

'Retrodution' (pub. 12.03.13-19:05). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-logical-criticism-articles-religious-belief>.

Term: Retrodution

Quote: By Retrodution I mean that kind of reasoning by which, upon finding ourselves confronted by a state of things that, taken by itself, seems almost or quite incomprehensible, or extremely complicated if not very irregular, or at least surprising; we are led to suppose that perhaps there is, in fact, another definite state of things, because, though we do not perceive any unequivocal evidence of it, nor even of a part of it, (or independently of such evidence if it does exist,) we yet perceive that this supposed state of things would shed a light of reason upon that state of facts with which we are confronted, rendering it comprehensible, likely (if not certain,) or comparatively simple and natural.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1911). *A Logical Criticism of the Articles of Religious Belief*. MS [R] 856.

References: MS [R] 856:3-4

Date of 1911

Quote:

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