# 12 Steps to Mental Immunity

# Step 1:

Play with ideas.
Test them.
Ask questions.
Pose challenges.

# Step 2:

Understand that minds are not passive knowledge receptacles.

## Step 3:

Get past the self-indulgent idea that you're entitled to your opinions.

## Step 4:

Distinguish between good and bad faith.

# Step 5:

Give up the idea that learning is merely a matter of adding to the mind's knowledge stockpile.

# Step 6:

New information is like a puzzle piece; you must find where it fits and how it connects.

## Step 7:

Don't use

"Who's to say?"

to cut short unsettling
inquiries.

## Step 8:

Let go of the idea that value judgments can't be objective.

## Step 9:

Treat challenges to your beliefs as opportunities rather than threats.

## Step 10:

Satisfy your need for belonging with a community of *inquiry* rather than a community of *belief*.

## Step 11:

Upgrade your understanding of reasonable belief.

The idea that a good reason can fully secure a belief is a myth.

## Step 12:

Don't underestimate the value of ideas that *have* survived scrutiny.

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