Context Is Key

Information is whatever you use to select a specific action out of alternative actions.

Even the falsest, dumbest, most unreasonable, unrealistic, fatal idea that causes an actor to act is nevertheless information. What you say, think, believe, and feel are all noise, unless and until you use them to select one out of several alternative actions.

Opinions are beliefs that cannot be disputed and refuted.

Exchange of opinions is not a discussion or an argument. It is a social interaction that sometimes facilitates friendship, sometimes animosity.

Theories are beliefs that can be disputed and refuted by means of an argument or experiment.

The initial propositions of a theory are deemed true. To dispute them is to change the subject.

Arguments and Experiments are attempts to find false consequences of a theory or belief.

Each side applies formal logic to derive other true propositions, or a contradiction, or a conclusion that does not correspond to experience. Arguments among friends may be heated, but not hostile. Heated means distinguishing content from style.

Context

What follows is that all feelings, beliefs, manners, morals, religions, true or not, must be judged solely on their benefits in the context where applied.

Rigid beliefs, rigidly applied, may eventually doom the believer. Flexible beliefs allow adaptation when the context changes. Match your behavior to your context or change your context to match your behavior. Reality is the context of all possible contexts.

Reality is your friend.

Ted Dunn June 2020