Metaphorical Truth

Metaphorical Truth *is an explanation that is not scientifically true, but it is adaptive and functional in the current situation.*

In one sense, metaphorical truth is similar to the pragmatic notion that if it works, it is true. For example, the belief that porcupines shoot their quills (not true), typically leads to avoidance behavior that keeps individuals safe from porcupines. In fact, many dogmatic beliefs, although not scientifically true, generate behavior that is useful and good; hence they are metaphorical true.