

Logical Truth

1902 | Logical | DPP 2:27; CP 2:541

Logical truth is a phrase used in three senses, rendering it almost useless.

1. The harmony of a thought with itself. Most usually so defined, but seldom so employed. So far as this definition is distinct, it makes logical truth a synonym for logical possibility; but, no doubt, more is intended. (Hamilton, *Lects. on Logic*, xxvii.)
2. The conformity of a thought to the laws of logic; in particular, in a concept, consistency; in an inference, validity; in a proposition, agreement with assumptions. This would better be called *mathematical truth*, since mathematics is the only science which aims at nothing more. (Kant, *Krit. d. reinen Vernunft*, 1st ed., 294.)
3. More properly, the conformity of a proposition with the reality, so far as the proposition asserts anything about the reality. Opposed, on the one hand, to metaphysical truth, which is an affection of the *ens*, and, on the other hand, to ethical *truth*, which is telling what a witness believes to be true. (Burgersdicius, *Inst. Met.*, chap. xviii.)