

NEXT-TIME QUESTION

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Do you speculate that your present ideas about the world around you will change as you learn and experience more, or do you speculate that further knowledge and experience will solidify your present understanding?



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Answer:

To publicly change your mind about your ideas is a sign of strength rather than a sign of weakness. It takes more courage to change your ideas when confronted with counter evidence than to hold fast to your ideas. If a person's ideas and views of the world are no different after a lifetime of varied experience, then that person was either miraculously blessed with unusual wisdom at an early age, or learned nothing. The latter is more likely. Education is learning that which you don't yet know. It would be arrogant to think you know it all in the later stages of your education, and stupid to think so at the beginning of your education.

Russell wrote, "I think we must retain the belief that scientific knowledge is one of the glories of man. I will not maintain that knowledge can never do harm. I think such general propositions can almost always be refuted by well chosen examples. What I will maintain—and maintain vigorously—is that knowledge is very much more often useful than harmful and that fear of knowledge is very much more often harmful than useful."

Hewitt
Drawit!

