Blog 12: Tiny Words And Big Meanings

Over the decades of developing Tef Theory and Tefistry, I have repeatedly encountered certain tiny, but powerful words. Not only do these words convey important meanings in ordinary, everyday speech, but for me they have been keys to unlocking and expressing important insights.

In like to pay attention to words of all sizes. Do they have hidden meanings or dimensions? Do they hint at how Perception works? Do they support ways to increase Harmony in Tef? And I try to carefully select the words I use in communicating my views. Which words are exacting, unambiguous, and even colorful or catchy? Which words are misleading or disrespectful or hackneyed or inefficient?

But here I want to talk about some of the tiny words that have been, and are, important to Tef Theory and Tefistry.

1. "is"— Watch out for this one! "Is" (and its kin: "to be", "was", "will be") is powerful…and sometimes misleading. On the one hand, when we say a thing "is", we may be asserting its ontological state: its being, its presence, its happening. Something that "is" is something that exists (or that illates, if we are only inferring it). On the other hand, when we say a thing "is" we may be referring to all the names and traits we know for it. But n<u>either</u> of these uses of "is" <u>gives</u> us the thing itself. In fact, to <u>have</u> a thing—what it "is"—is produced solely by our simple, plain Perception of it: neither its ontological state nor its names and descriptions. Thus, ultimately what a thing "is" is unspoken, ineffable. To <u>have</u> something, "Ya gotta look at it"!

2. "of" and "about" — "of" conveys roughly the same meaning as "about". When you hear either of these words, they should raise red flags, revealing that you are not getting the thing itself, but rather you are getting a Mimic, a stand-in, a symbol, an imposter, a simulation of that thing. For example, you can get "knowledge <u>of</u> things", "properties <u>of</u> things", "theories <u>about</u> things", "ideas <u>about</u> things". These are all expressions in words. But words never <u>give</u> you the things themselves. Language can't <u>give</u> you anything at all (except for the occasional exclamation, groan, or other utterance). Words can give you, at best, only veridical Mental simulations of the thing itself.

Thus, words are faux, whereas the thing itself is authentic. Expressed in Tefspeak: "of" and "about" are devices that link L.3 (Intellection Sector) Mimics to their L.1 (Sensation Sector) Referents. Or, in yet other words: "of" and "about" tell us we are getting Mimics that reside in Pentef (the Mind, the Other World), not Referents that reside in Contef (This World).

3. "*It*" — Tef Theory employs Tef (the Total Experiential Field) as its model for the totality of experience. Tef Theory asserts that nothing exists outside of Tef (even though we routinely self-delude or pretend that illatent things do reside in Parallel Tefs). So, Tef is the name of Tef Theory's <u>model</u> of experience. But whenever I have gone searching for a name of the totality <u>itself</u>, I have searched in vain. I have been forced to fall back on the pronoun "it". And since "it" is a rather humble word to indicate the (overwhelming) totality of experience, I have chosen to capitalize "it" and to write that word in italics (or else to underline it). Thus: "*It*" or "<u>It</u>". I stand in awe of *It*. I am part of *It*. Perception is the emergence, transformation, and vanishing of everything within *It*.

So, you see, tiny words can have big meanings.

In Any Event, May Harmony Prevail! Love Thy Tef!