**Term:** Entelechy

**Quote:** The purpose of every sign is to express “fact,” and by being joined with other signs, to approach as nearly as possible to determining an interpretant which would be the *perfect Truth*, the absolute Truth, and as such (at least, we may use this language) would be the very Universe. Aristotle gropes for a conception of perfection, or *entelechy*, which he never succeeds in making clear. We may adopt the word to mean the very fact, that is, the ideal sign which should be quite perfect, and so identical, – in such identity as a sign may have, – with the very matter denoted united with the very form signified by it. The entelechy of the Universe of being, then, the Universe *qua* fact, will be that Universe in its aspect as a sign, the “Truth” of being. The “Truth,” the fact that is not abstracted but complete, is the ultimate interpretant of every sign.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1904 [c.]). *New Elements (Kaina stoiceia)*. MS [R] 517.

**References:** EP 2:304

**Date of Quote:** 1904 [c.]

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-new-elements-kaina-stoiceia-25