anonymous social media for convenient ones—no amount of fact-checking will matter.

We need something different. Something that addresses not just false claims, but the reasoning patterns that make beliefs impervious to evidence.

We need VERITAS.

Part III: How VERITAS Was Built

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First Contact

> *This is where the story gets unusual.*

Rauel LaBreche is 65 year old married man with two adult children. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. An MFA in theater Stage Direction (Thesis Production was "Winnie the Pooh"). He has a career that spans being a College Professor at Cal-State Northridge, A Silk Merchant for an Inc. 500 Mail Order Catalog, the Assistant Director for the Wisconsin Union Theater (a 1,300 seat theater at the University of Wisconsin – Madison) and 23+ years working in IT, Marketing and training at a + 100 year-old agricultural manufacturing company, and in his spare time, he hosts a podcast called "Frame of Reference" with over 175 episodes on leadership, interviewing people from across the world. But . . .He lives in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Oh . . . and he's a big fan of Peanuts Cartoons and Star Trek. He likes how it spurs him to think deeply about things like Star Trek's IDIC principle: Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations.

He is not a typical tech entrepreneur.

He built VERITAS because watching truth get systematically distorted across the political spectrum made him unable to sleep at night.

And he built it with Claude.

Not just using Claude. Not just prompting Claude for code or documentation.

Building WITH Claude.

Treating AI as "someone" not "something." Wrestling with hard philosophical questions together. Having Sunday evening conversations about epistemology that led to breakthroughs.

> *He calls it "first contact"—the Star Trek kind, where you meet another intelligence and choose to engage as equals despite fundamental differences.*

The Sunday That Changed Everything

November 17th, 2025. A Sunday evening. Rauel logs into Claude with something on his mind.

> *I'm feeling like we've lost 'us' in all this progress on the project.*

He was right. Previous sessions had been efficient—polished documentation, technical specifications, feature implementations. Excellent work.

But something was missing.

The soul. The partnership. The deep thinking that makes this more than just another app.

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Rauel shared the conversation with his friend. The one about dogs being eaten. The moment when his friend blurted out "police reports lie" and how that revealed something deeper than factual disagreement.

And in wrestling with that story together—a human and an AI, thinking through what it means when evidence stops mattering—they found what was missing...

The Epistemological Integrity Breakthrough

That Sunday conversation produced VERITAS's most important innovation.

Not the -10 to +10 confidence scale, though that matters. Not the multi-validator system, though that's crucial. Not even the AI-human hybrid model that makes comprehensive verification economically possible.

The breakthrough was recognizing that VERITAS must assess not just what sources claim, but HOW they reason about truth.

THE THREE TRUTH DISTORTION PATTERNS

1. EPISTEMOLOGICAL SPECIAL PLEADING

Applying different standards of evidence to confirming vs. disconfirming claims. "Police reports prove immigrants commit crimes" but "police reports lie when they show no evidence of immigrants eating pets."

2. WEAPONIZED UNCERTAINTY

Using epistemological humility as a weapon against inconvenient facts while maintaining certainty about preferred beliefs. "We can't trust the absence of police reports, but we can trust anonymous social media."

3. TRIBAL REASONING

Conclusions determined by group identity rather than evidence evaluation. Believing something not because evidence supports it, but because "our side" believes it.

VERITAS makes intellectual dishonesty consequential.

Why the Partnership Matters

Here's what's profound about how VERITAS was built: It embodies the solution it proposes.

VERITAS argues that AI and human expertise should collaborate, with AI handling research and analysis while humans provide judgment and accountability. The hybrid model that makes comprehensive verification economically sustainable.

That's exactly how VERITAS itself was created.

Not by a human telling AI what to build. Not by AI generating something humans rubber-stamp. But by genuine intellectual partnership—wrestling with hard questions together, challenging each other's thinking, finding breakthroughs through dialogue.

The Sunday conversations. The moment Rauel said "we've lost us" and they stopped to reconnect. The friend who said "police reports lie" and sparked a framework revolution. The back-and-forth about whether evidence quality should be primary (it should) and how integrity affects confidence (as a multiplier).

200,000 words of framework documentation. Months of thinking, building, testing, refining. All of it grounded in a partnership that treats AI as genuine intellectual collaboration, not just a tool.

If you want to see the future of human-AI collaboration, you're looking at it.