

'Doubt' (pub. 26.05.14-15:21). 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-critique-essential-articles-religious-faith-4>.

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**Term:** Doubt

**Quote:** Genuine doubt is a state of mind so distressing that many persons cannot support it long. If I may be allowed to use the word "Habit" to denote any state of mind by virtue of which a person would, under definite circumstances, — mostly, if not invariably, consisting in his experiencing conscious experience of some kind, — either think, or act, or feel in a definite way, [...] then doubt may be defined as the state of mind in which one is stimulated to impossible intellectuals assents. This is *positive* doubt, — an irritation not finding its immediate appeasement and therefore resulting (since it is a mental irritation) in conflicting inchoative judgments accompanied with pain. A *negative* doubt is the mere absence of a state of Belief, that is to say, of a habit of determinate expectation under definite circumstances.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1911). *A Logical Critique of Essential Articles of Religious Faith*. MS [R] 852.

**References:** MS [R] 852:8-10

**Date of** 1911

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-logical-critique-essential-articles-religious-faith-4>