**Term:** Belief

**Quote:** A belief is of the nature of a habit; for a belief is a rule so impressed upon a man's nature that he will act according to it when he acts deliberately and the proposition believed in is the hinge on which conduct will turn. Now a habit (using the word in such a sense as not to exclude a natural disposition) is nothing but a rule so impressed upon a man's nature that he tends to act according to it, when opposing influences are not too strong. A belief, therefore, is seated in the depth of the soul, and may never appear even to the believer himself except in its effects.


**References:** MS [R] 596:21

**Date of Quote:** 1902-03 [c.]

**Editorial Annotations:** From a variant page

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-reasons-rules-21