**Belief - Ponderings**

**Another belief of mine: that everyone else is an adult, whereas I am merely in disguise. (Margaret Atwood)**

**They conquer who believe they can. (John Dryden)**

**Belief consists in accepting the affirmations of the soul; unbelief, in denying them. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)**

**Credibility Gap: When you find something a little hard to believe -- like a mimeographed love letter. (Quoted by Earl Wilson, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)**

**Who believes it? That depends on who says it. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Never underestimate the difficulty of changing false beliefs by facts. (Henry Rosovsky, Harvard economist)**

**As Moses could not grasp the fact that he had been singled out by Jehovah to lead the Israelites from Egypt, so too will you often find it hard to believe the directions you receive. (Guideposts)**

**People are never so ready to believe you as when you say things in dispraise of yourself: and you are never so much annoyed as when they take you at your word. (W. Somerset Maugham, in A Writer's Notebook)**

**Why is there such a gap between what I'd like to believe, and what I do believe? (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**A belief is not merely an idea the mind possesses; it is an idea that possesses the mind. (Robert Bolton, author)**

**If you do not live what you believe, you will end up believing what you live. (Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen)**

**A person lives by believing something, not by debating and arguing about many things. (Thomas Carlyle)**

**I would never die for my beliefs, because I might be wrong. (Bertrand Russell)**

**More persons, on the whole, are humbugged by believing nothing than by believing too much. (P. T. Barnum, American showman)**

**If you must tell me your opinions, tell me what you believe in. I have plenty of doubts of my own. (Goethe)**

**When people show you -- or tell you -- who they are, believe them the first time. (Maya Angelou)**

**An idealist believes the short run doesn't count. A cynic believes the long run doesn't matter. A realist believes that what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run. (Sydney J. Harris, Field Newspaper Syndicate)**

**How beliefs warp reality: Have you ever felt that someone who disagrees with you politically is a little nuts? A new study from psychologists at Duke University indicates that you may be on to something -- no matter which side of the aisle you're on. Researchers found that when a group of about 190 people, evenly divided between self-identified Republicans and Democrats, were confronted with potential solutions to problems about which they had deeply held beliefs, such as climate change or gun control, they became increasingly likely to deny that the problems even existed. When Republicans were shown climate-change solutions that were merely inconvenient, they tended to agree that global temperatures were rising because of human activity. But if the proposed solutions involved government regulations and economic harm, they were much more likely to say that Earth wasn't warming at all. Similarly, when Democrats who supported strict gun control laws were presented with evidence that more access to guns actually reduced the number of violent home invasions, they suddenly became more likely to think that home invasions weren't a significant problem. "In any issue where people's cherished beliefs are in play, you're going to see some amount of solution aversion," study co-author Troy Campbell tells Wired.com. "If you don't want the solution to happen, then you deny that the problem exists." (The Week magazine, December 5, 2014)**

**We believe whatever we want to believe. (Demosthenes)**

**You can be anything you want to be in life. All you have to do it is believe in yourself. (Usher, R & B singer-composer)**

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*