



# RELINQUISHING (*SELF*) JUSTIFICATIONS

JOURNEY SCHOOL 8/15/2024

# JUSTIFICATION IN THE EPISTLES: BY FAITH OR BY WORKS OF THE LAW

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ABRAHAM: BY FAITH  
INNER MOTIVATION

“virtue of what one is, not by what one does”  
David Hawkins

MOSES: BY WORKS OF THE LAW  
EXTERNAL MANIFESTATION

“actions, limited and linear”  
David Hawkins



# APOSTLE JAMES: JUSTIFICATION BY WORKS OF THE LAW

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“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled”, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?”

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works”

James 2:14-18

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## APOSTLE PAUL: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

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“ For we maintain that a man/woman is justified by faith apart from observing the law”

Romans 3:28



“It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir to the world, but through righteousness that comes by faith.”

Romans 4: 13

“A man/woman is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So, we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

Galatians 2:16

“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I live in the body, I live in the faith in the Son of God”

Galatians 2:20

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# INNER WORK BEARS GOOD WORKS

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“God made humans for a purpose: not simply for themselves, not simply so that they could be in relationship with him, but so that *through* them, as his image – bearers, he could bring his wise, glad, fruitful order to the world”

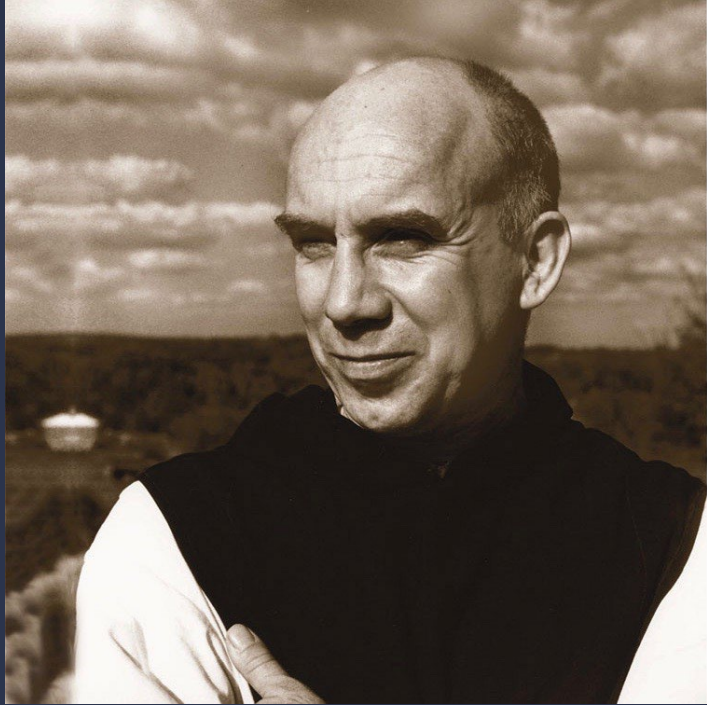
N.T. Wright *Justification: God's Plan and Paul's Vision* p 23-24.





# JUSTIFIED VS SELF - JUSTIFIED

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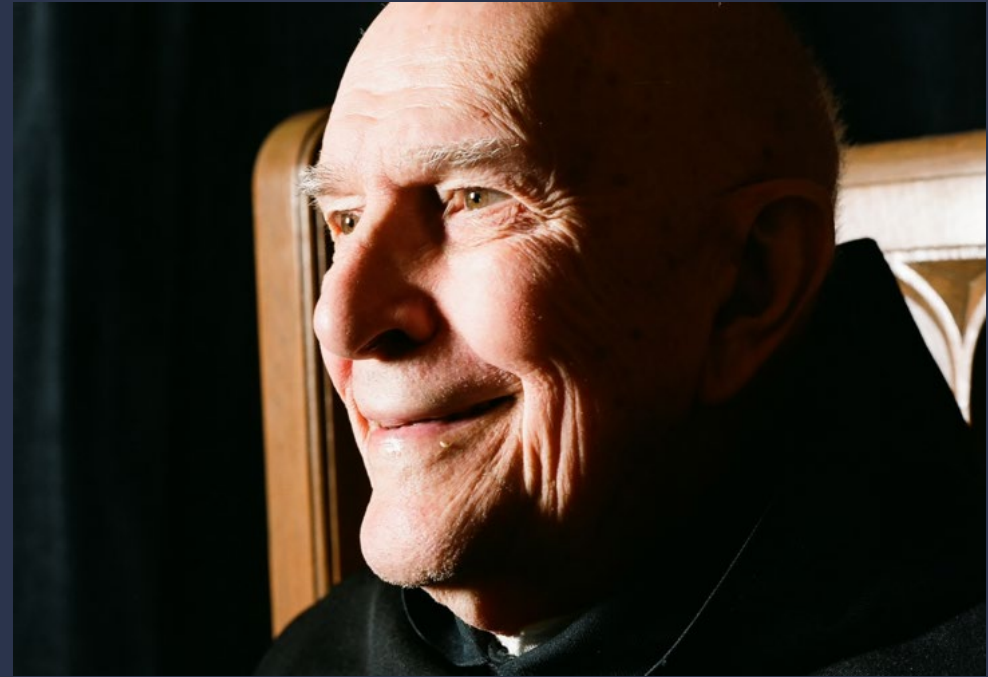


“If you want to find God,  
you must find yourself first”

Thomas Merton

“In Christianity, motivation is everything”

Thomas Keating



TAX COLLECTOR  
YEARNING FOR CHRIST



PHARISEE  
SELF JUSTIFICATION

*'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'*

*But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'*

LUKE 18:10-14

# RELINQUISHING *SELF*- JUSTIFICATION

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One of the many definite things we are told by this Work to observe in ourselves, and specifically to work against, is *self-justifying*. What does *self-justifying* mean? It means always putting yourself in the right. To justify one's action, for example, is to vindicate oneself, to show to others that whatever one did, it was reasonable, right, proper and just.

When you justify yourself, you start from a picture of yourself as always good, honorable, just, upright. The justify oneself is to exonerate oneself, to explain to people how one was not to blame, how one was misunderstood, how one acted from the best motives, and so on.

If you have begun to observe *self-justifying*, you will realize what a prodigious quantity of psychic energy is used every moment by the human race in this useless activity.

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# COGNITIVE DISSONANCE

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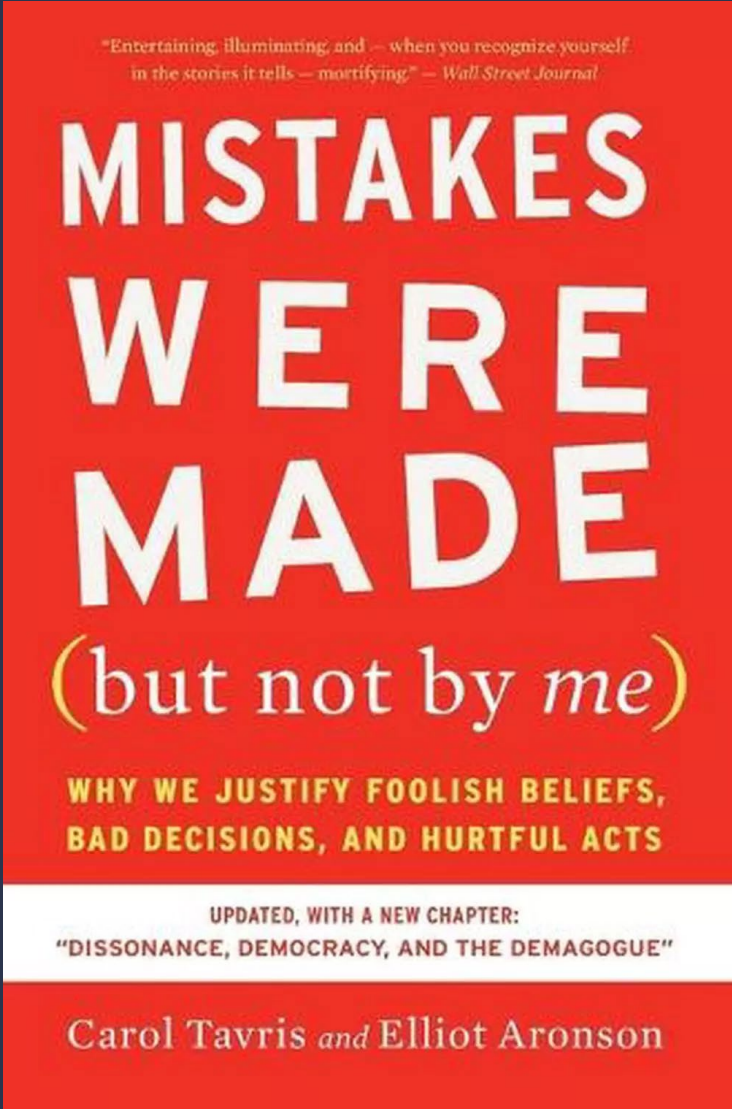


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Rene Magritte *NOT TO BE REPRODUCED*. 1937

OK, WHICH ONE  
ARE YOU GONNA  
BELIEVE... THE  
OFFICIAL TRAIL  
MAP OR YOUR  
LYIN' EYES?

SHOWDOWN AT  
THE COGNITIVE  
DISSONANCE  
BRIDGE



“The engine that drives *self-justification*, the energy that produces the need to justify our actions and decisions – especially the wrong ones

- is the unpleasant feeling called “**cognitive dissonance**”.

“Dissonance reduction operates like a burner on a stove, keeping our self esteem bubbling along. That is why we are unusually oblivious to the *self – justification*, the little lies to ourselves that prevent us from even acknowledging that we made mistakes or foolish decisions”

*Naïve realism* is the inescapable conviction that we perceive objects and events clearly, “as they really are” ....Naive realism creates a logical labyrinth because it presupposes two things:

One, people who are open-minded and fair ought to agree with a reasonable opinion, and two, any opinion *I hold* must be reasonable; if it weren't, *I wouldn't hold it.*”



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# PRIDE AND VANITY

“ ‘I have done that’, says my memory.  
‘I cannot have done that’, says my pride,  
and remains inexorable.

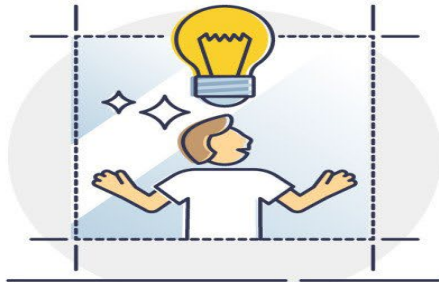
Eventually – memory yields.”

Friedrich Nietzsche

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# COGNITIVE BIASES



**CONFIRMATION  
BIAS**



**LOSS  
AVERSION**



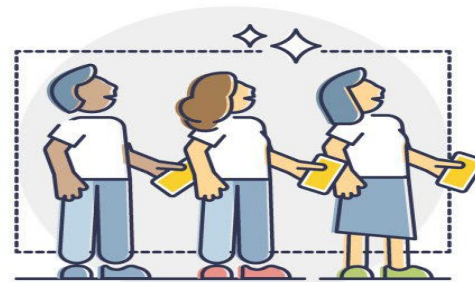
**GAMBLER'S  
FALLACY**



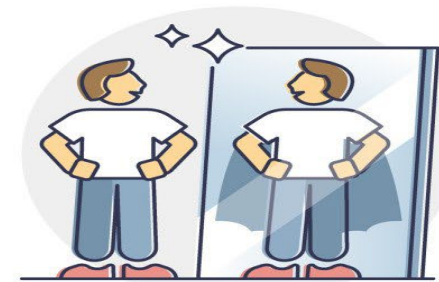
**AVAILABILITY  
CASCADE**



**FRAMING  
EFFECT**

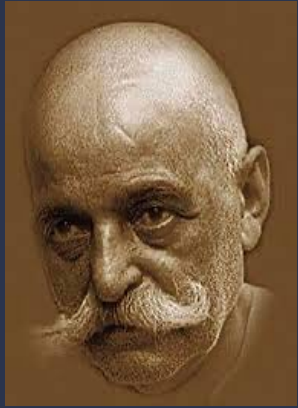


**BANDWAGON  
EFFECT**



**DUNNING-KRUGER  
EFFECT**

# SUGGESTIBILITY



“It is perfectly easy to convince beings of this planet of anything you like”

“how there are never crystallized in them any subjective being-convictions formed by their own logical deliberations...but instead, only those convictions are crystallized that depend exclusively upon the opinions of others”.



A novel idea that explains a complex process in simple terms in available media creating a self reinforcing cycle that gains rapid currency in popular discourse.



When people do or believe something primarily because other people are doing or believing it

# Cognitive Distortions : Winning and Losing



Pain of losing is more severe than any potential for gain



If an event has occurred less frequently than expected in the past, it is more likely to happen in the future.



Presenting a choice as a gain. Fear of losing out. Used by advertisers



Those with limited competence in a certain domain overestimate their abilities  
Last week's , "I Can Do"

# CONFIRMATION BIAS: SELECTIVE CHOICE OF EVIDENCE



"I will look to any additional evidence to confirm the opinion to which I have already come"

Lord Molson, 20<sup>th</sup> century British politician





# MEMORY DISTORTIONS

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“Memories are not buried like bones at an archeological site; you can’t dig them up, perfectly preserved.

Because memory is reconstructive, it is subject to confabulation”



**SOURCE CONFUSION:** Weaving subsequent stories that crept in from elsewhere



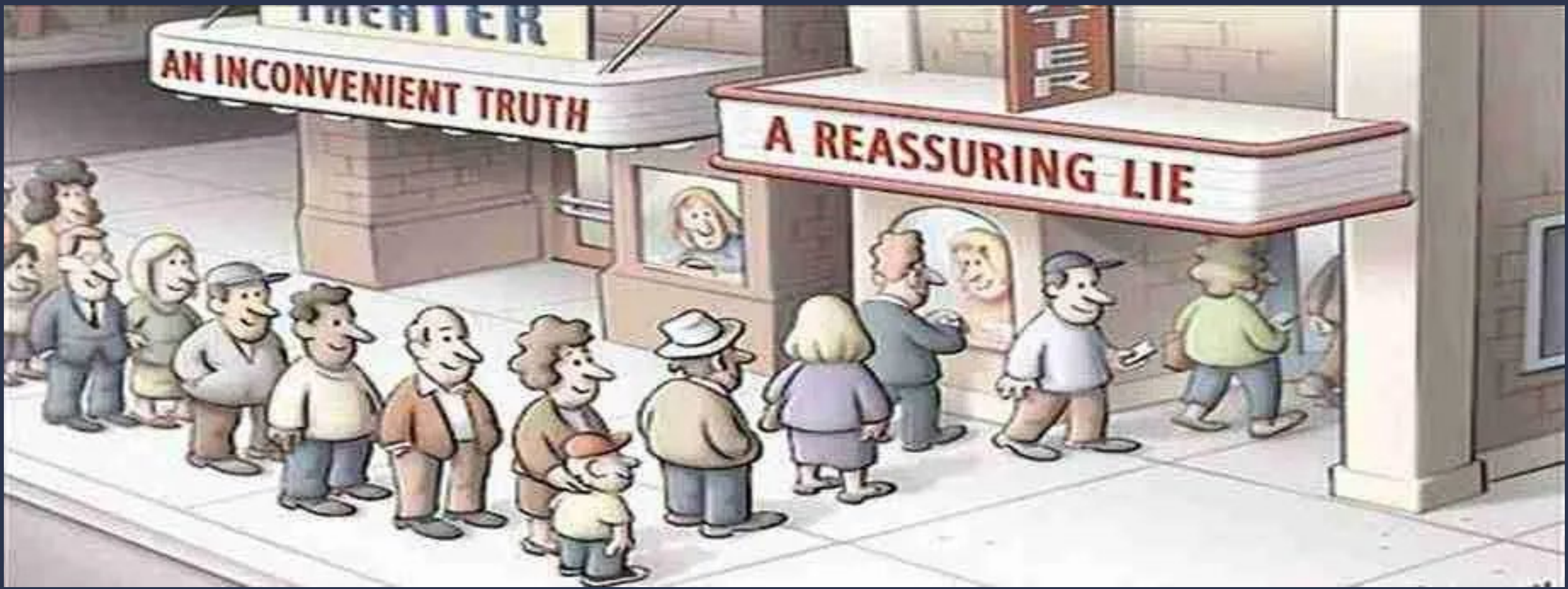
**IMAGINATION INFLATION:** Increased confidence that an imagined event actually occurred, due to creating familiarity of the “event” in one’s imagination

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THEATER  
AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

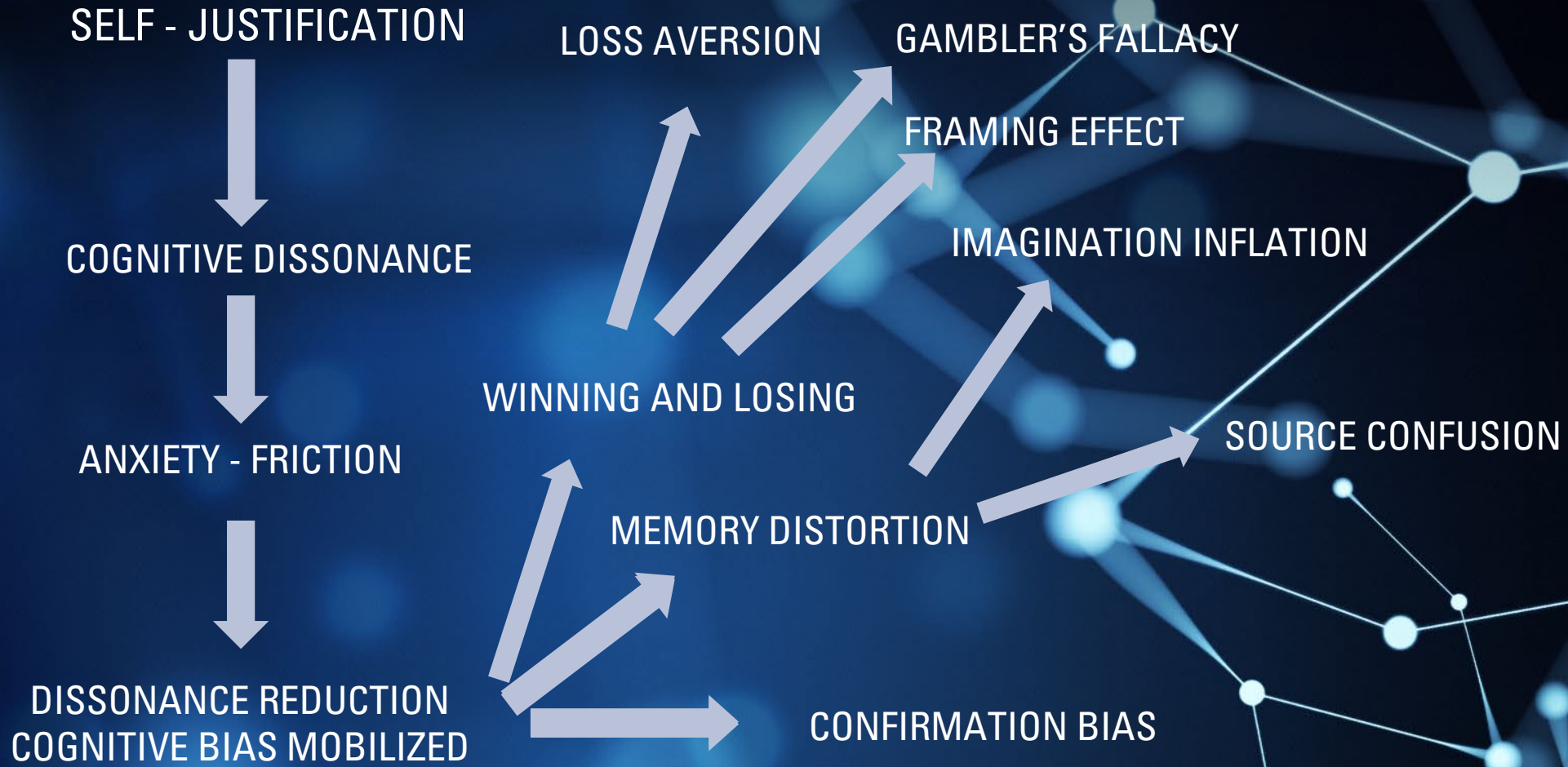
THEATER  
A REASSURING LIE



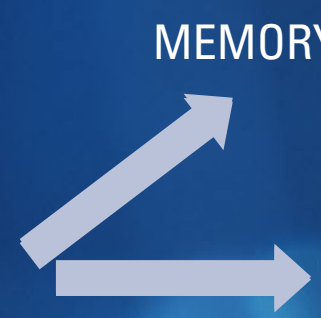








SELF - JUSTIFICATION  
↓  
COGNITIVE DISSONANCE  
↓  
ANXIETY - FRICTION  
↓  
DISSONANCE REDUCTION  
COGNITIVE BIAS MOBILIZED



MEMORY DISTORTION

CONFIRMATION BIAS

IMAGINATION INFLATION

SOURCE CONFUSION



SELF - JUSTIFICATION



COGNITIVE DISSONANCE



ANXIETY - FRICTION



DISSONANCE REDUCTION  
COGNITIVE BIAS MOBILIZED





SELF - JUSTIFICATION



COGNITIVE DISSONANCE



ANXIETY - FRICTION





COGNITIVE DISSONANCE



ANXIETY - FRICTION



SELF REMEMBERING



SELF OBSERVATION



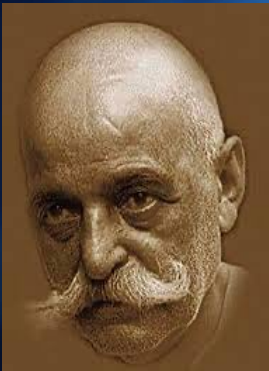
CONSCIENCE – REAL WILL



RELINQUISH SELF – JUSTIFICATION



RELINQUISH THE BIASES THAT SUPPORT  
SELF- JUSTIFICATION



“LIVE A LIFE OF FRICTION.

LET YOURSELF BE DISTURBED  
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

BUT OBSERVE”



“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I live in the body, I live in the faith in the Son of God”

Galatians 2:20



SHARING

