

On Belief

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The predisposition to believe is “inherent” in humans. Shared belief is culture, and culture is the keystone of human society.

Under the right circumstances, we humans are capable of believing almost anything. Great need or threat, social isolation, information control, “establishment” pressure create the “right” circumstances. Resistance is impossible unless we are aware of alternatives.

An open mind is a mind ready to believe. Maintaining an open mind is the ideal in science, but sustaining openness occasions persistent uncertainty. Science proposes itself as a source for generating more “substantive” beliefs, but science does not promote its beliefs because in the name of remaining open-minded, its findings and theories are not promoted as THE answer. Instead, they are always subject to change – even refutation.

Diversity in complex societies means alternative views are readily available. The result: belief is restrained, and certainty is challenged among different subcultures. What do we do?

Accept Reduced Certainty

Or

Reject “Aberrant” Subcultures?

Struggle to Celebrate Unity in Spite of Uncertainty

Or

Assure Certainty in Exclusive Homogeneity?

Accommodation

Or

Separation?

Liberal

Or

Conservative?

Belief

The Core Issue in the Human Desire for Worldview Certainty
In a Reality Where the Only Constant Is Change.