

**Trust,  
but Verify**

**explAined**

# TRUST

# Trust is...

- n. Firm belief in the truth.
- n. Confidence or faith in a person or thing.
- n. Acceptance without evidence or investigation.



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# Dis/Mistrust is...

- n. Absence of trust; lack of confidence, faith
- n. Lack of trust or confidence; distrust.

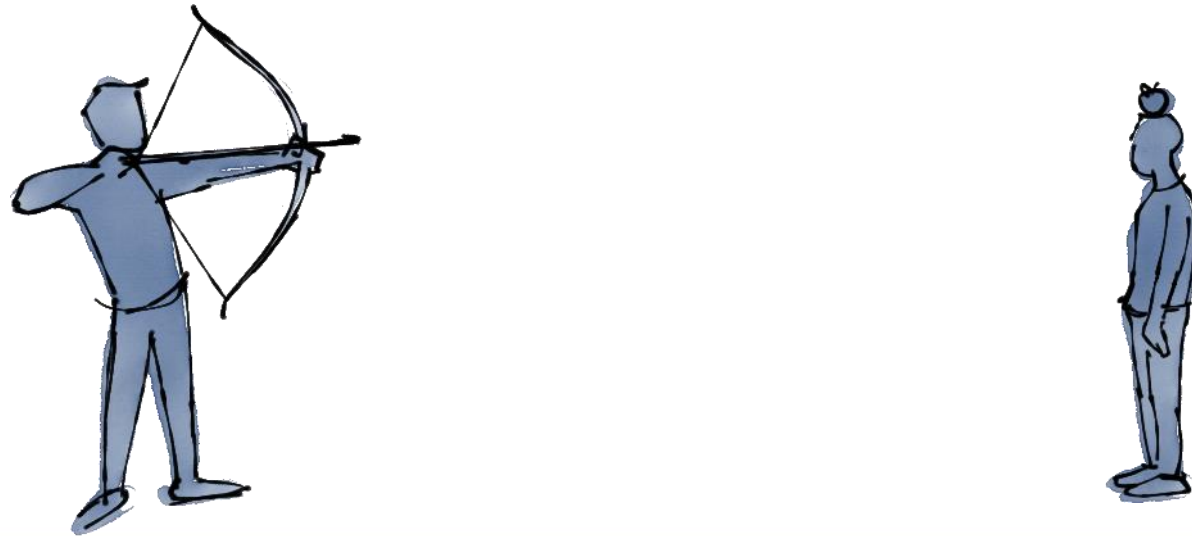
# Trust is based on...

- Faith, mostly, but also...
- Emotions
- Intuition
- Authority
- Society
- Experience
- Evidence
- Mix



# Trust is...

Predominantly *faith-based*  
confidence and beliefs  
in the absence of sufficient *information*.



# **Beliefs based on...**



**Faith  
is Trust**

**Evidence is  
Knowledge**



# Trust is important...

- Individuals
- Relationships
- Leadership
- Businesses
- Innovation & Collaboration
- Technology
- Nations



"Trust is the glue of life."

-Stephen Covey, author

"Trust is one of the principal forces which binds society together."

-Thomas Hobbes, philosopher

"To be trusted  
is a greater compliment  
than being loved."

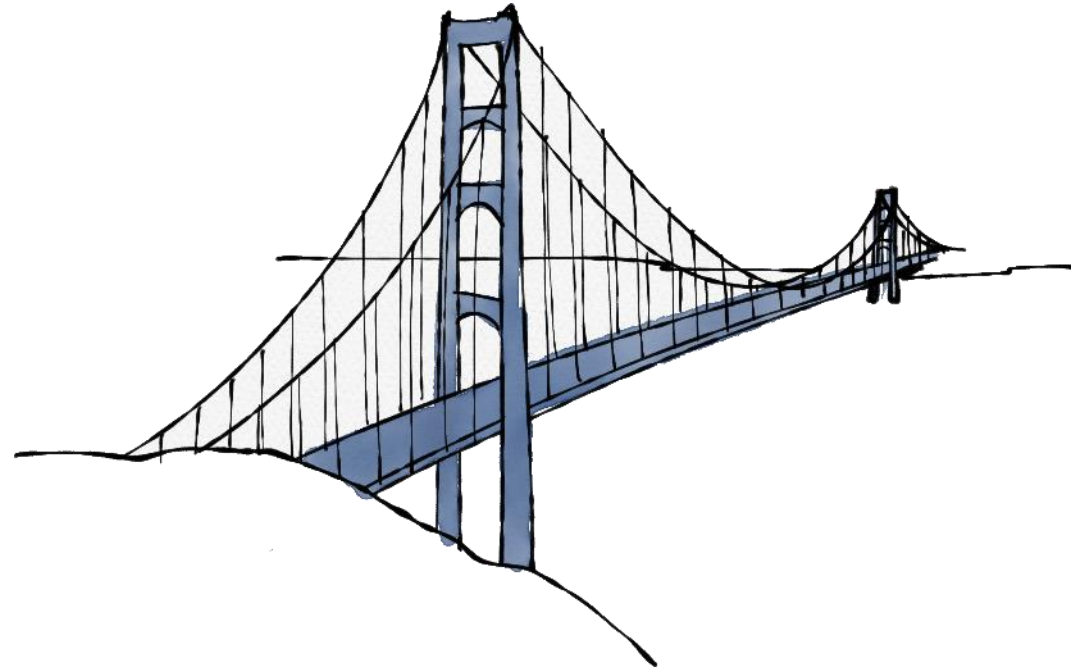
-George MacDonald, author

!! .. !!  
...

-You

# Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent



# Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar



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- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
  - Religious





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- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar
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  - Religious
  - Artistic



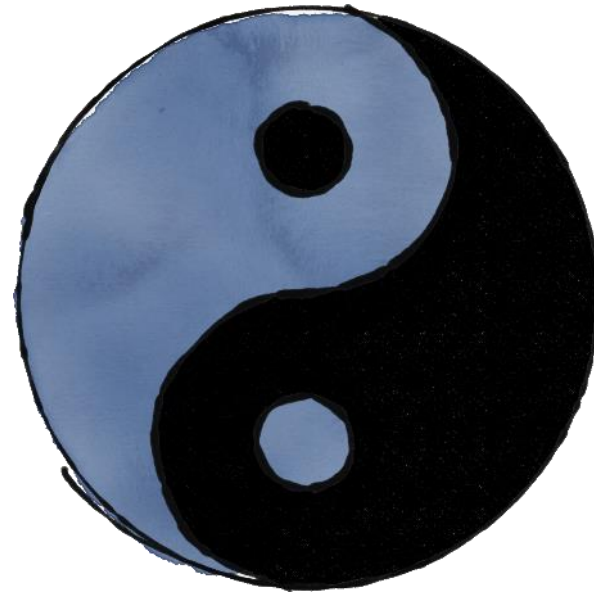
# Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
  - Religious
  - Artistic
  - Cultural



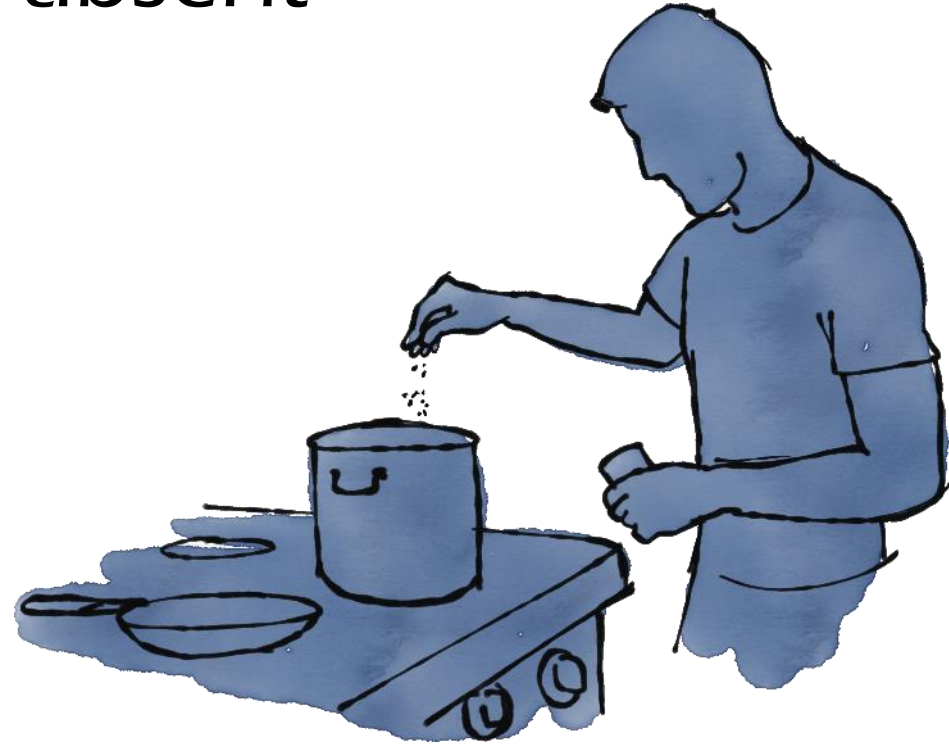
# Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
  - Religious
  - Artistic
  - Cultural
  - Personal
  - Professional
  - Technology



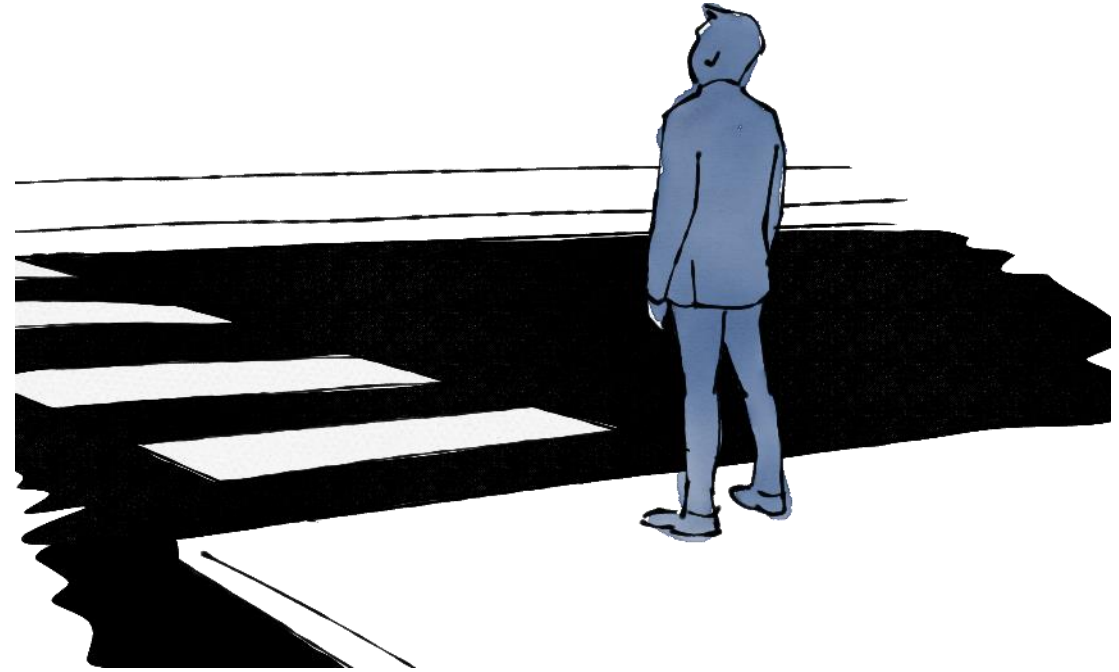
# Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
  - Religious
  - Artistic
  - Cultural
  - Personal
  - Professional
  - Technology
- **LOW RISK**



# Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available



# Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar



# Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
  - Legal



# Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
  - Legal
  - Medical





# Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
  - Legal
  - Medical
  - Financial



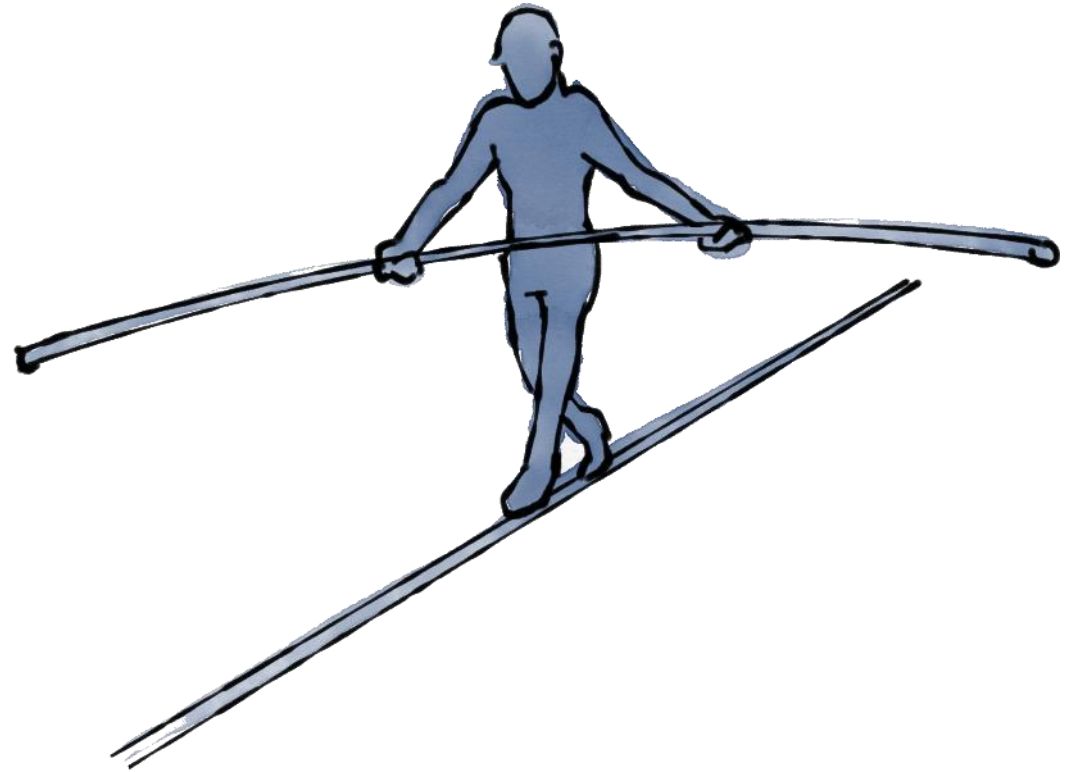
# Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
  - Legal
  - Medical
  - Financial
  - Personal
  - Professional
  - Technology



# Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
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  - Technology
- **HIGH RISK**



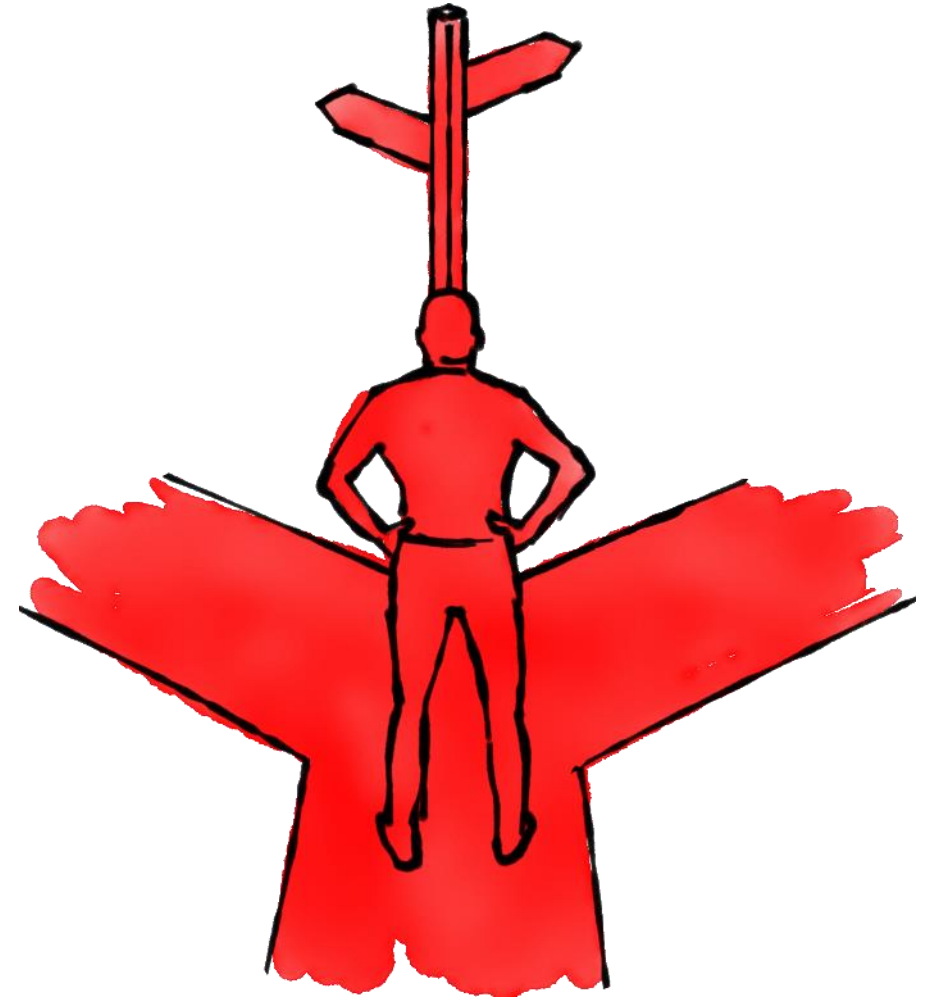
"Trust, but **verify**."

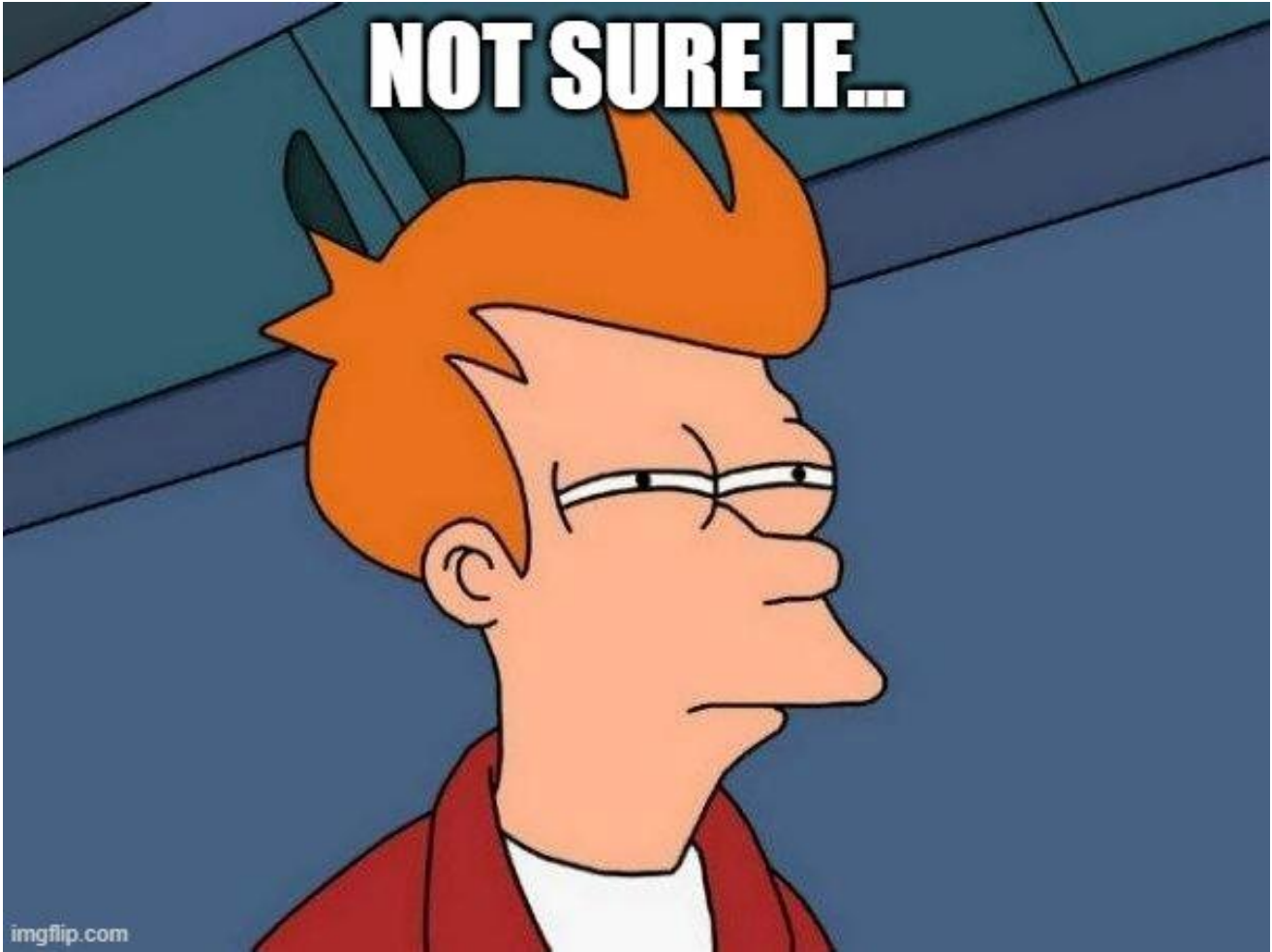
-Ronald Reagan, US president

# SKEPTICISM

# Skepticism is...

- n. Uncertainty or reservations about something
- n. A neutral stance that suspends belief until justified evidence is available.





"When nothing is sure,  
everything is possible."

-Margaret Drabble, author



# **Skepticism** is...

Verifying facts, cross-checking with other sources, seeking alternate views

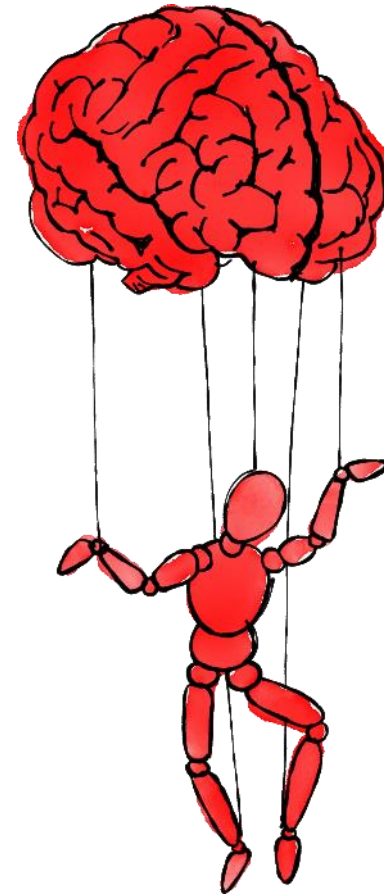


"Never trust anything that can think for itself if you can't see where it keeps its brain."

-Harry Potter, wizard

# **Skepticism** is...

Being aware of  
and managing  
potential biases in  
source and self

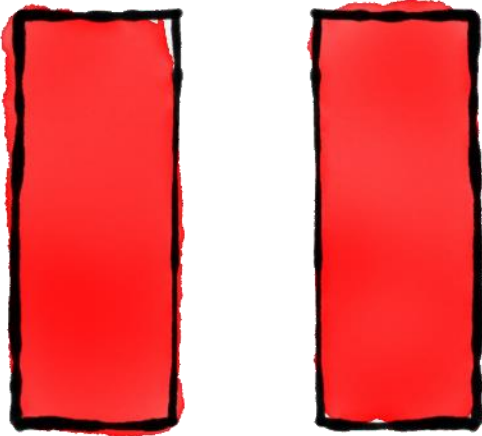


"Everyone is a prisoner of his own experience. No one can eliminate prejudices - just recognize them."

-Edward R. Murrow, journalist

# Skepticism is...

Pausing

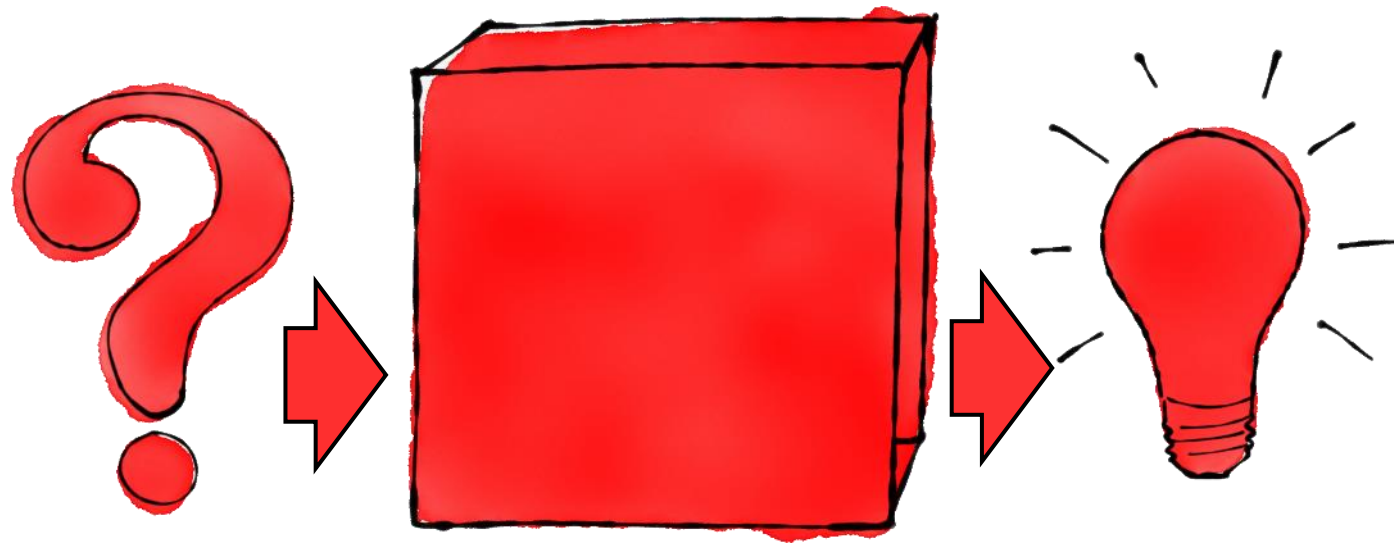


"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

-Anne Lamott, novelist

# **Skepticism** is...

Crafting and asking good questions



"There are no right answers  
to wrong questions."

-Ursula K. Le Guin, author

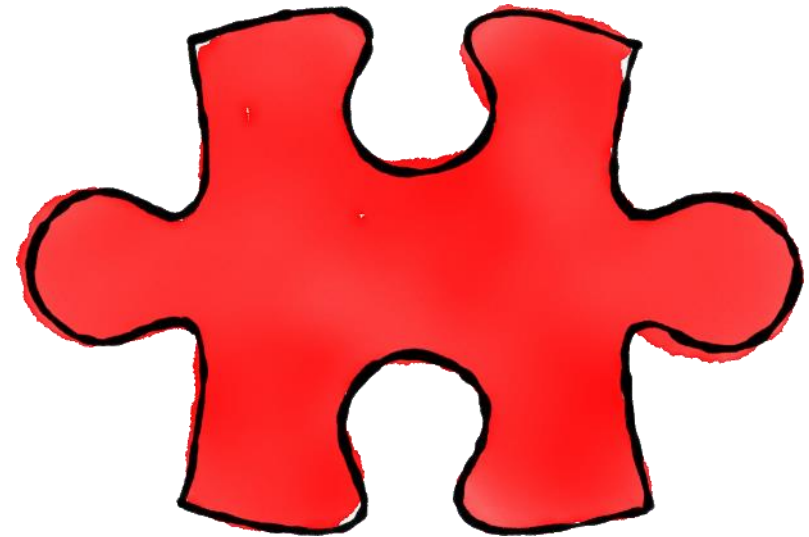


"A prudent question  
is one half of wisdom."

-Francis Bacon, statesman

# **Skepticism is...**

Practicing and  
Developing  
critical thinking skills  
(puzzles, debates,  
reading, metacognition,  
etc.)



“There are so many  
notable quotes about  
the importance of practice,  
I couldn't decide  
which one to include.”

-Damian Synadinos, raconteur

# **Skepticism** is important...

- Encourages Critical Thinking
- Protects Against Deception
- Prevents Dogmatism
- Fosters Open-Mindedness
- Encourages Evidence-Based Decision Making



"There are two ways  
to slide easily through life:  
to believe everything or  
to doubt everything;  
both ways save us from **thinking**."

-Alfred Korzybski, scholar

"It is the mark of an  
educated mind to be able to  
entertain a thought  
without accepting it."

-Aristotle, philosopher

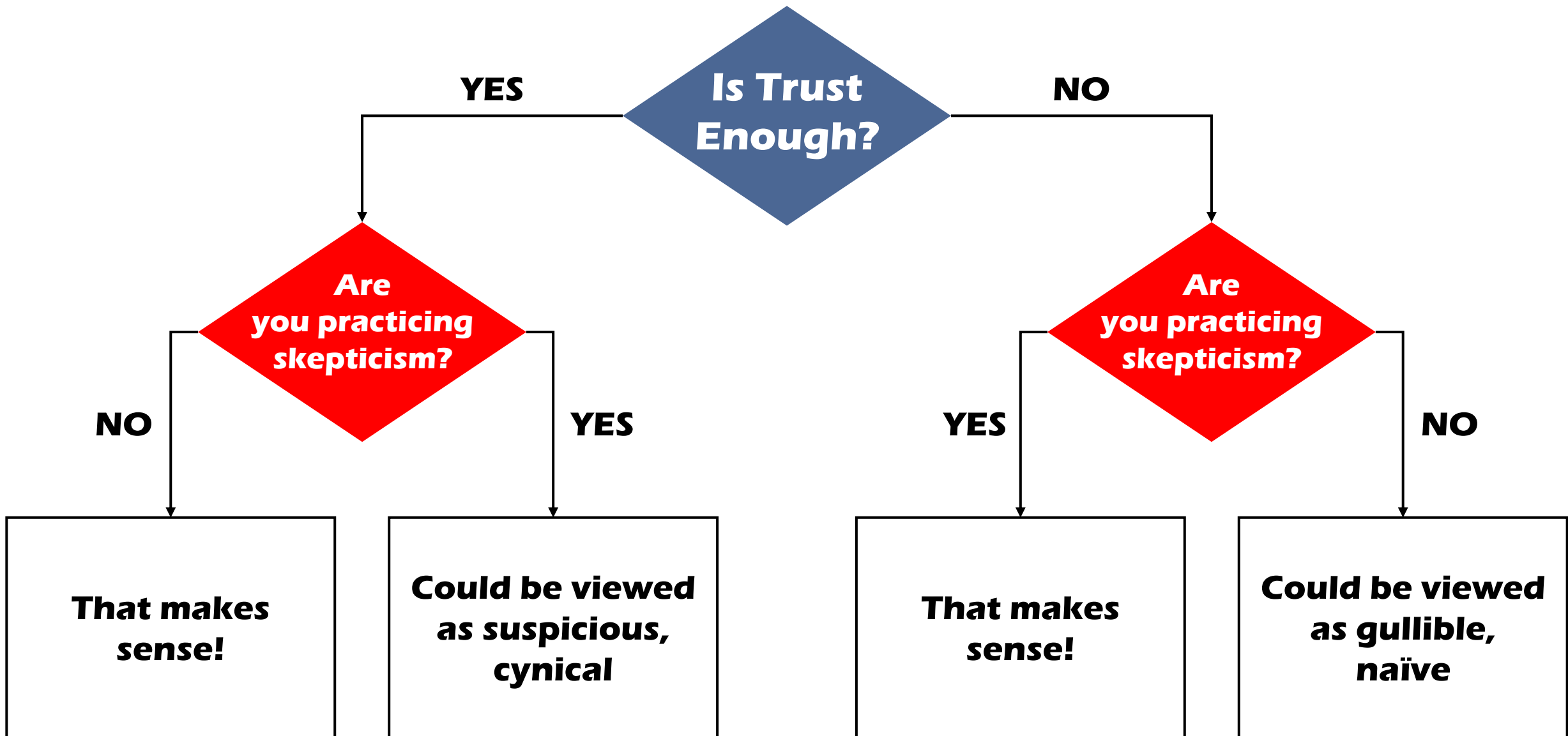
"It pays to keep an **open mind**,  
but not so open  
your brains fall out."

-Carl Sagan, astronomer

!! .. !!  
...

-You





# Healthy Skepticism is...

An approach that  
**questions**  
claims and ideas,  
**when appropriate,**  
and **uses evidence** to  
evaluate their validity.



So, what?!

# Trust is Important

Sometimes *trust* is enough  
Sometimes *trust* is not enough

When *trust* is not enough,  
*Healthy Skepticism* can help

"I just want ... **skepticism**  
to be your companion  
and not your captor."

-Wes Moore, US governor

# Thank You!



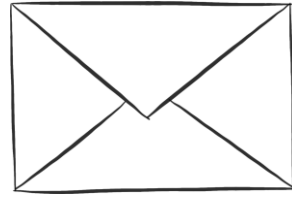
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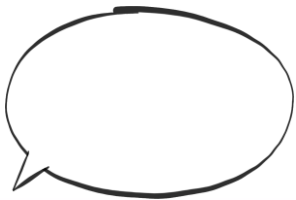
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"Hey, Damian!"



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