

Street Epistemology Questions

A List

2018-11-10

Introduction

The assembly of this list has been inspired by Anthony Magnabosco's¹ occasional tweets with questions that may be useful when practicing Street Epistemology². My hope is that this list will help people in stressful situations with thinking of good questions to ask. However, please consider carefully whether you want to bring the actual list to a conversation.

The current version of this document, along with the list in form of flash cards, can be found here: <https://github.com/lumpiluk/sequestions>.

The Questions

- If you discovered that your belief was causing harm, would you be more open to re-examining it for accuracy?

Q1. 2017-05-15. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/864207815732338690>

- **IL:** I just know my God exists.

Q: Does it concern you in any way that a terrorist with a competing God belief would say the exact same thing?

Q2. 2017-05-15. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/864122483728896000>

- If this wasn't true, would you want to know that?

Q3. 2017-04-17. Cordial Curiosity.
<https://youtu.be/K4zFDZeBTYk?t=21m12s>

- Can people be mistaken about their memories/experiences?

Q4. 2017-04-17. Cordial Curiosity.
<https://youtu.be/K4zFDZeBTYk?t=23m20s>

¹<https://twitter.com/magnabosco> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/magnabosco210>

²<https://streetepistemology.com>

- Is everything you've been taught true? (Has everything you've been taught been true?)
 Q5. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- Do beliefs that give comfort make them true?
 Q6. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- Are feelings the best way to know if something is true?
 Q7. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- What makes your Holy Book more believable than all those others?
 Q8. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- How could a person test that prayer actually works?
 Q9. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- When did you last honestly question your God belief?
 Q10. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- What if you were taught something that wasn't true?
 Q11. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- Can doubt ever be beneficial?
 Q12. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- Does one need a God belief in order to be good?
 Q13. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- If your God belief was mistaken, how would you discover that?
 Q14. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- Would you rather have evidence or faith for your God belief?
 Q15. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- How does it feel to discover you were mistaken about something?
 Q16. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- If you were raised Christian/Muslim/Hindu/Pagan/atheist/..., would you believe it today?
 Q17. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- Is a belief true simply because it is old?
 Q18. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- Is a belief true because lots of other people hold it?
 Q19. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- Does prayer always work?

- Q20. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
- What does a failed prayer look like?
 Q21. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
 - How could a person build a test for karma/miracles/prayer/a God/...?
 Q22. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
 - What would it take to discard your belief?
 Q23. 2016-02-01. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video description.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeADDe-ggmK>
 - Is holding this belief more important to you than the belief being true?
 Q24. 2017-04-08. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/850712375389028353>
 - You don't accept my personal testimony of other people's personal testimonies, but you would like me to accept your personal testimony?
 Q25. 2017-04-07. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/850404282209902593>
 - **IL:** If I was shown to be mistaken, I'd still believe it was true.
Q: Would you let a surgeon who also devalues truth to operate on your child?
 Q26. 2017-04-07. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/850331158642642944>
 - **IL:** I feel sorry for lots of people when Judgement Day comes.
Q: Is your belief in a God based on a fear of being punished, or something else?
 Q27. 2017-03-25. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/845505179315294213>
 - Would your belief change if or when we discovered how to extend our lives almost indefinitely?
 Q28. 2017-03-25. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/845519597906399232>
 - How did you conclude that anything written in your holy book is a reliable source of truth and not a book of claims?
 Q29. 2017-05-25. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/867581973530804225>
 - **IL:** You need a PhD in X before you can adequately challenge my position supporting God.
Q: Did you believe in god before you had the PhD? If so, why did you believe then?
 Q30. 2017-06-30. Dan Simpson. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/iDanSimpson/status/880768843114786816>
 - If you were raised to not believe that there was a god and you had these experiences, for such a person, what do you think the takeaway would have been in that situation?
 Q31. 2017-07-06. Anthony Magnabosco. YouTube video.
<https://youtu.be/Mn1P8LI5AmM>
 - How do you differentiate between your own independent thoughts and your belief

that a God is speaking to you?

Q32. 2017-10-27. Anthony Magnabosco. Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/magnabosco/status/923932996125839361>

- Could we be mistaken today like ancient Romans or Greeks were mistaken about their gods? Is there a way to minimize the risk?

Q33. 2018-06-16. Lukas Stratmann.

- What does a world where X isn't the case look like?

Q34. 2018-11-07. Deep Discussions. YouTube comment (in response to Reid's / Cordial Curiosity's own comment).
<https://youtu.be/mLrgQFKeYQ0>

- If ten minutes from now X stopped being the case, what would change?

Q35. 2018-11-07. Deep Discussions. YouTube comment (in response to Reid's / Cordial Curiosity's own comment).
<https://youtu.be/mLrgQFKeYQ0>

- If you were living in a world where X wasn't the case, what would you be looking for to discover that?

Q36. 2018-11-07. Deep Discussions. YouTube comment (in response to Reid's / Cordial Curiosity's own comment).
<https://youtu.be/mLrgQFKeYQ0>