has surpassed its pre-dotcom high and that may cause a break in the speculative reverie. There is also the nagging concern that the reversal of the Trump boom will result in an *Emperor's New Clothes* type of exposure, a sudden revelation that the country being ruled by a cipher.

Tesla market value is finally generating some concern. An auto firm that has never made a profit nor more than 80,000 vehicles a year now has a \$43 billion market value. That's more than Nissan's market value and close to GM's \$55 billion and Ford's \$49 billion.

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