

The Paradox of Knowledge

I have a small story to share. One day, as I was riding my horse peacefully along a jungle road, enjoying the sun beside a swamp or small lake, my horse suddenly spotted a large bear running towards us. Before I could react, the horse bolted into the swamp—a waterlogged area often filled with mud. The horse quickly began to sink into the soft, deep, muddy waters, pulling me down with it. I tried to find some tree branches for support, but there was nothing available. The more the horse struggled, the deeper we sank. Realizing I was in a dire situation, I remembered a piece of wisdom or knowledge passed down through my generations: "When stuck, pull yourself up by your own hair." Although it seemed absurd and impossible, filled with desperation and determination, I decided to give it a try. With my long hair at the time, I grabbed it with both hands and, with all my might, pulled upward. Miraculously, both the horse and I began to rise out of the swamp. Slowly but surely, we emerged from the deep, muddy water and eventually made our way back to solid ground.

You all might be wondering; how could a man lift himself out of the swamp by pulling on his own hair? I understand that many of you might find it hard to believe. There was no external force to push me upward, but I am a living example of it—trust me.

Toastmaster of the day, and all my dear audience.

I want to pose a fundamental question: What is the difference between belief and knowledge? Can anyone answer it in two sentences?

Thanks for sharing your thoughts. Does anyone else have a different perspective? I appreciate your input. Thank you for your answers, while working on this project I wanted to understand what exactly knowledge is?

In case of belief - it expresses some uncertainty, when someone says "I believe I know something" that person thinks they know something but is not entirely sure, so there is scope of openness or curiosity.

In other side knowledge - expresses a high level of certainty and confidence. When someone says "I believe I know something" that person thinks they know something but is entirely sure, so they assume there is no scope of openness or curiosity. They have accepted that is truth and when someone assumes something is true, they stop finding the real answer or relearn things and they spend their entire third life holding wrong knowledge and taking their life decisions on that wrong knowledge.

If you want to understand something I know is my belief or my knowledge. I took the reference of famous book Theory of Knowledge from American philosopher Roderick Chisholm wherein he provided one criterion to understand whatever we are assuming is knowledge or not.

Here are two questions you must ask to justify whether your statement is true knowledge or false belief.

1. What do we know?

2. How do we know?

For example: My statement is - Sky is blue.

- (1) The sky is blue, (2) because we see it. — Justified

Another example My statement is - $1 + 1 = 2$.

- (1) $1 + 1 = 2$, (2) It is a universally accepted truth in mathematics that $1 + 1$ equals 2. — Justified

Now I have two tests for you. Below are statements that you must tell me it is belief or knowledge.

1st – “Bottle in my hand is hair oil”

2nd - “If you have weak eyesight, eating carrots improves your eyesight.”

See you are holding this false knowledge, but you have not trusted my real story, even though I am a living example. Why is that so? Right my story was not justifiable, you thought about with critical reasoning, like that you must apply critical or rational thinking to evaluate your knowledge.

I have one more question: What is the difference between a philosopher and an ordinary person? I appreciate your point of view, but I have a slightly different angle on this.

Philosopher: A philosopher knows what they know and what they don't know. They accept that they don't know everything and strive to find answers.

Ordinary Person: An ordinary person believes they know everything, often relying on tradition or personal beliefs. They might stick to what they already know for their whole life, even if it is not true.

As I conclude, I want to encourage you to be that philosopher, be open-minded, be curious, adaptable to change, and willing to explore new concepts and approaches, and you must learn and relearn things

As per your knowledge, if you say, “you cannot remove your belly fat”, you can validate that your knowledge whether that is true knowledge or a false belief.

If your knowledge says you cannot become an entrepreneur, you can validate whether that is true knowledge or a false belief.

If your knowledge says you hate a particular person, you can validate whether it is true knowledge or a false belief.

And lastly, and very important especially for today's dear guest, if you think you have very good leadership and communication qualities, you must validate whether it is true. If it is a false belief, consider joining Toastmasters.

What do we know?

How do we know?