A Betabilitarian.

Definition

A Betabilitarian is a human being who believes that the secrets of the universe – objective, totally unbiased truths about *any*thing – are questions whose answers are ultimately unknowable by human beings. During our relatively short lifetimes, all a human being can do is study as much information concerning a particular question as is available and make a **bet** as to what the truth of that matter is. A Betabilitarian has the humility first to know that they are only making a bet, and second to know that the information gathered to answer a question may be incomplete – either because there was available information that was missed in the Betabilitarian's research, or because relevant information was not yet available (likely because the tools designed to analyze and measure such questions didn't yet exist).

If missing information (whether as a result of an individual's less than complete research, or humanity's then insufficient tools) challenges the human being's previous *bet* as to the truth of the matter, they must have the courage, humility, character, and strength to admit this to themselves and everyone around them (most importantly, perhaps, those who the Betabilitarian has argued with most forcefully), and change their perspective accordingly.

A Betabilitarian does not care *what* you think; only that you do, for yourself – knowing, as best you can in that moment, who you are. Accordingly, a Betabilitarian doesn't care who you support politically.

A Betabilitarian only discriminates against two types of human being. First, the type of human being who, believing in their own superiority, wishes harm (physical or emotional) on any other human being and second – with far more ferocious passion – the type of human being who acts on that wish (whether that type of human being perpetrates the violence or causes someone else to perpetrate the violence).

Accordingly, a Betabilitarian decries violence, and condones its use against other human beings **only** when used in proportionate self-defense.

Etymology

The term betabilitarian was first used – to our knowledge – by one of the most important American jurists of the 20th century, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1902-1932) who may have learned it from Chauncey Wright (1830-1875), an American philosopher and mathematician. It is believed that Justice Holmes coined the term betabilitarian to describe himself when he changed his mind on

the breadth of the right of freedom of speech, having been introduced to the thinking of John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) on the subject by, among others, the well named United States Second Circuit Judge Learned Hand (1872-1961).