

Sometimes we hear reasoned arguments that oppose a view which we are emotionally committed; sometimes we hear a passionate plea for a view we have good reason to reject. Bearing this in mind, discuss the importance of reason and emotion on distinguishing between belief and knowledge.

To begin answering this question first it is needed to define the most important words in it. Reasoned arguments are proved points or facts that are based on some evidence or concrete information, logical points. To be emotionally committed with an argument is to be attached to something with or without support of logic, your feelings attaches you to something. Reason is the process of using logic based on proof. Emotions are your feelings, frame of mind. Belief is to be convinced that something is true or will happened without having any definite proof for it. Reason and emotion usually are opposites and depending on your way of thinking one can be used more than the other on the decisions we make every day. Knowledge and belief can be considered as opposites also and most of the time people find one more important than the other.

Reason and emotion are both used every day in our lives but depending on the person one can be used more than the other. Scientists always use more reason. When they tried to find out the DNA structure they couldn't just make out one and tell the world that they just felt like that structure was right, they had to do lots of research and experiments and after many years of work they finally found out the structure of DNA. If they would let themselves guide by emotion and make up something that "felt" right for them today we wouldn't be able to find a cure for many diseases or the explanation for them. By the other hand we have Pseudo-sciences like "Energy Therapies". The people who make use of this science are encouraged by emotion because there is no real proof that it works or really helps you. The horoscope most of the time is so general that anything that happens to you can fit in the description of your dairy horoscope but still people read them and they believe in it. This shows us how people can be very opposite when it comes to using emotion and reason. Reason and emotion can be more or less important depending on the area of knowledge.

Emotion is very important in art because from the emotions of the artist comes the inspiration for example I spend a lot of time with my best friend when she paints and after some time I noticed that when she is sad or on a bad mood she uses dark colours like dark blue and black but when she is happy about something she uses colours such as yellow, orange and green. Dance is another form of art and as well it is influenced by emotion. I practice belly dancing and my teacher once told me that every one can notice my mood because when I'm in a good mood I dance fast and light songs that involve faster moves but when I'm sad I pick slow songs and when I'm just annoyed or angry I pick songs which have heavier sounds and the moves I use are stronger. So the outcomes of an artist in his or her art mostly depend on how the artist felt at the moment when creating the piece of art.

Reason is mostly used in the natural sciences because in this area of knowledge if you don't have proof for what you are saying it is worth nothing.

This is the reason why scientific investigations take so long to come out because firstly the scientists have to have a hypothesis, then they have to test it to find some proof and then evaluate the whole process to find if there are any errors. For example Penicillin was discovered by bacteriologist Alexander Fleming in 1929, 1929 he published the results of his investigations, noting that his discovery might have therapeutic value if it could be produced in quantity. It was not until 1939 that Dr. Howard Florey, and three colleagues at Oxford University began to research the theory of Fleming and were able to demonstrate penicillin's ability to kill infectious bacteria.¹ So as we can see scientist have to do lots of research and experiments just to find a correct theory which after some time can be accepted by others or not.

Emotion and reason are better used together for example an argument without any emotion won't be convincing to the other person but an argument with lots of emotion but without any reason won't make any sense, so the combination of both is better. There are some people that use more emotion than reason and other more reason than emotion and these differences can be better shown in knowledge and belief. Knowledge is based on facts so it is based on reason for example I know that the solar system is composed by nine planets because many scientists have observed these planets and gave us proof for it. Knowledge can be based on emotions also not as much as on reason but emotion is a part of knowledge too because you know how you feel in certain situations and that's your personal knowledge. Belief is based mostly on emotion for example there are people who really believe that some day there will be world peace because at some point people just stop wanting more power so all the countries will join powers to have a better world. Even when all of the common logic tells us that it just won't happen people just won't stop believing it because they are emotionally attached to that belief.

Sometimes belief and knowledge contradict each other, for example when it comes to us, humans. There are two different sides about how humans were created one is the scientific theory (knowledge) and the other is the religious theory (belief). The scientific theory tells us that humans have evolved over time to adapt ourselves to the environment and to succeed in it. This theory is based on proof like fossils found and also we have seen how bacteria can evolve to adapt itself to survive in different conditions. The other theory is about Adam and Eve; this theory tells us that Adam was created by god and then a rib was taken from him to create a woman (Eve) and they were the beginning of the human kind. These are some of the opposites between knowledge and belief but most of the time they can be used together because in some cases belief becomes our knowledge. My friend believes that there is life in the space and that belief is her own knowledge because she is so convinced of it that she can claim that she knows it.

Reason and emotion as knowledge and belief cannot be completely separated because people cannot use only one thing and not the other for example I cannot base my decisions and my actions on emotion because I know that emotions can change one day I can hate one person and the other I can love

¹ "The history of penicillin" <http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blpenicillin.htm>

the same person but I would let myself guide by emotions then the day I hate this person I can just go and hit him or her but the next day I will regret it. That's why I usually use both reason and emotion. As well I know that I cannot base all of my knowledge on belief because I need some proof for some things but I don't need it for others. So both believe and knowledge are important to people, some will prefer to trust one more than the other but yet both will be used.

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