On the Uncertainty of Disbelief

This occasion of becoming a recipient of the 2013 Mendel Medal presents me with a challenge and an opportunity to make an address based on an essay I have written for this event. Several times, I have resorted to the essay form to express thoughts reached after fairly substantial periods of reflection. For me, these documents conclude and record for any interested party my thoughts on various issues. Typically, these deliberations have occured over a period of years where I have turned over in my mind a question that is revisited many times in an effort to refine my opinions.