In the demon-haunted world that we inhabit by virtue of being human, this may be all that stands between us and the enveloping darkness.	
Carl Sagan, on <mark>science a</mark> nd reason	

Chapter 14

Conclusions & Recommendations

Claims as Far as the Eye Can See!

- All of us encounter claims good and bad, true and false every day
- We are forced to wade through them and sort sense from nonsense
- Skepticism and critical thinking allow us to live an *epistemically responsible* life

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Being Epistemically Responsible • We should be concerned with striving to – Believe things that are likely true - Disbelieve things that are likely false • These lead to better choices, which leads in turn to better living Skepticism is... • Reserving judgment where evidence is incomplete • Reaching the conclusions best justified by the evidence...even if uncomfortable • Key to productive conversations (because "I might be wrong") The Humble Skeptic... • Accepts ambiguity and uncertainty • Recognizes limits of his/her knowledge • Is okay with saying "I don't know"

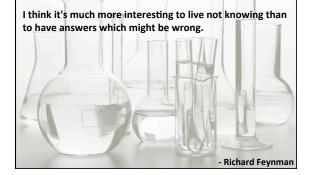
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• Is willing to change his/her beliefs

The Non-Humble Skeptic...

- Lives in an echo chamber
- Is guilty of the disconfirmation bias
- Does not change beliefs when presented with better information
- Is a pathological, not scientific, skeptic

I can live with doubt and uncertainty.



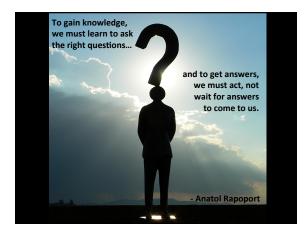
Growing Skepticism

- Applying your own skepticism and setting a good example
- Engage others in productive debate, not arguments

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Rapoport's Rules

- Attempt to re-express your target's position so clearly, vividly, and fairly that your target says, "Thanks, I wish I'd thought of putting it that way"
- 2. List any points of agreement (especially if they are not matters of general or widespread agreement)
- 3. Mention anything you have learned from your target
- 4. Only then are you permitted to say so much as a word of rebuttal or criticism



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