

Experience has quite definitely shown that some reasons for holding a belief are much more likely to be justified by the event than others. It might naturally be supposed, for instance, that the best of all reasons for a belief was a strong conviction of certainty accompanying the belief. Experience, however, shows that this is not so, and that as a matter of fact, conviction by itself is more likely to mislead than it is to guarantee truth. On the other hand, lack of assurance and persistent hesitation to come to any belief whatever are an equally poor guarantee that the few beliefs which are arrived at are sound. Experience also shows that assertion, however long continued, although it is unfortunately with many people an effective enough means of inducing belief, is not in any way a ground for holding it. The method which has proved effective, as a matter of actual fact, in providing a firm foundation for belief wherever it has been capable of application, is what is usually called the scientific method. I firmly believe that the scientific method, although slow and never claiming to lead to complete truth, is the only method which in the long run will give satisfactory foundations for beliefs. It consists in demanding facts as the only basis for conclusions, and in consistently and continuously testing any conclusions which may have been reached, against the test of new facts and, wherever possible, by the crucial test of experiment. It consists also in full publication of the evidence on which conclusions are based, so that other workers may be assisted in new researches, or enabled to develop their own interpretations and arrive at possibly very different conclusions. There are, however, all sorts of occasions on which the scientific method is not applicable. That method involves slow testing, frequent suspension of judgment, restricted conclusions. The exigencies of everyday life, on the other hand, often make it necessary to act on a hasty balancing of admittedly incomplete evidence, to take immediate action, and to draw conclusions in advance of the evidence. It is also true that such action will always be necessary, and necessary in respect of ever larger issues; and this in spite of the fact that one of the most important trends of civilization is to remove sphere after sphere of life out of the domain of such intuitive judgment into the domain of rigid calculation based on science. It is here that belief plays its most important role. When we cannot be certain, we must proceed in part by faith—faith not only in the validity of our own capacity of making judgments, but also in the existence of certain other realities, pre-eminently moral and spiritual realities. It has been said that faith consists in acting always on the nobler hypothesis; and though this definition is a trifle rhetorical, it embodies a seed of real truth.

Answer briefly in your own words the following questions:

1. What justification does the author claim for his belief in the scientific method? (04)

Answer

According to the author, the scientific method is effective. The reason is that this method needs facts to give any finding. What is more, it also keeps testing the previous findings. Besides, it facilitates the new researchers to come to the novel conclusions about previous researches. In this way, author finds scientific method beneficial.

2. Do you gather from the passage that conclusions reached by the scientific method should be considered final? Give reasons for your answer. (04)

Answer

Conclusions reached by the scientific method should not be deemed final. The reason is that they are not completely right. If they are final as well as right, then other researchers try to do research on different things, rather than doing research on previous researches. Given all that, one must not consider conclusions reached by scientific method final

3. In what circumstances, according to the author, is it necessary to abandon the scientific method? (04)

Answer

According to the author, scientific method should be abandoned when humans have to take quick actions. Besides, it should also be abandoned when they have to draw conclusion before evidence. If, in such circumstances, they rely on scientific method, then they will not reach conclusion in short time because scientific method takes time to give finding about certain things. In short, there is no need to consider scientific method in quick actions.

4. How does the basis of "intuitive judgment" differ from that of scientific decision? (04)

Answer

The basis of intuitive judgment different from those of scientific decision. The basis of intuitive judgment lie in mind. It means that they can vary from person to person. However, scientific decision means things are same for all. There is objective reality in it. In sum, intuitive judgment is subjective, whereas scientific decisions are objective.