

III-19. Negate the Wishful

But Scientists, who ought to know
Assure us that it must be so.
Oh, let us never, never doubt
What nobody is sure about.

- Hilaire Belloc

It is believed that subtlety and beauty of the real world is revealed through reason. It takes courage for one to deal with uncertainty. Attitudes and choices determine the nature of future interactions and consequences. A decision to create value requires feedback for mid-course correction. Desires are also constructs of mind like the conceptual schemes and principles. Such constructs are based on incomplete knowledge. Unlike ignorance unformulated constructs are often myopic idealizations of imaginary worlds. At best desires and the derived models speak of human aspirations. Sometimes desires are disconnected from reality.

Tangible direction and meaning to life is perceived necessity. Otherwise, desires and hopes hover around faith in miracles and myths. It breaks what one wishes to uphold. By negating contradictions, individual searches can be optimized to minimize wishful behaviors. It is not about compromises but about examination of the assumptions underlying the goals and methods.

The focus of a pragmatic search remains on what matters and verified. An ad hoc assumption may be introduced for the sake of argument and to explore possibilities. If carried out within constraints of the reality-based and demonstrable alternatives, such searches have been remarkably successful.

Not all ideas and thoughts are created equal. Formal approaches are to be constantly reexamined. In a self-correcting environment principles are constantly tested and revised through the experience of living with those principles. Nor can the solutions be transplanted indiscriminately in or from alien environments. Even the most successful ideas have to be evaluated for the relevance of the content and the context. In the end, no matter *what is out there*, from moment to moment what matters is *what is there*.

Against Gods and Humbug

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