

III-11. Who to Trust?

At least for some, what matters is not the lack of knowledge, but pretensions of certainty and omniscience. Bigots and dictators of unaccountable authority thrive on dogmas and ideologies of horrible clarity.

Confidence in shared knowledge is not a matter of faith or belief.

Consider increasing reliance on ways that peer into the state of our body, brain, and the future. We look for expert opinions and that works as long as we reserve the right to make a decision.

Now consider the motivations behind the unending stream of information available free on the internet. Unless we know what we are looking for, the information is selective and chaotic. It is not very different than the other choices offered in a market-place., where the buyer beware.

Often reliability of the message is tied to the integrity and intentions of the messenger. When in doubt, the burden of evaluation falls on the user of the message.

Mother Teresa has been accorded sainthood for working with the poor of Calcutta. She herself has stated that she is not interested in alleviation of poverty. Her sole interest was in introducing the Catholic god to the poor.

Against Gods and Humbug

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