
READERS FORUM

Bertrand Russell Speaks

I enjoyed the article entitled "Bertrand Russell Speaks: The BBC Interviews" (November/December 1982). I'm glad he is being rediscovered.

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Bertrand Russell is clearly one of the great secular humanists of the twentieth century. Few philosophers have placed greater emphasis upon, and been more personally devoted to, the ideals of love and knowledge. We should remember our great heroes and, therefore, I most welcome the "Bertrand Russell Speaks" interview.

I only wish to take exception to a statement made in the opening paragraph of the introduction. Strictly speaking, Russell devoted his life to the pursuit of truth and not "the pursuit of scientific, philosophic, and moral truth." He did not believe that there were different kinds of truth. He certainly did not hold, as the interview itself reveals, that philosophic truth differs from scientific truth. What makes philosophy different is not that it has a different way of truth but that it addresses the larger and more important questions and believes that, even where exact knowledge is not yet possible, greater understanding is. . . .

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