

## Non-Rational Factors in Belief-Retention

One continues to believe X despite having good reasons\* / sufficient evidence for not-X ...

One *rejects* the argument for not-X and its claim / conclusion *for no good reasons\*\**

– simply for the purpose of continuing to believe X

One *ignores* the argument for not-X and its claim / conclusion *for no good reasons\*\**

– simply for the purpose of continuing to believe X

\*"having..." is a matter of being informed / having knowledge of evidence / reasons for not-X

- one is no longer ignorant of evidence / reasons for not-X

\*\*"good reasons..." are reasons that do not 'beg the question' / dogmatically assume X

Because:

1. **One has grown up being told "X is true"– believing X**
  - Thus, change of belief would be *a painful break from one's past*
2. **One has been told that "X is true" by significant, loved, trusted persons**
  - Thus, change of belief would be *a painful rejection* of their testimony and *risk personal alienation from them*
  - Change of belief would *risk being alienated or painfully rejected by them*
3. **The people one belongs to / identifies with people who believe" X is true"**  
**(One is "socially invested" in believing X)**
  - Thus, change of belief it would be socially *painful rejection of / break from the group* and its beliefs
  - Believing differently, one would risk *a socially painful rejection by / alienation by the group*  
[And, it might be an issue of *group and group-member narcissism*:  
"We- thus I- cannot be wrong about X!]
4. **One is "personally invested" - emotionally, intellectually (and spiritually) believing in X**
  - Thus, change of belief *would require a personal re-orientation* of one's views / beliefs that would be *intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually painful*  
[And, it might be an issue of *personal narcissism* :  
"I cannot be wrong about X!"]
5. **One's personal-existential identity is constituted by one's belief in X**
  - Thus, one would "no longer be the same person" if one stopped believing X  
["Who Am / What am I ... if I no longer believe X?"  
Therefore, "*I MUST go on believing X!*"]

***When non-rational factors cause one to deny-dismiss rational considerations / good evidence that "X is false" with the result that one continues to believe "X is true," non-rational belief has become irrational belief.***