

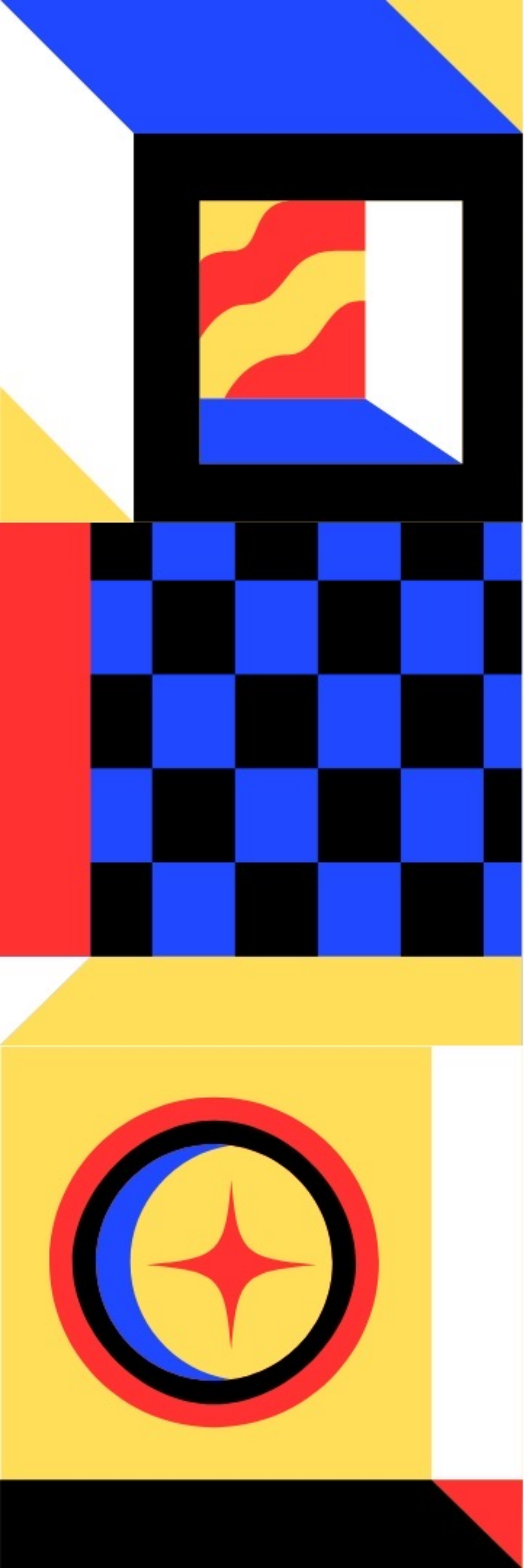


Meaning | Satisfaction | Freedom | Self | Identity | Hope | Morality | Justice

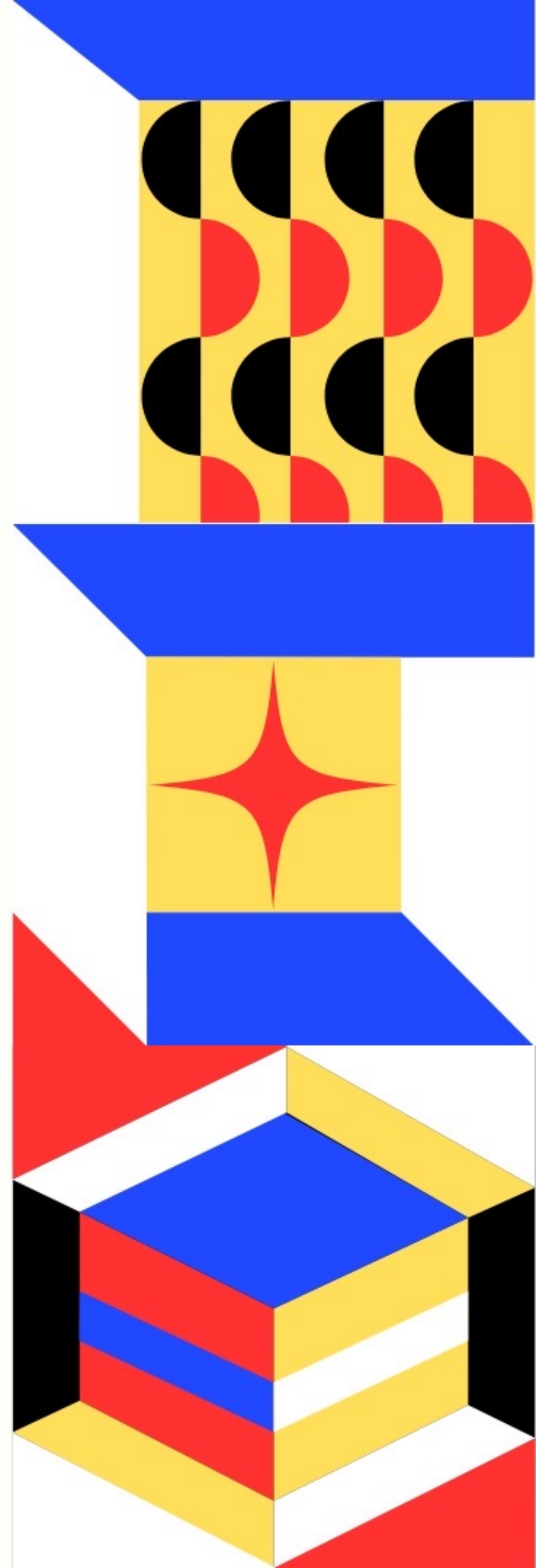
MAKING SENSE OF GOD

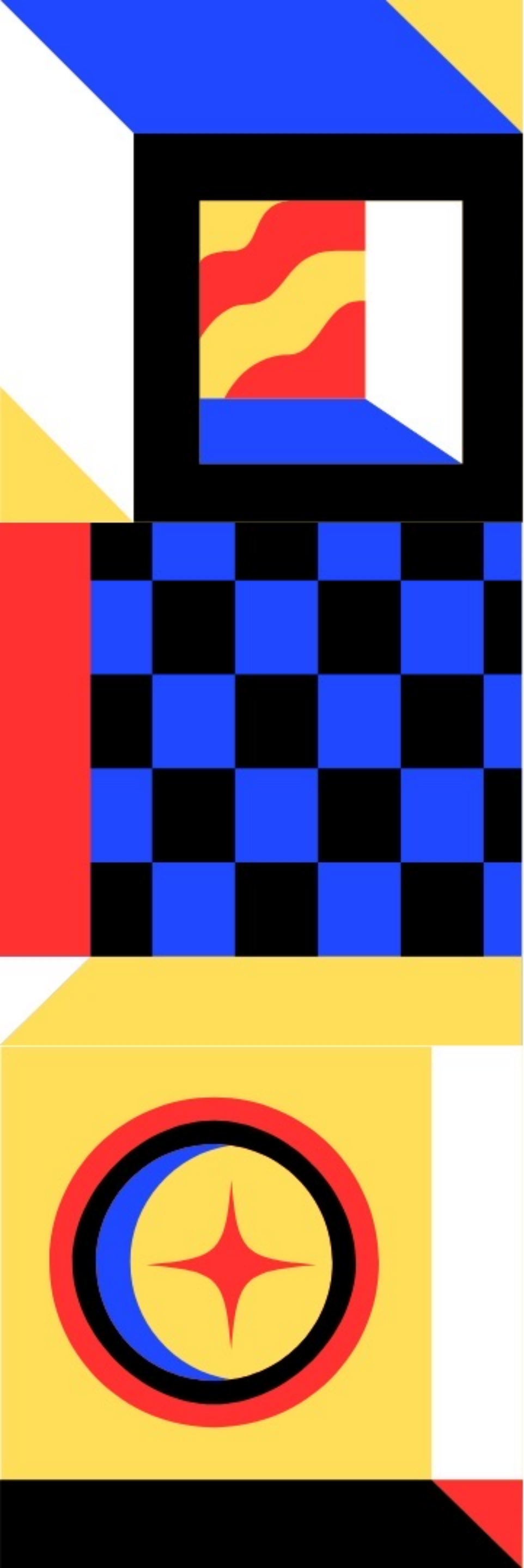
Kevin Timmons | Scott Sears | 7:15 pm | Wednesdays | July 8 – August 5





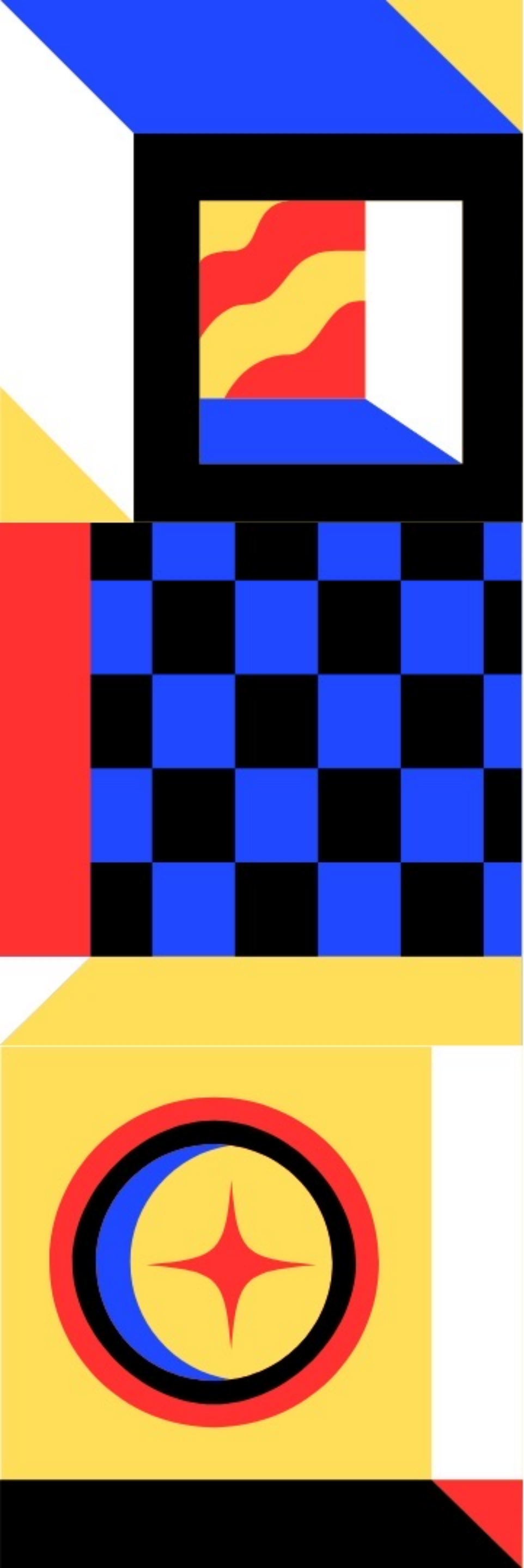
Preface





Skepticism:

- Doubt, Uncertainty, Mistrust, Suspicion
 - Inquiry Driven
 - Evidence Based
 - Scientific Method Focus
 - Suspending judgements, questioning assumptions/givens
 - Demands rigorous evidence, not accepting blindly.
 - Structured Analytical Process aimed at discovering truth
- 

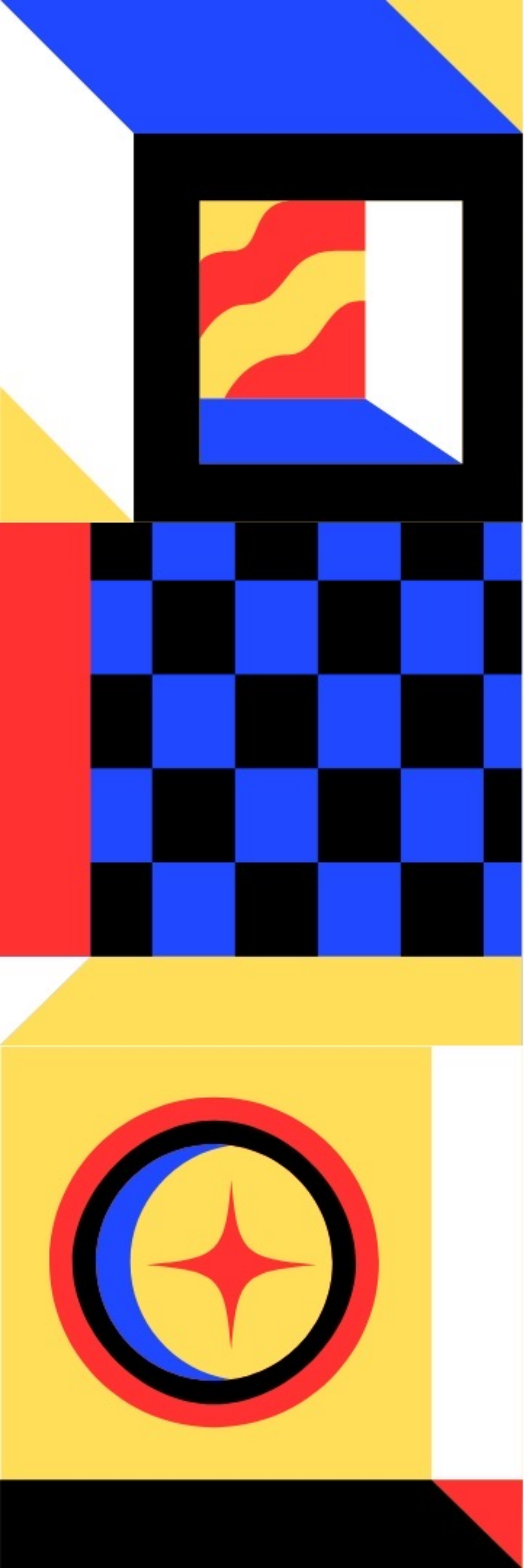


Secular:

- Social/Political Structure
 - Separation of Church and State
 - No advocacy/privilege for faith by Government or cultural institutions
 - Individual Descriptor
 - Does not have Knowledge of God or the supernatural, beyond the natural world
 - Emphasis on the material world and the scientific explanation of reality
 - Age (Type of Cultural View)
 - Emphasis on the "Here & Now", this present time
 - No real thought on the concepts of the eternal or transcendent
- 

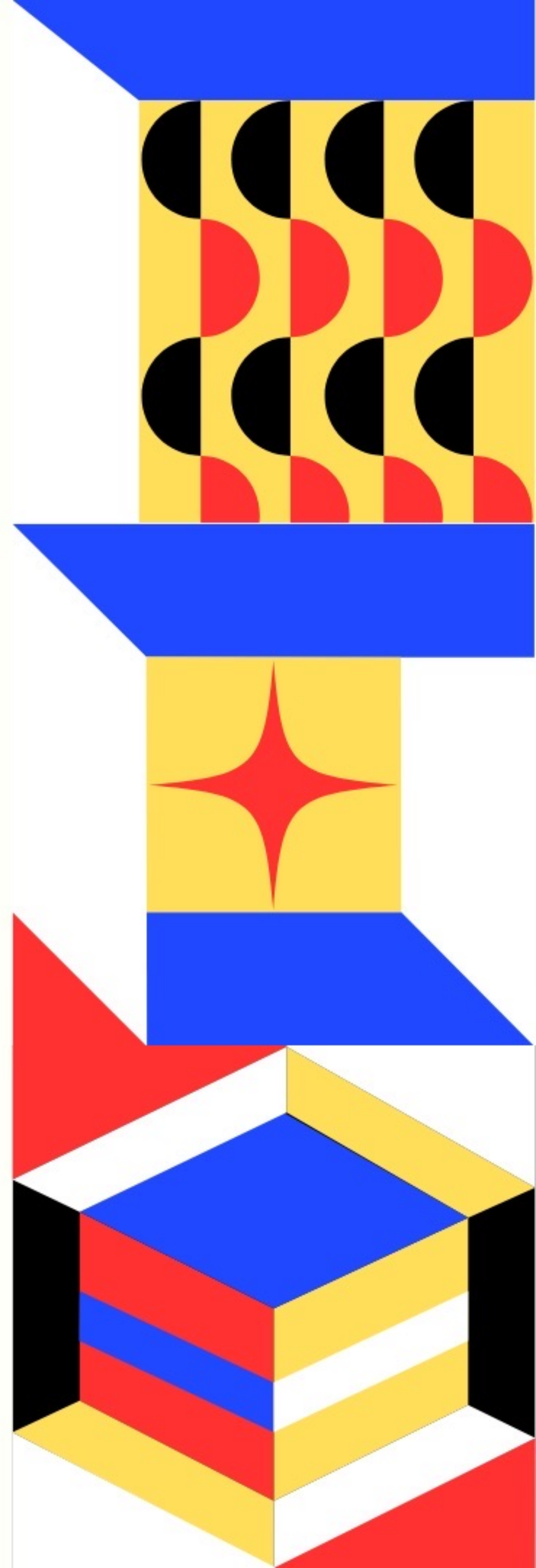
The slide features decorative geometric patterns on the left and right sides. The left side includes a blue and yellow triangle at the top left, a black square containing a yellow and red wavy pattern, a blue and black checkerboard pattern, and a yellow square with a red and blue circular design. The right side includes a yellow and black pattern of semi-circles, a blue trapezoid, a yellow square with a red star, a blue trapezoid, and a 3D cube-like structure with blue, red, and yellow faces. The central text is in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

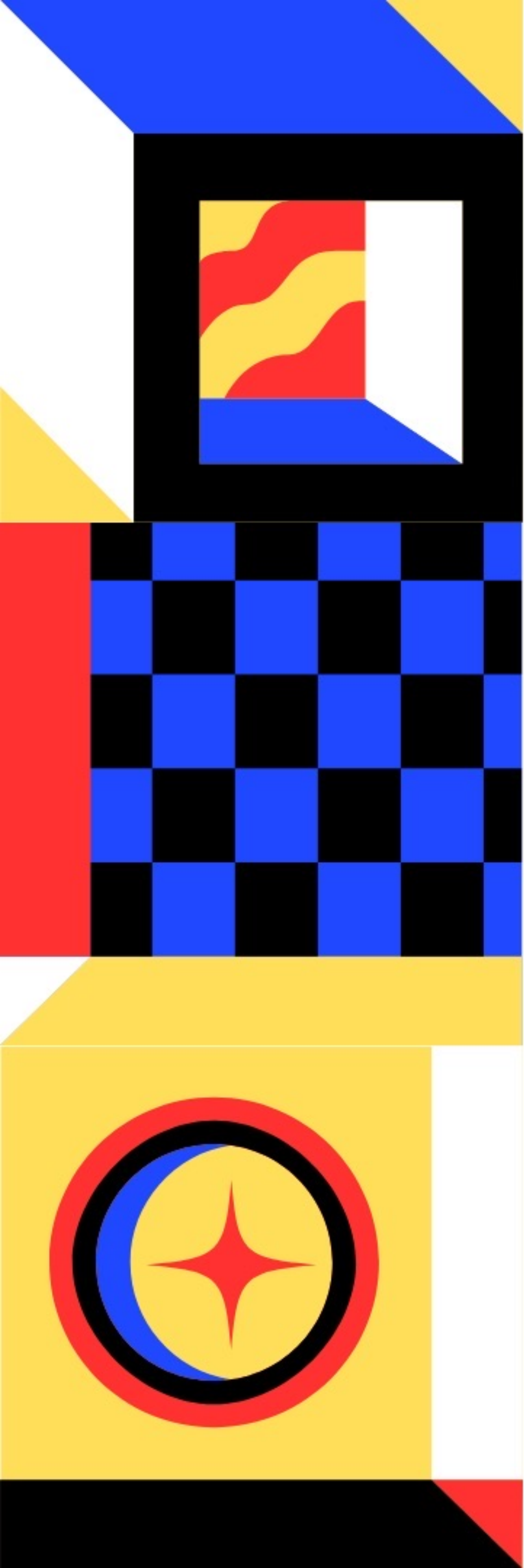
**Everyone Lives
by Faith**



Jude 23

Have mercy on those who doubt





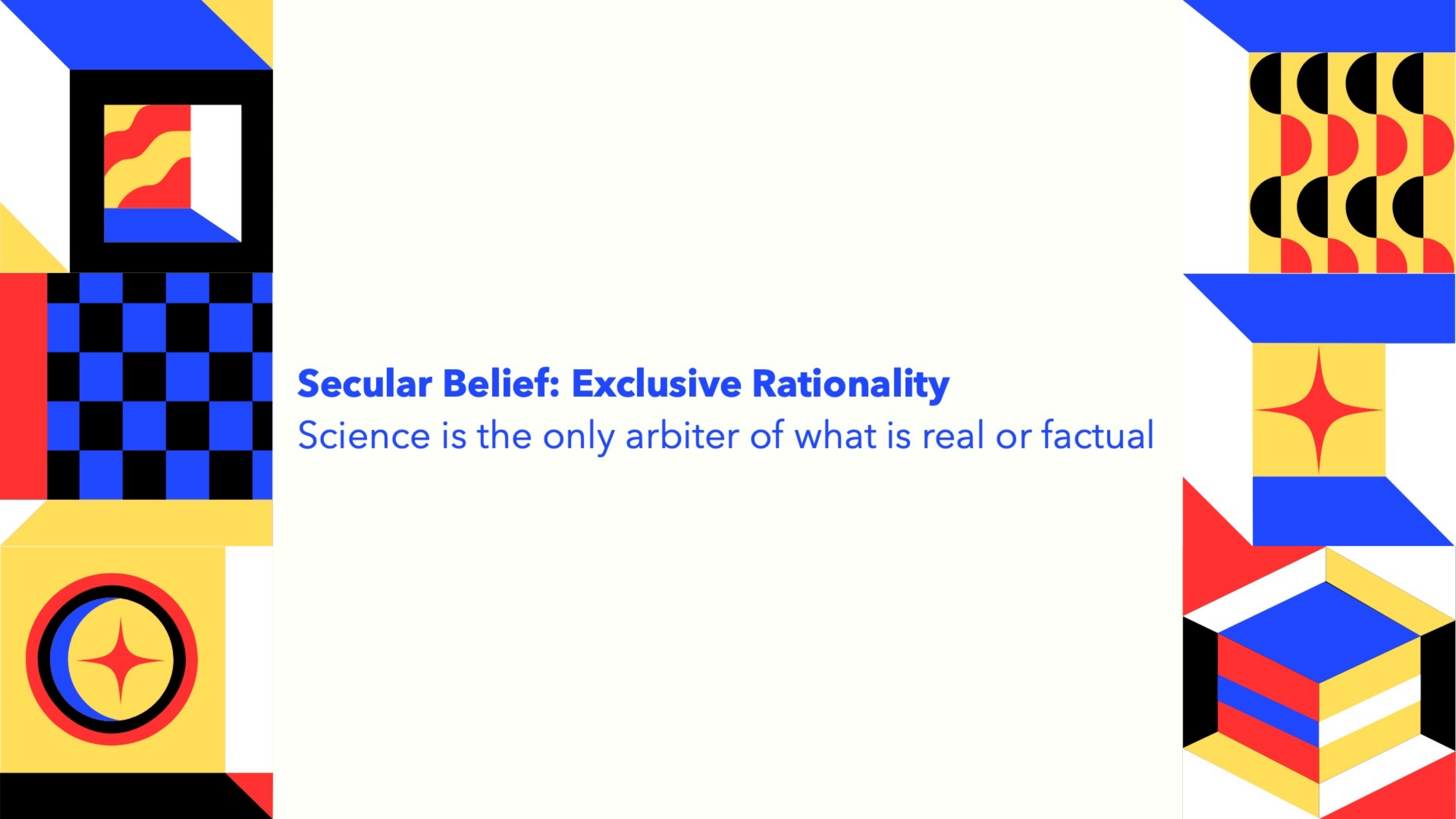
Isn't religion based on faith and secularism on evidence?





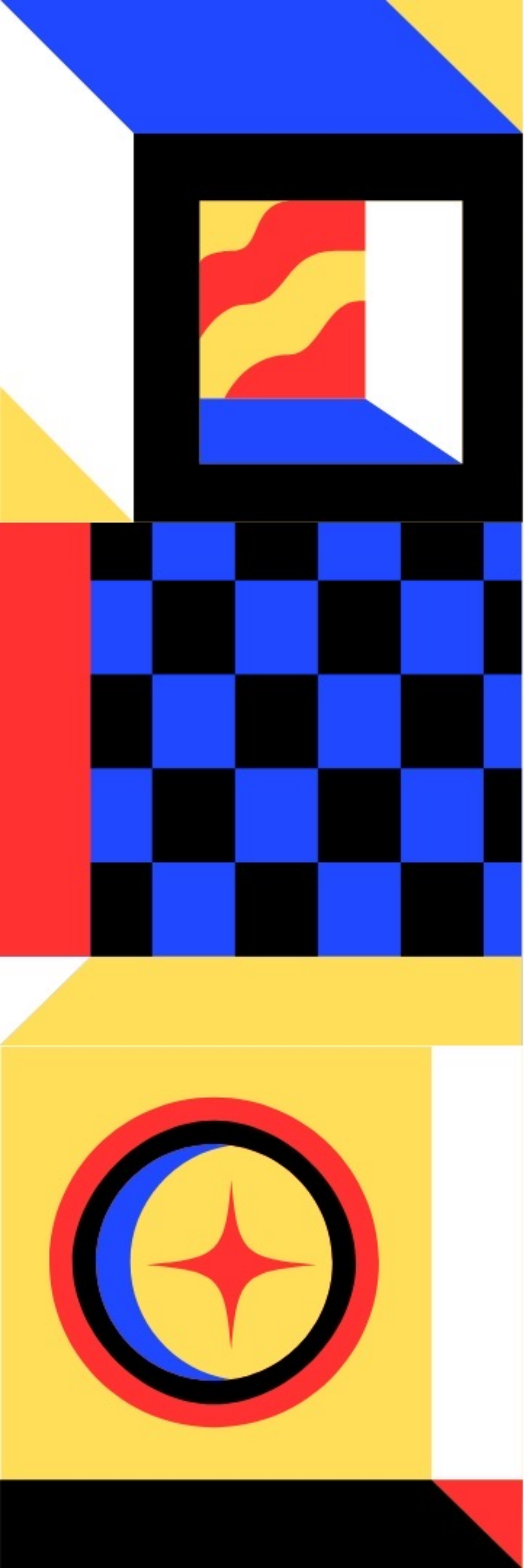
Isn't religion based on faith and secularism on evidence?

No! Moving from religion to secularism is really just a move from one set of faith beliefs to another.



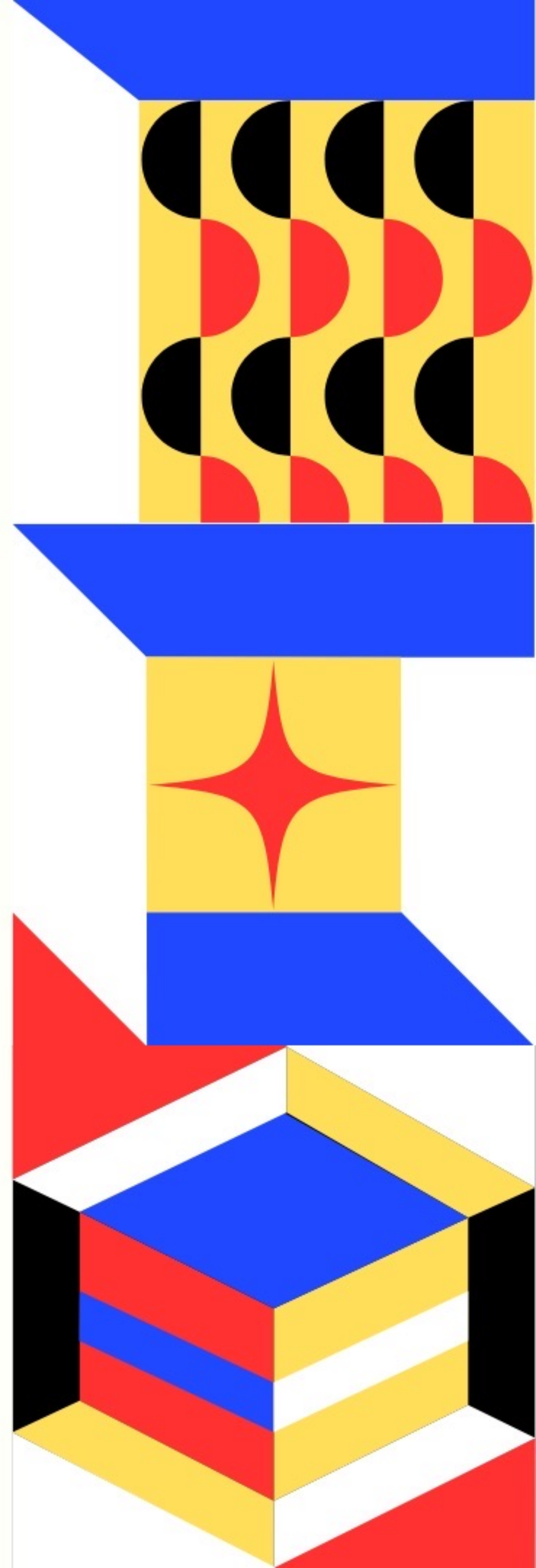
Secular Belief: Exclusive Rationality

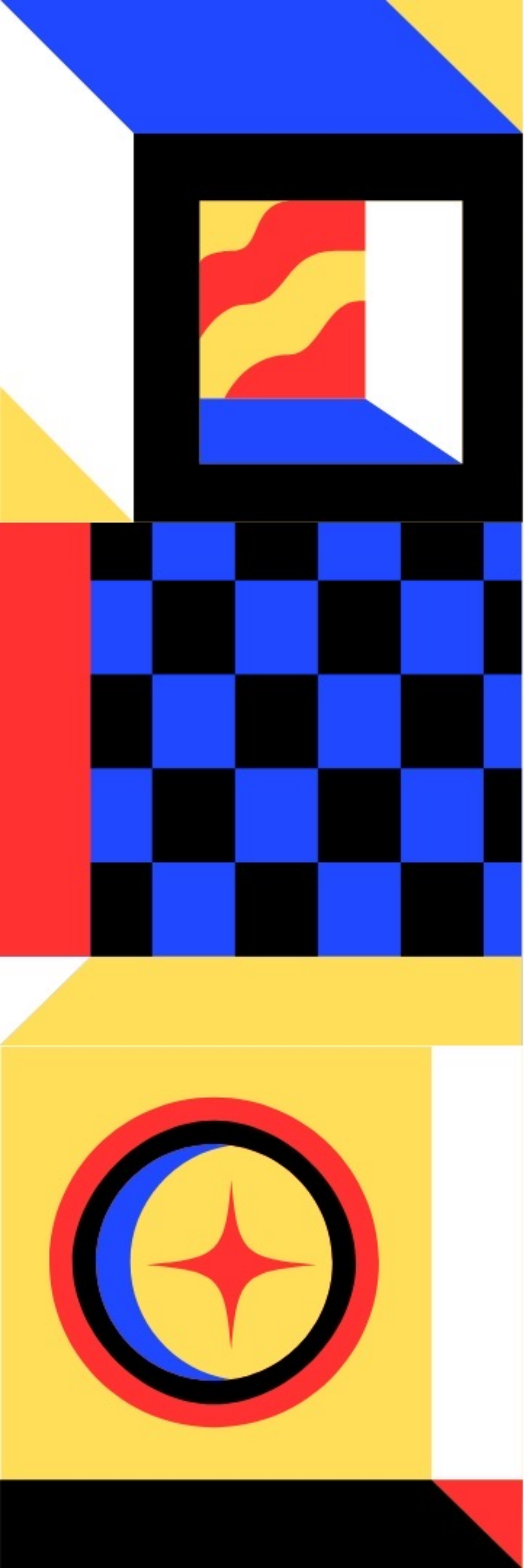
Science is the only arbiter of what is real or factual



Problems

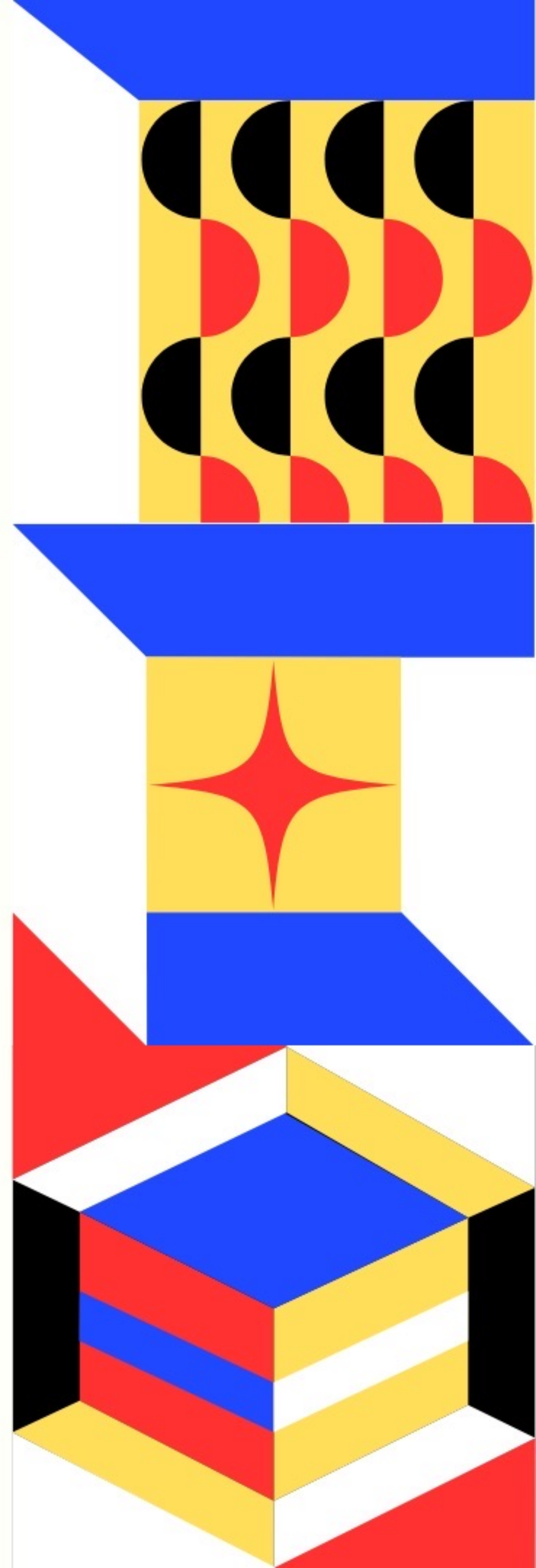
- *"I think, therefore I am."* – René Descartes

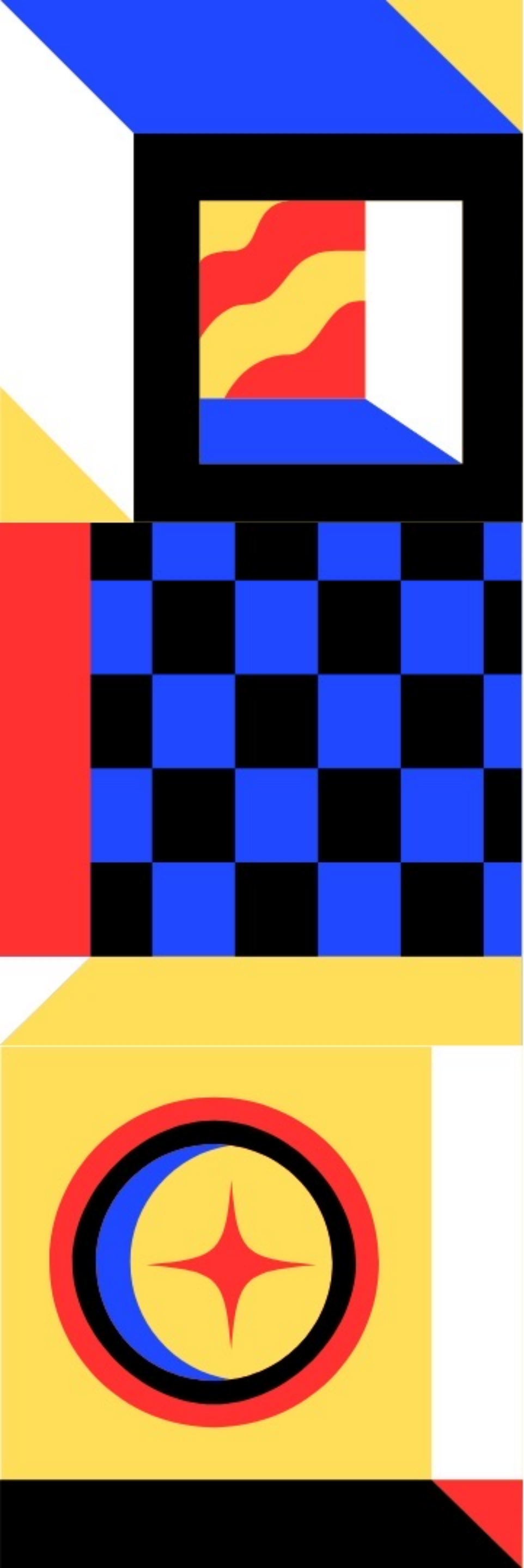




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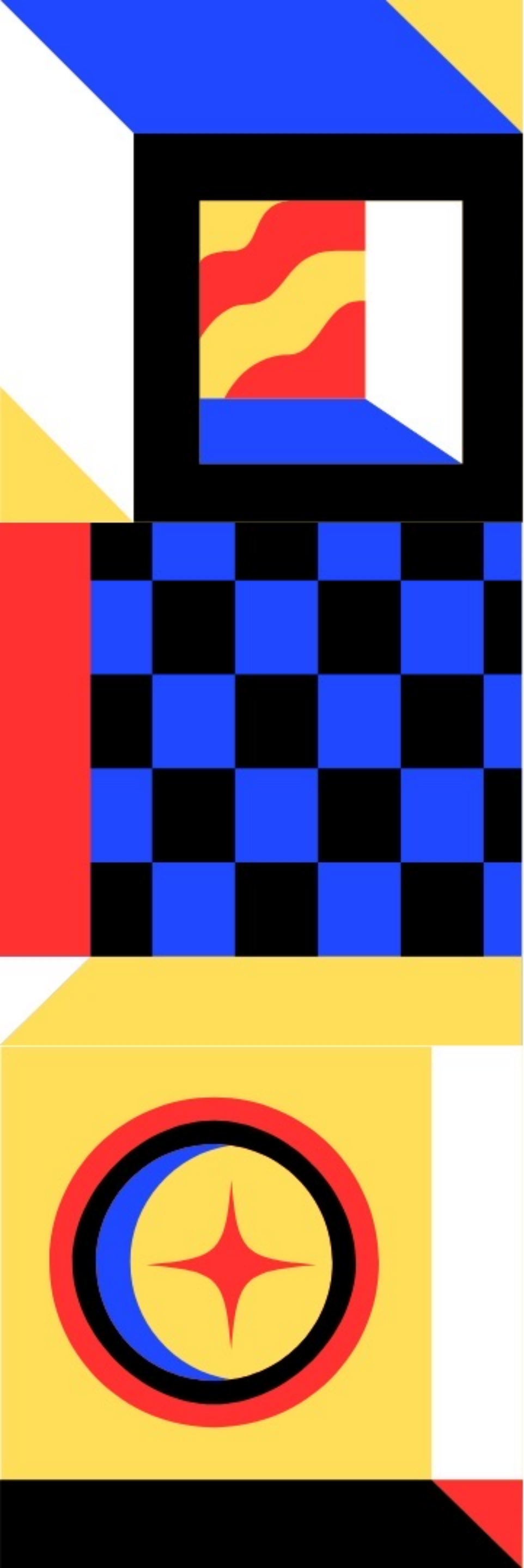
- *"I think, therefore I am."* – René Descartes
- Few convictions can be proven scientifically





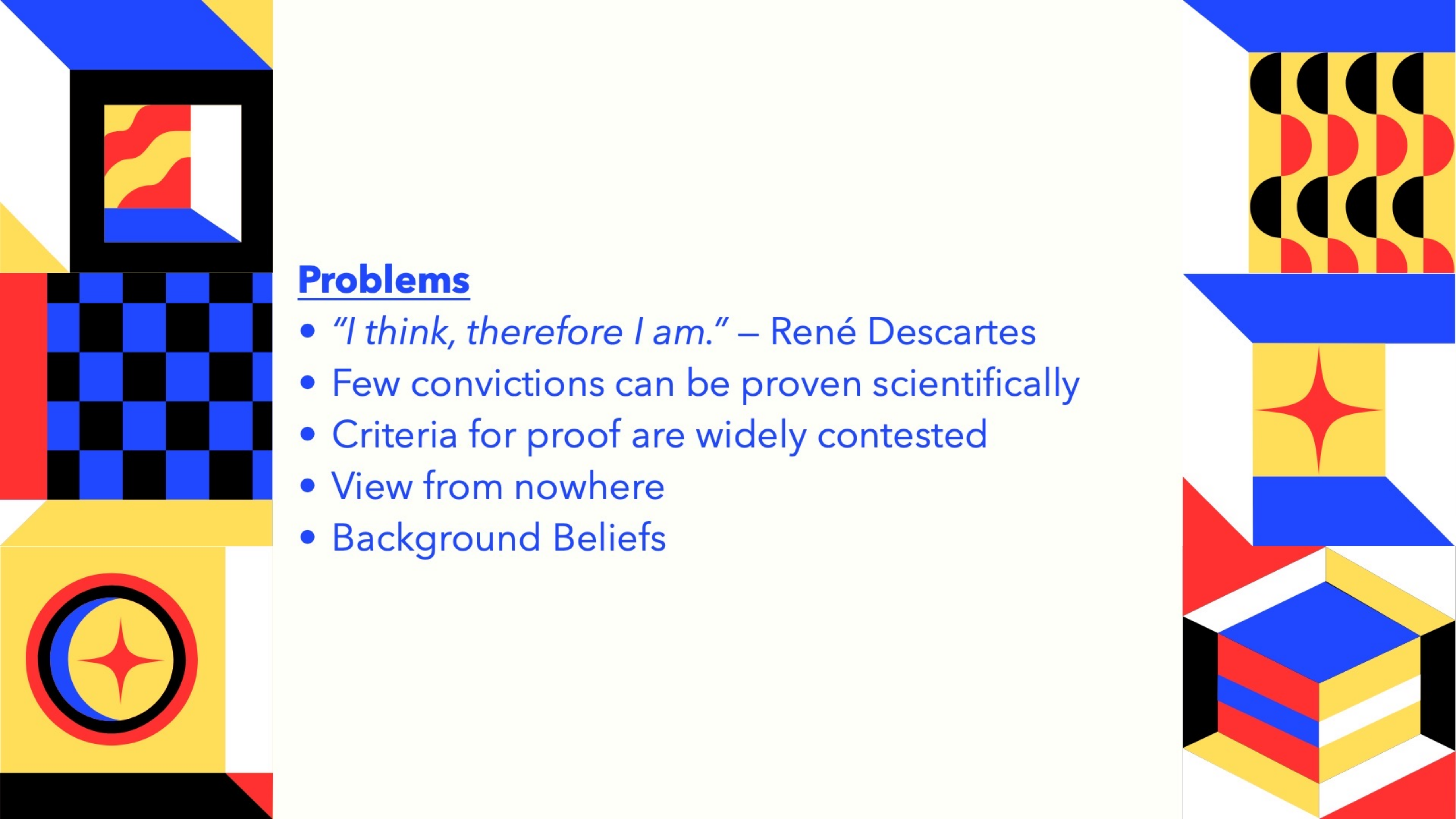
Problems

- *"I think, therefore I am."* – René Descartes
 - Few convictions can be proven scientifically
 - Criteria for proof are widely contested
- 



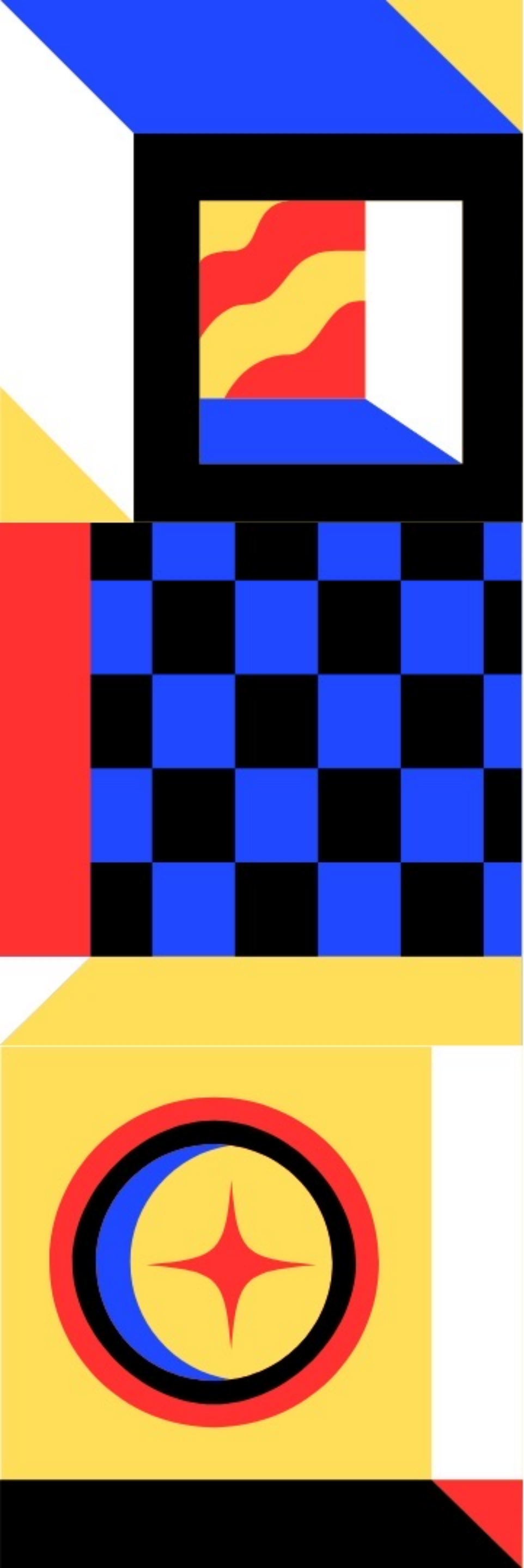
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 - View from nowhere
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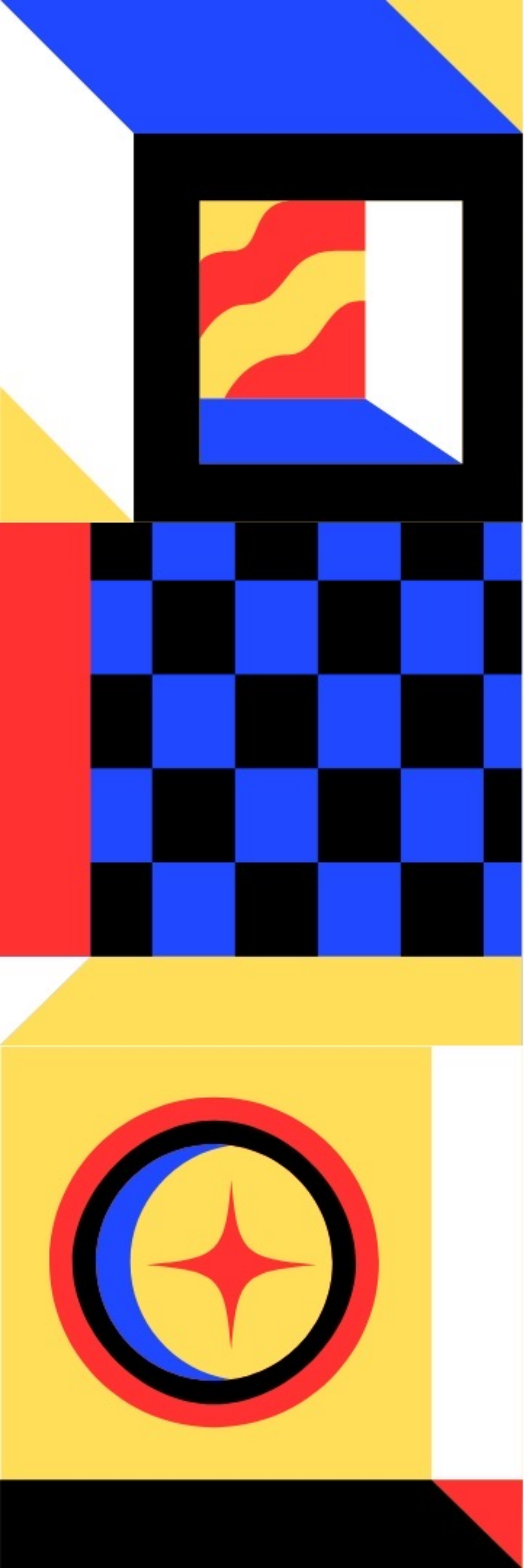
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- View from nowhere
- Background Beliefs

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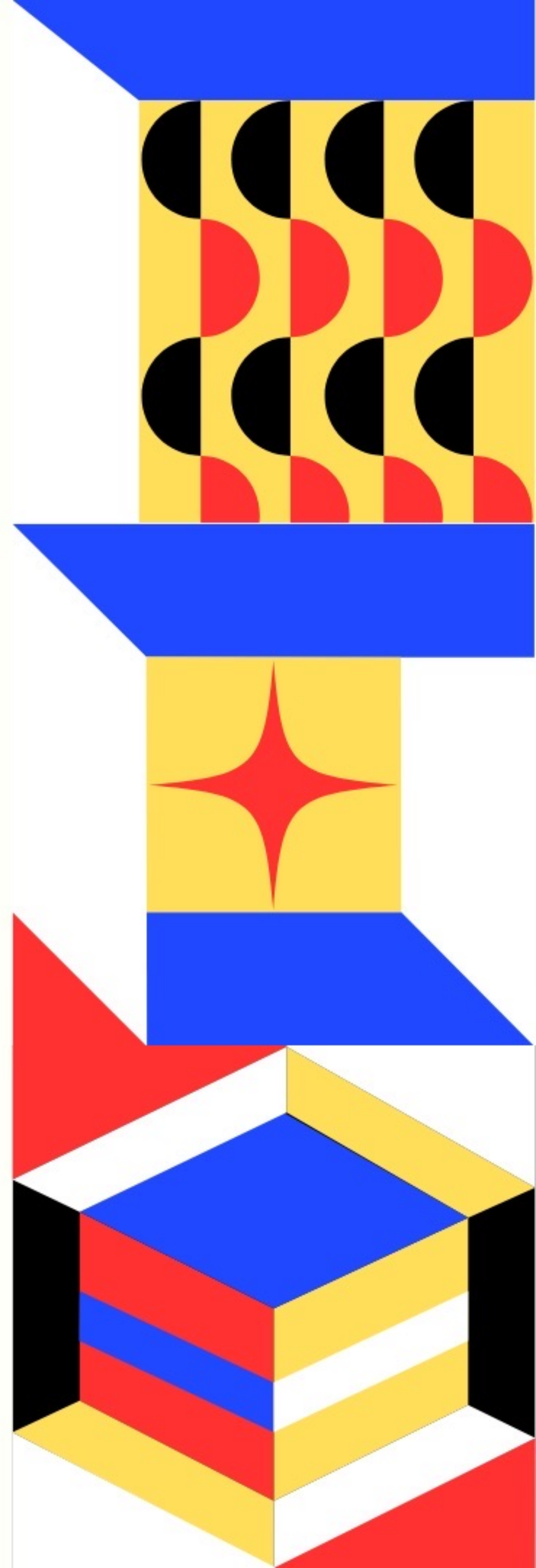
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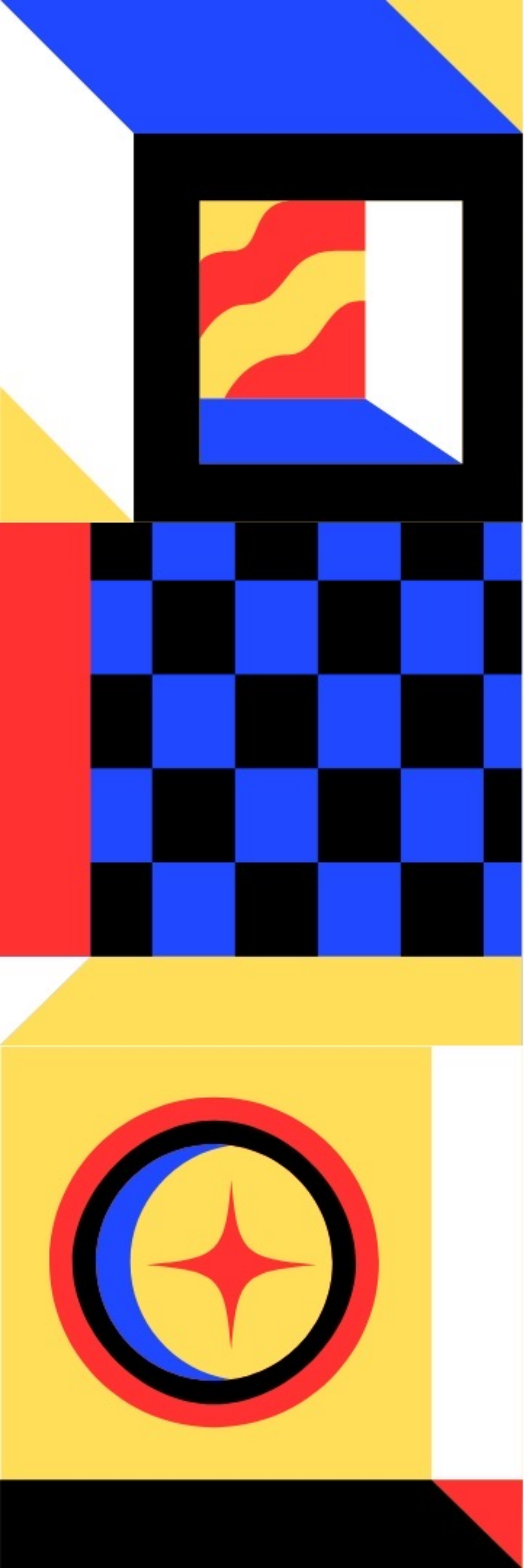
- *"I think, therefore I am."* – René Descartes
 - Few convictions can be proven scientifically
 - Criteria for proof are widely contested
 - View from nowhere
 - Background Beliefs
 - Doubt and faith are equivalent
- 
- The right side of the slide features a vertical column of abstract geometric patterns. From top to bottom: a yellow square with a grid of black and red semi-circles; a blue trapezoid; a yellow square with a red four-pointed star; a blue trapezoid; and a 3D cube-like structure composed of blue, red, yellow, and black faces.



Better Approach: Balance of Faith and Reason

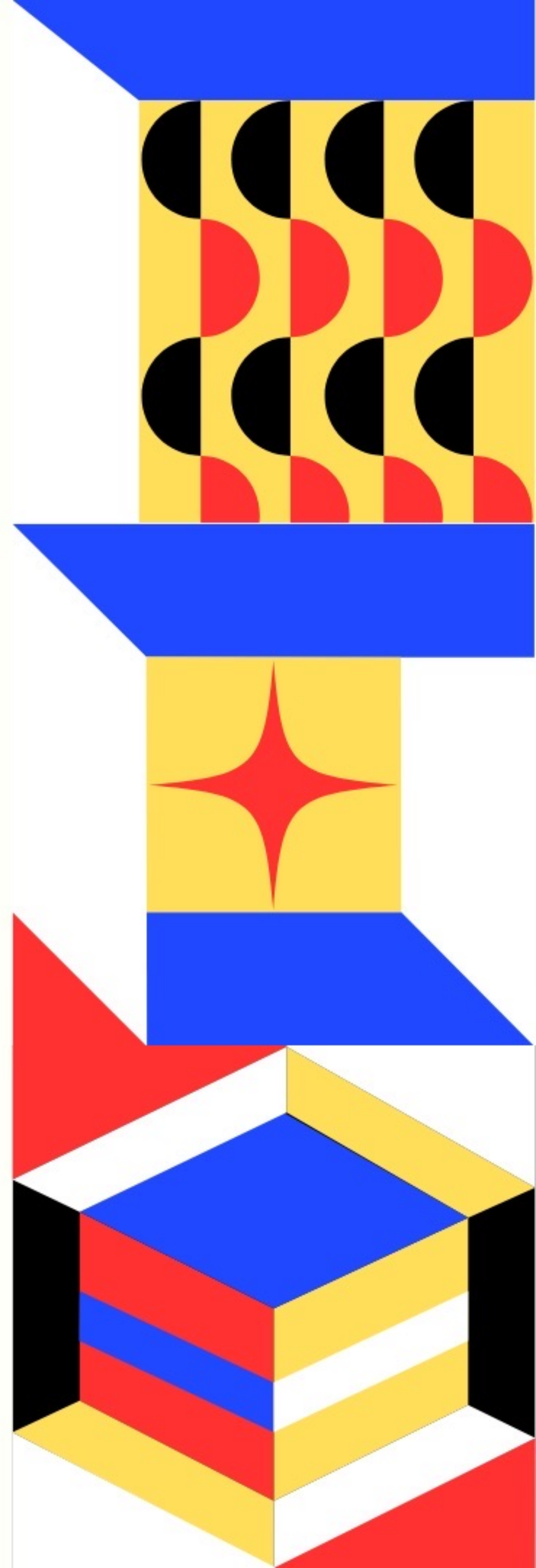
- Not irrationality, not emotionalism
- Knowledge is both objective and subjective
- Both the Christian and the secular person use reason and faith together to get their beliefs

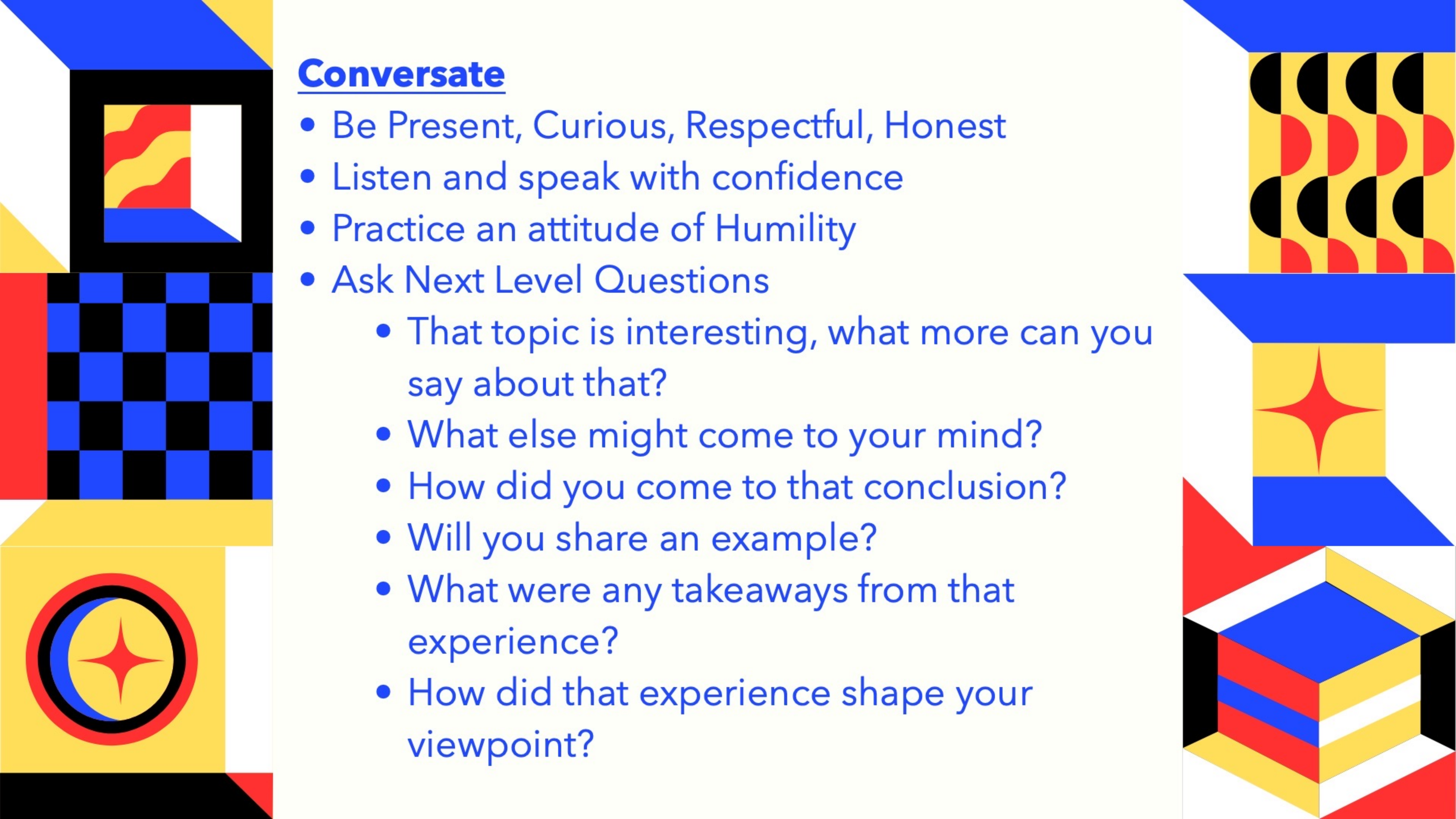




Everyone Lives by Faith

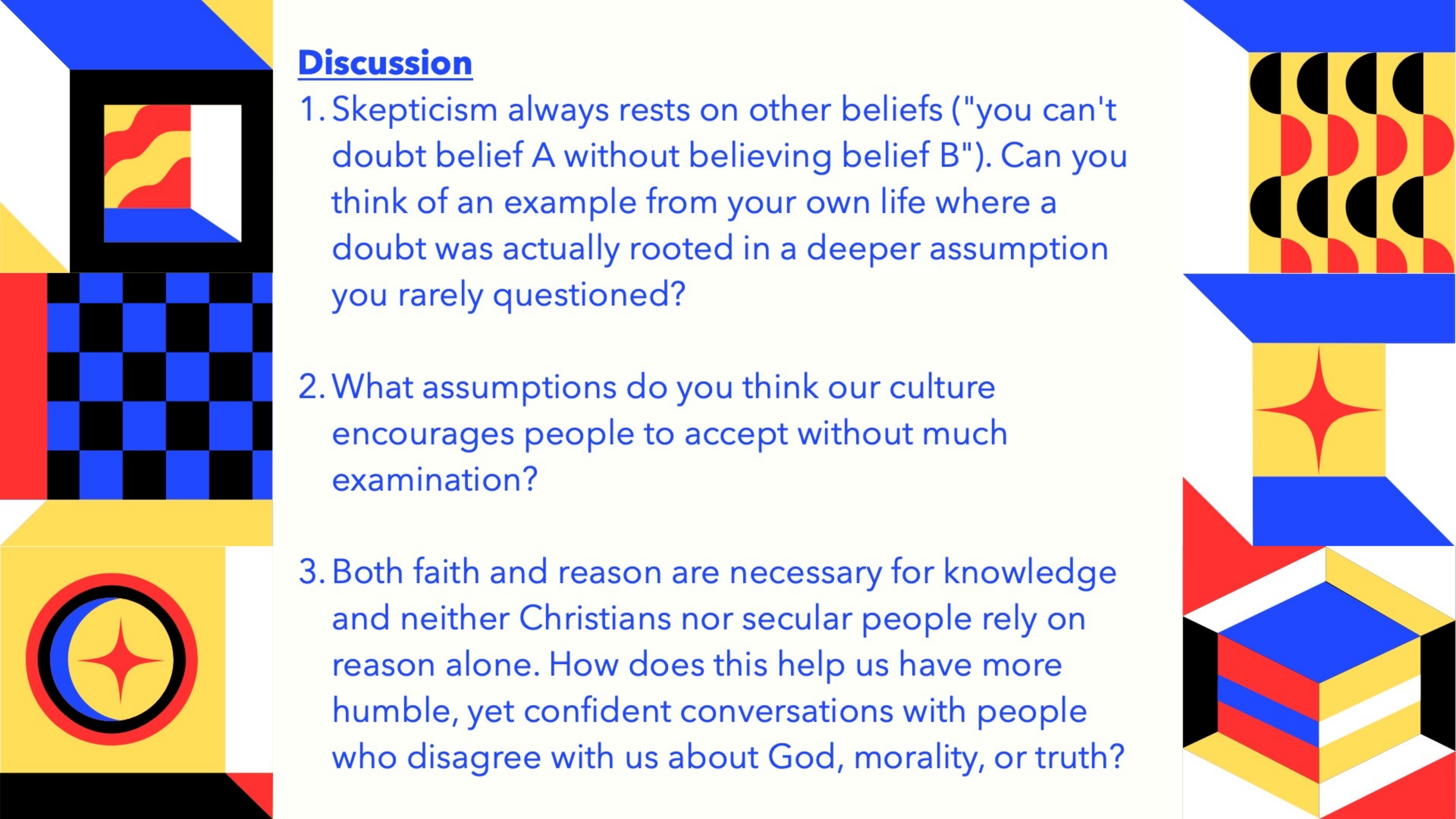
- Humility
- Confidence





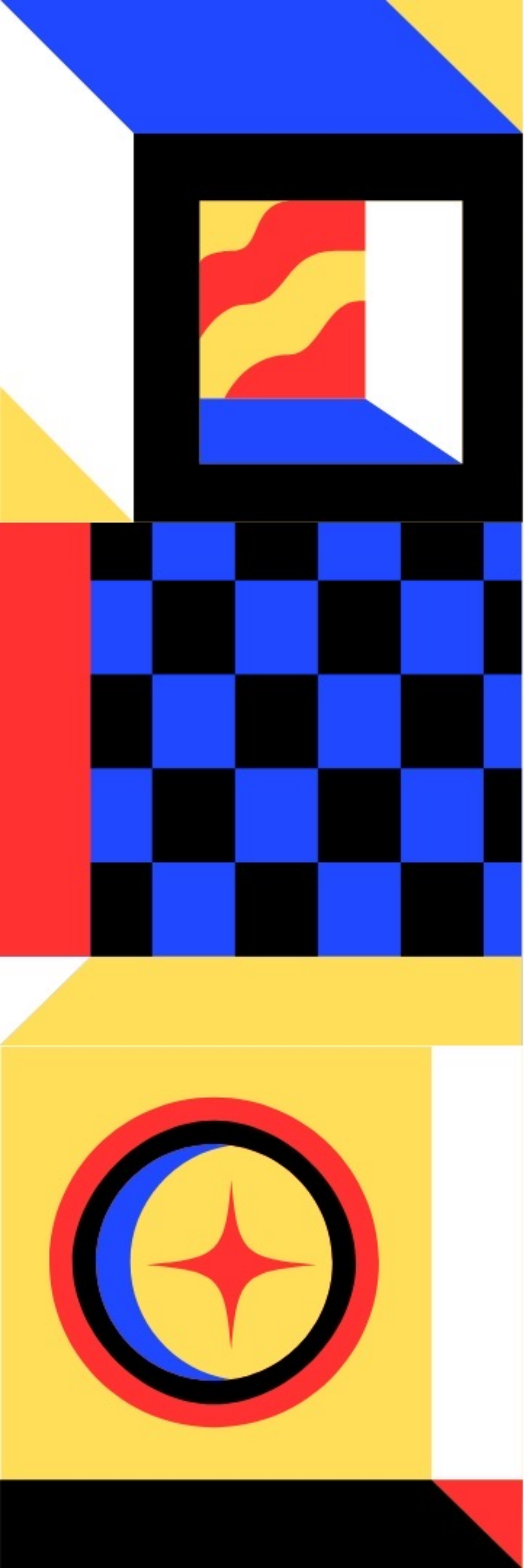
Conversate

- Be Present, Curious, Respectful, Honest
- Listen and speak with confidence
- Practice an attitude of Humility
- Ask Next Level Questions
 - That topic is interesting, what more can you say about that?
 - What else might come to your mind?
 - How did you come to that conclusion?
 - Will you share an example?
 - What were any takeaways from that experience?
 - How did that experience shape your viewpoint?

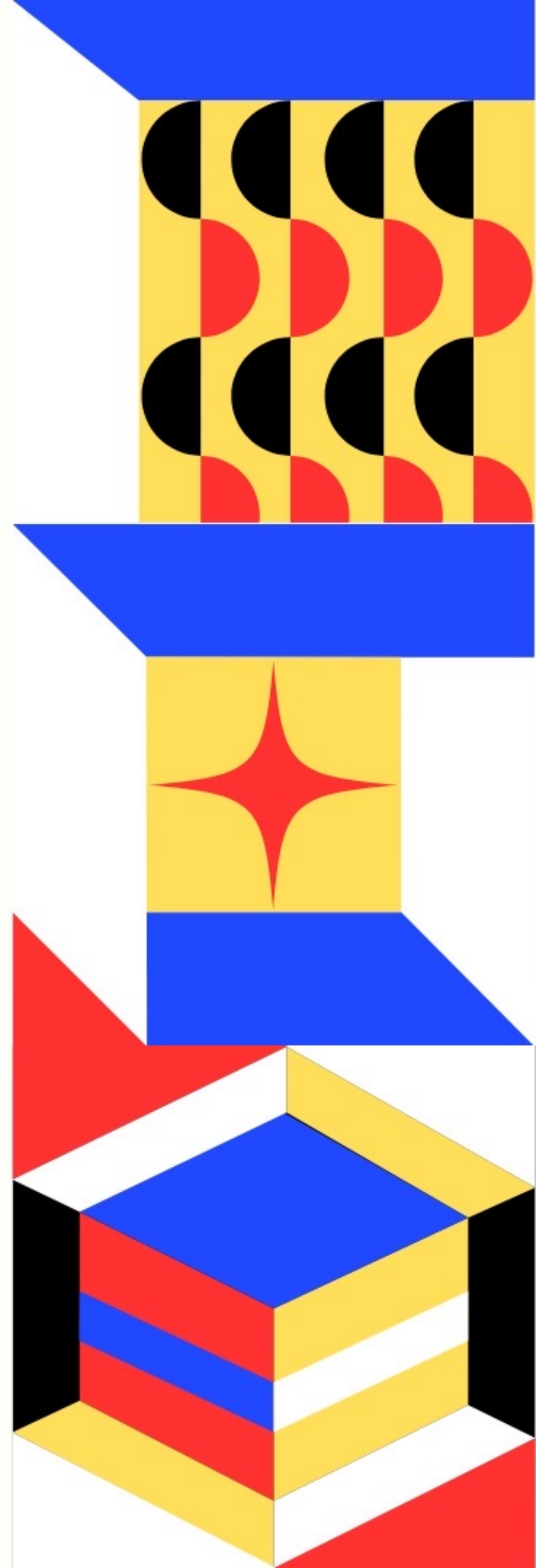


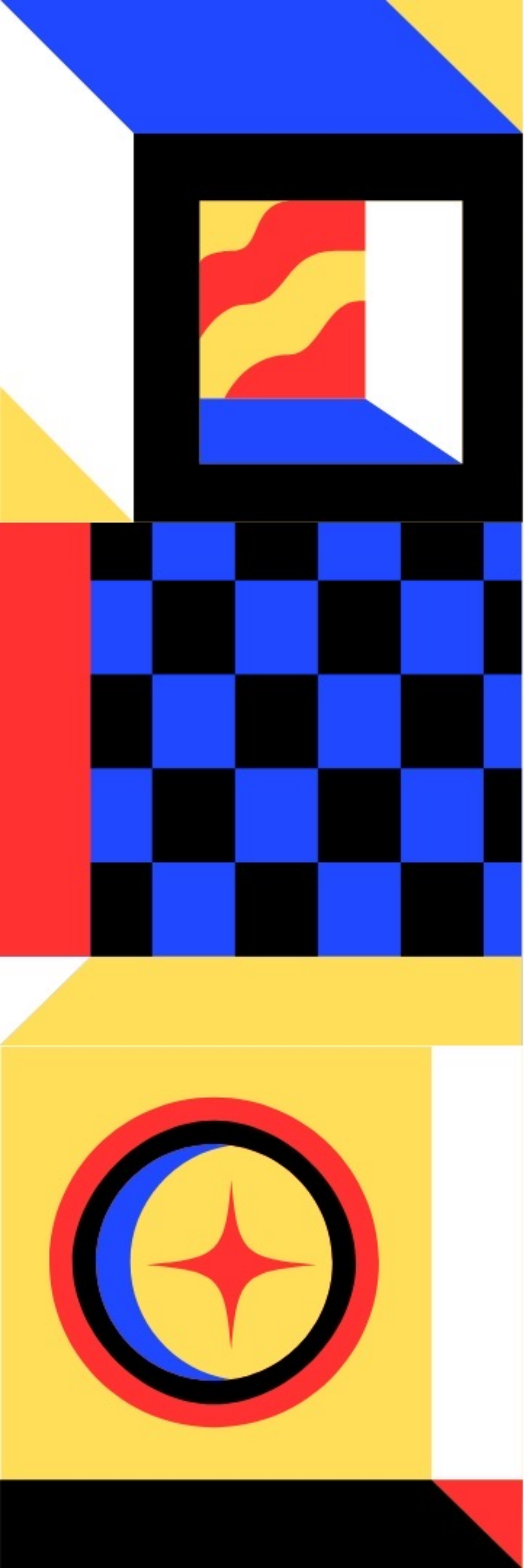
Discussion

1. Skepticism always rests on other beliefs ("you can't doubt belief A without believing belief B"). Can you think of an example from your own life where a doubt was actually rooted in a deeper assumption you rarely questioned?
2. What assumptions do you think our culture encourages people to accept without much examination?
3. Both faith and reason are necessary for knowledge and neither Christians nor secular people rely on reason alone. How does this help us have more humble, yet confident conversations with people who disagree with us about God, morality, or truth?



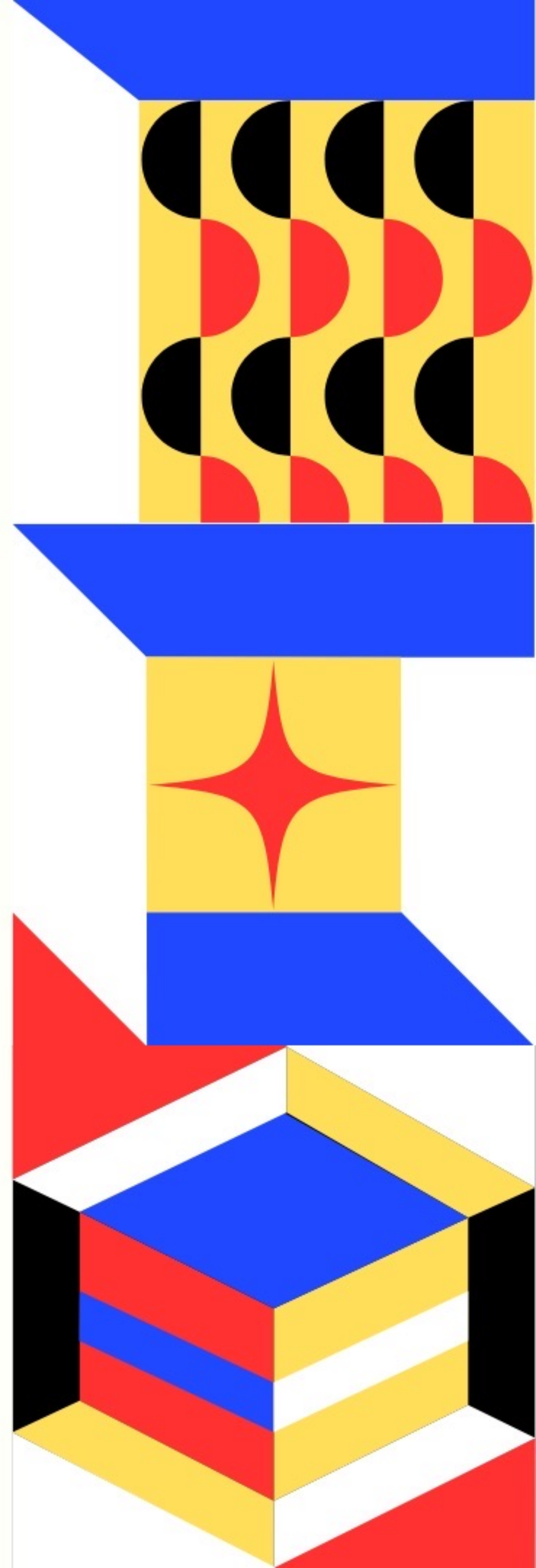
Meaning

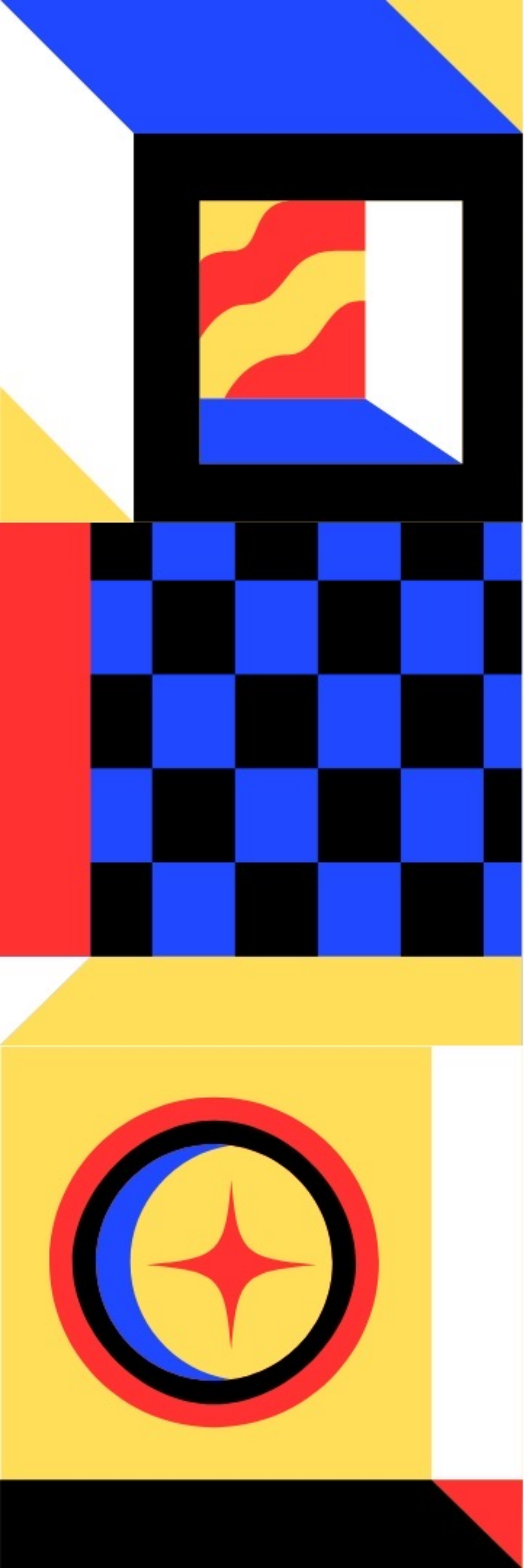




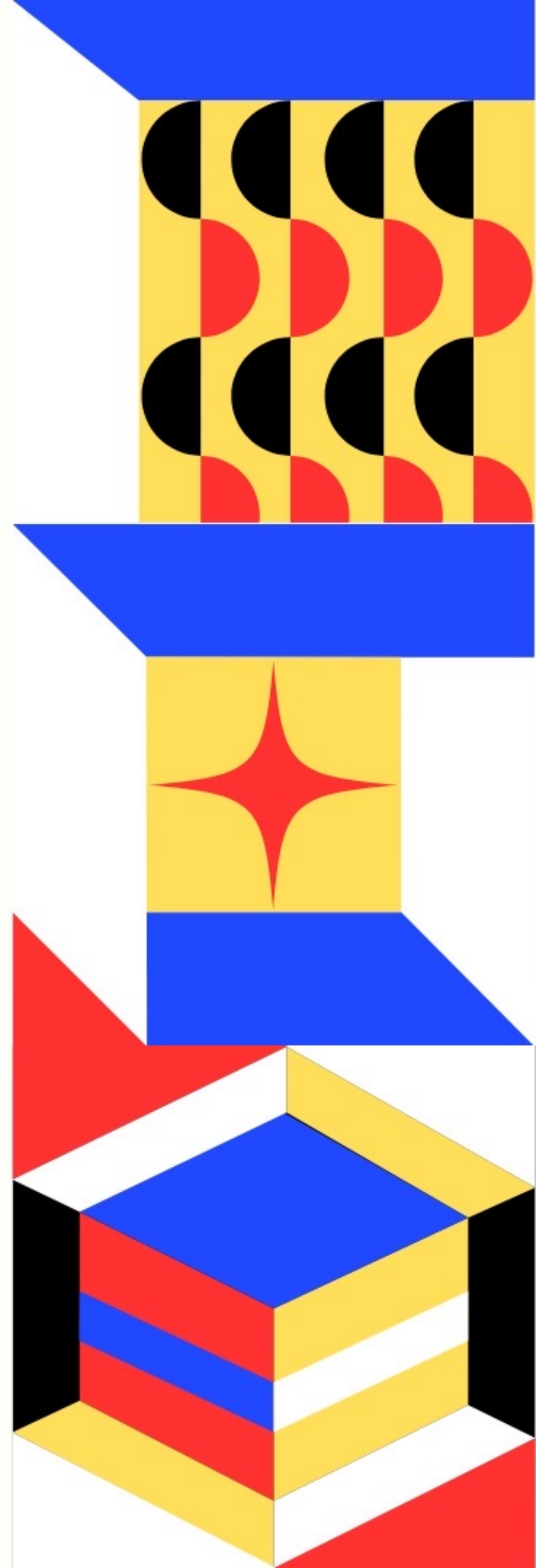
What Is Meaning?

- Purpose
- Significance

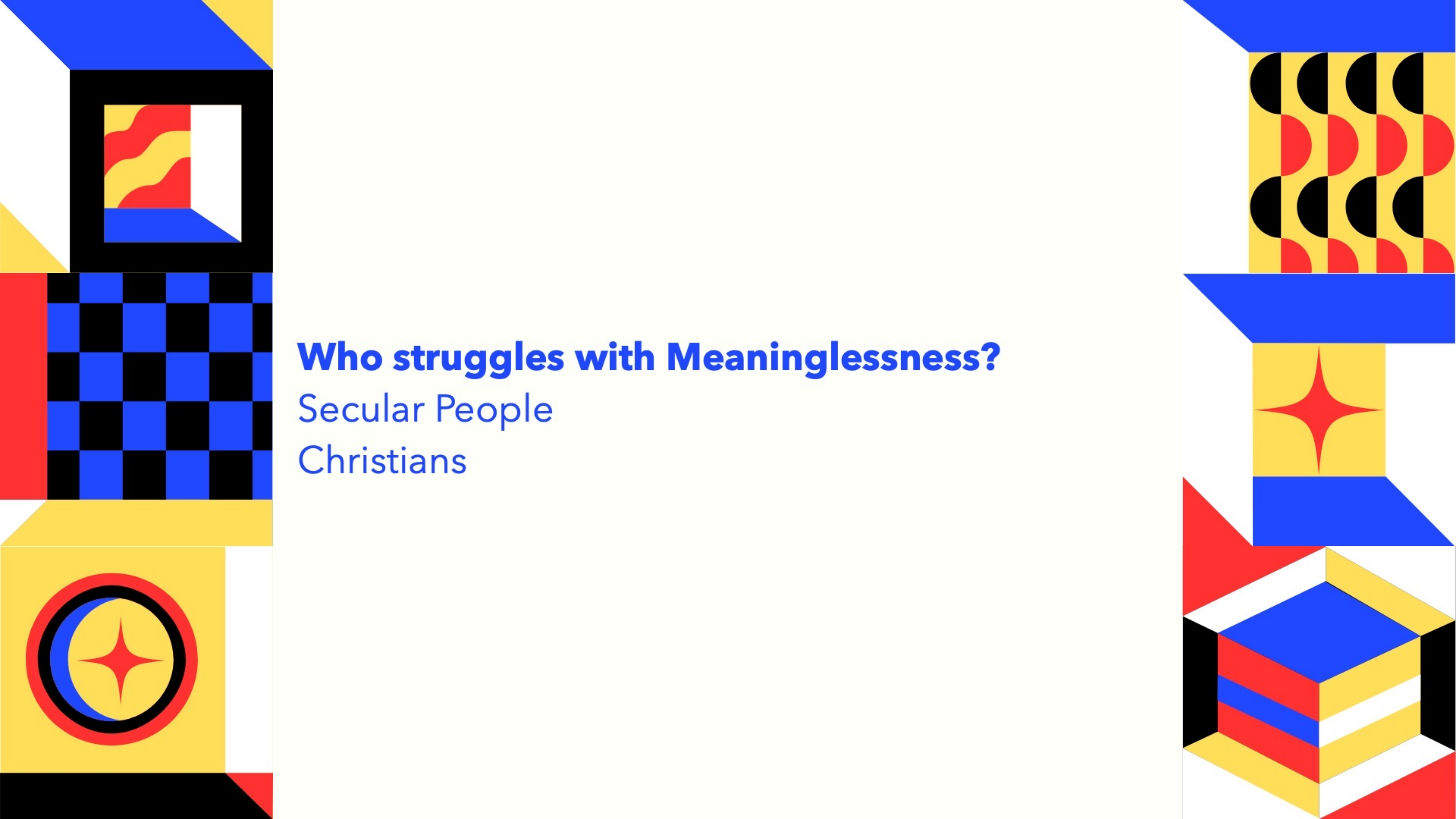




People will feel their lives are meaningful if they have a sense of purpose that makes a difference by serving some good beyond themselves.



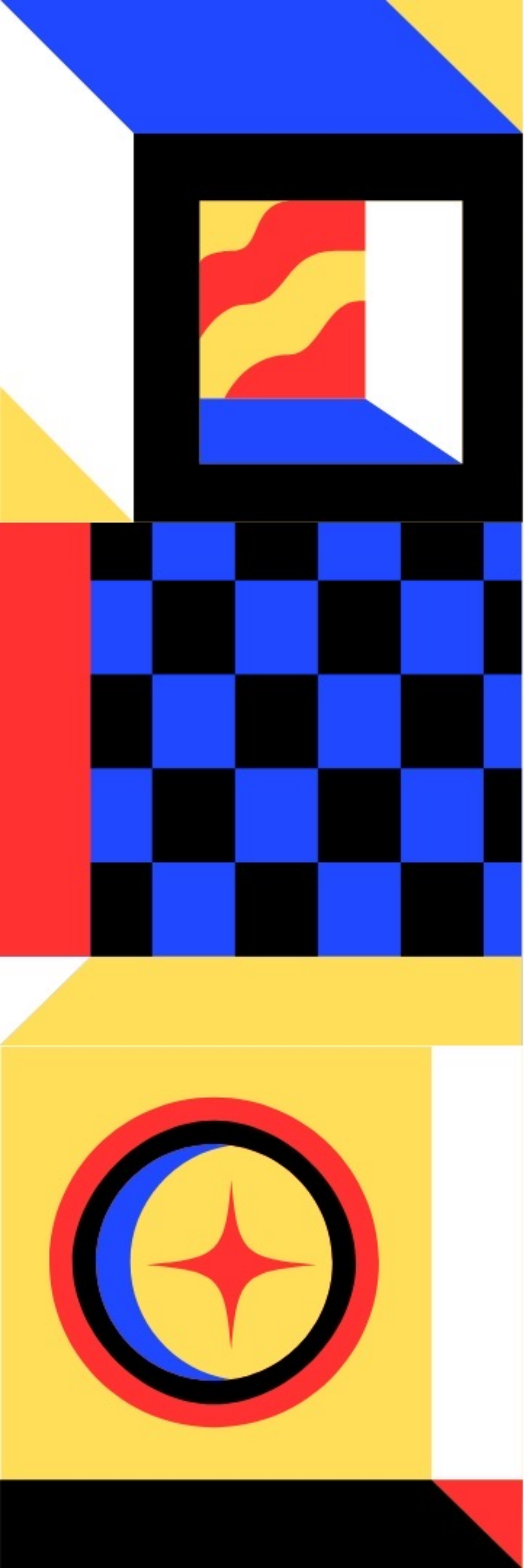
Who struggles with Meaninglessness?
Secular People



Who struggles with Meaninglessness?

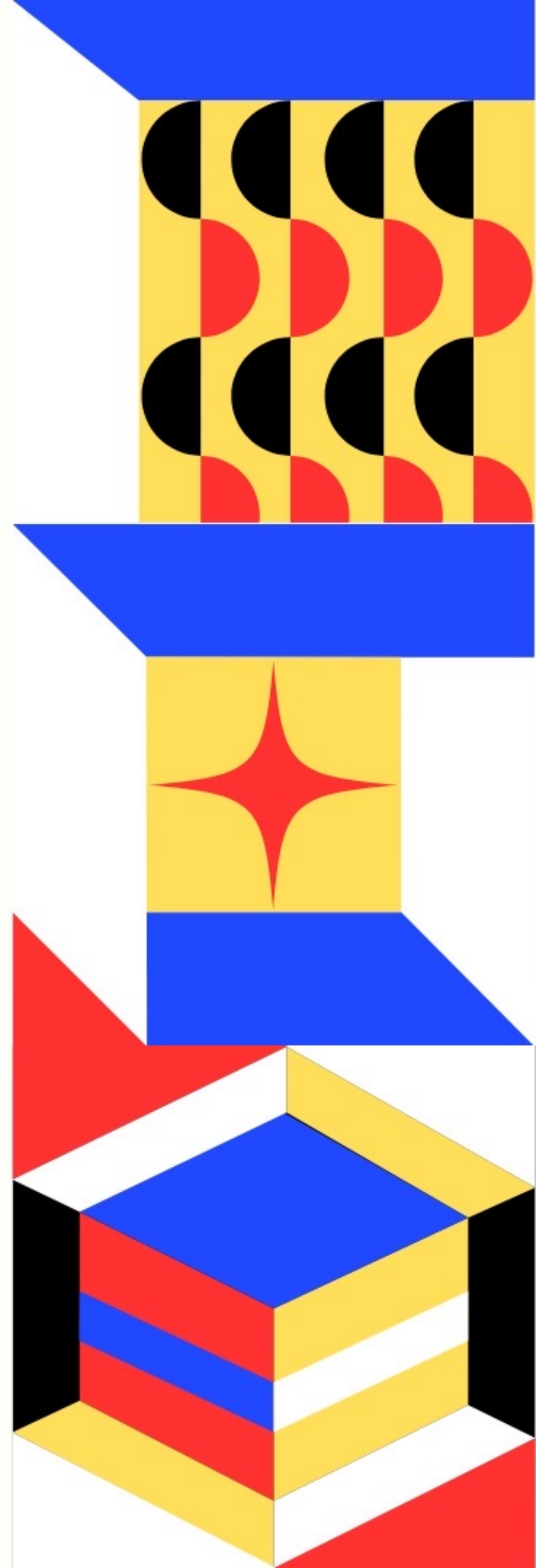
Secular People
Christians

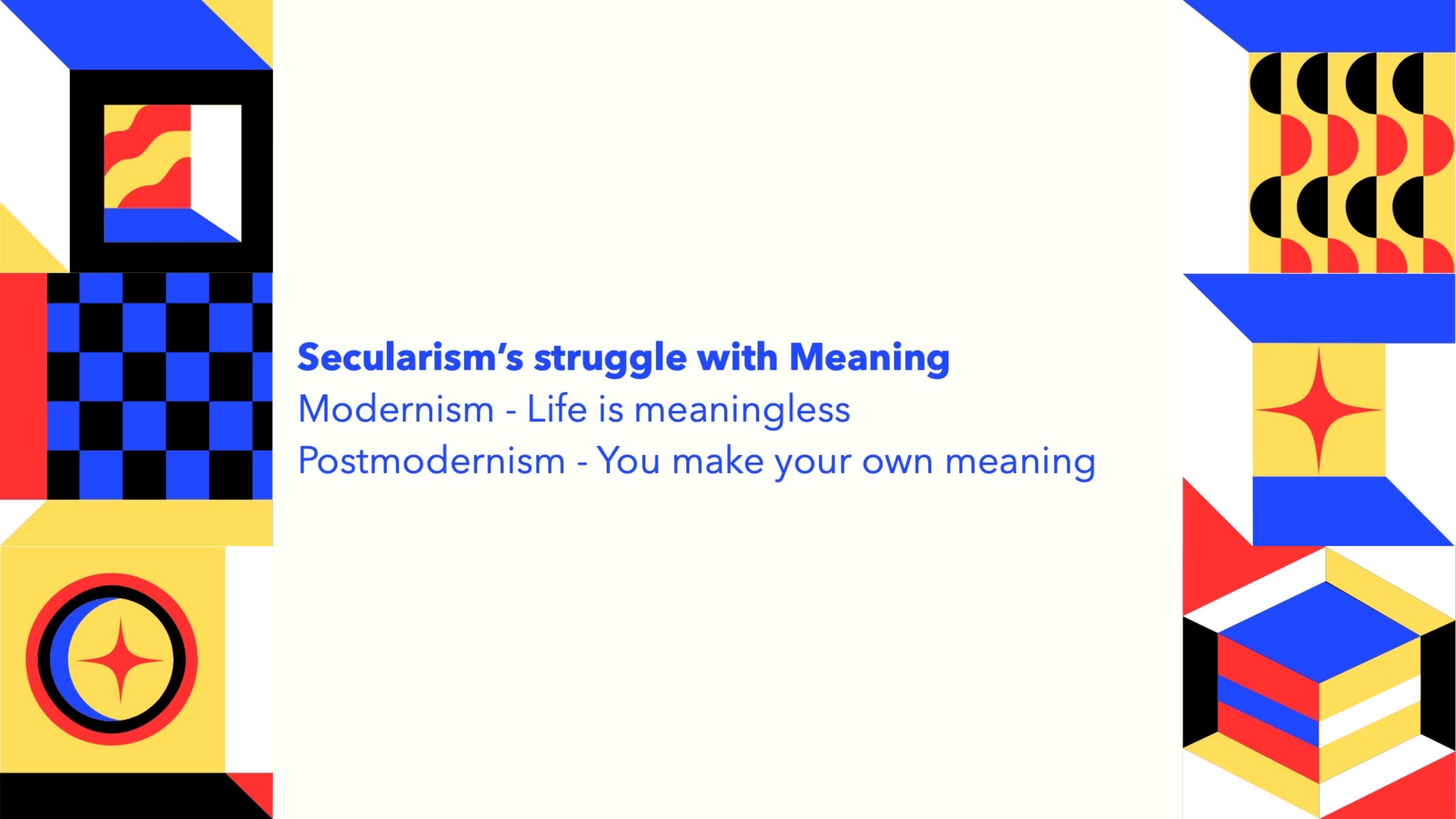
Secularism's struggle with Meaning



Secularism's struggle with Meaning

Modernism - Life is meaningless

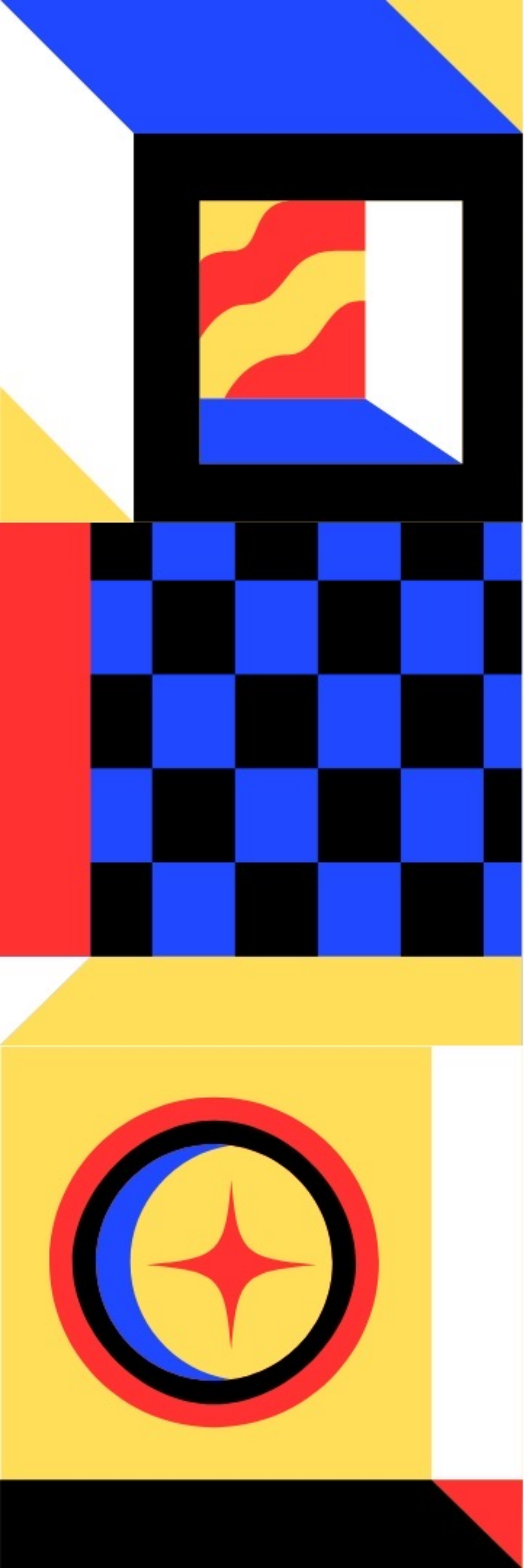




Secularism's struggle with Meaning

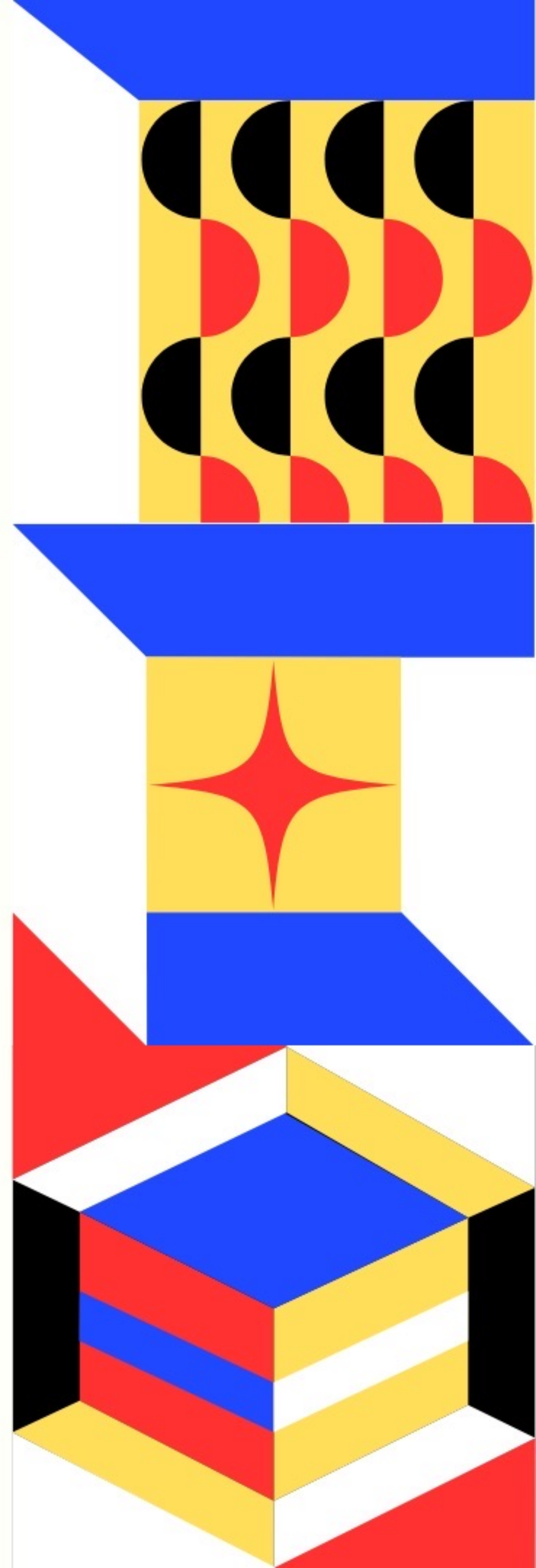
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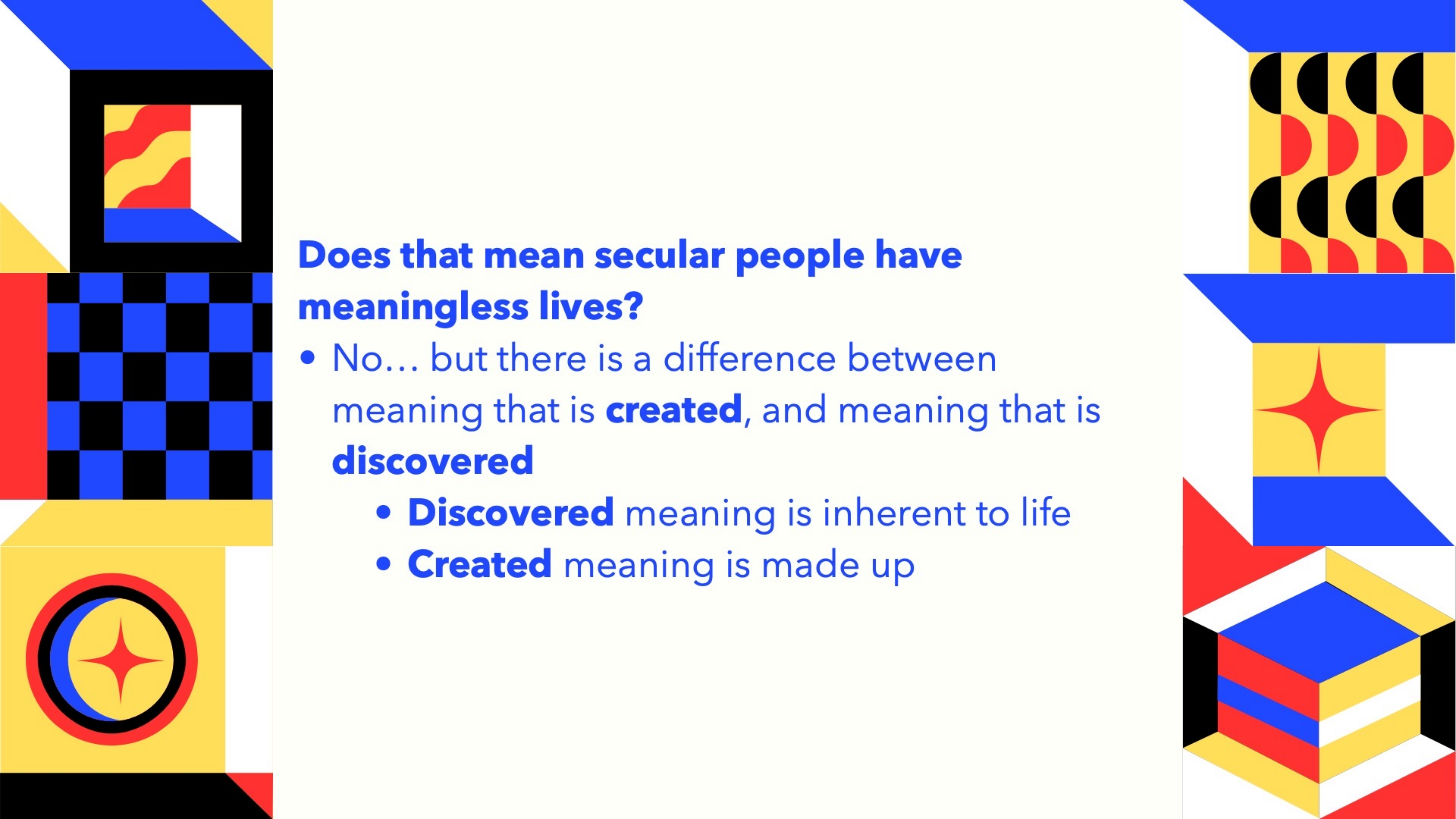
Postmodernism - You make your own meaning



Does that mean secular people have meaningless lives'?

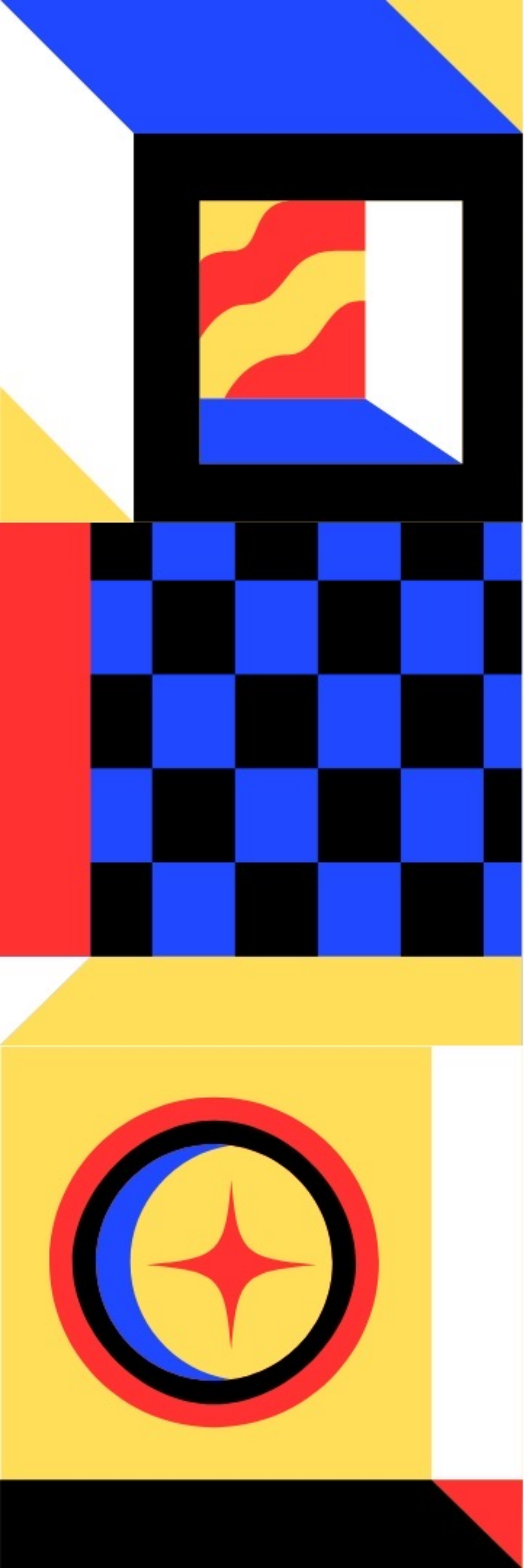
- No...





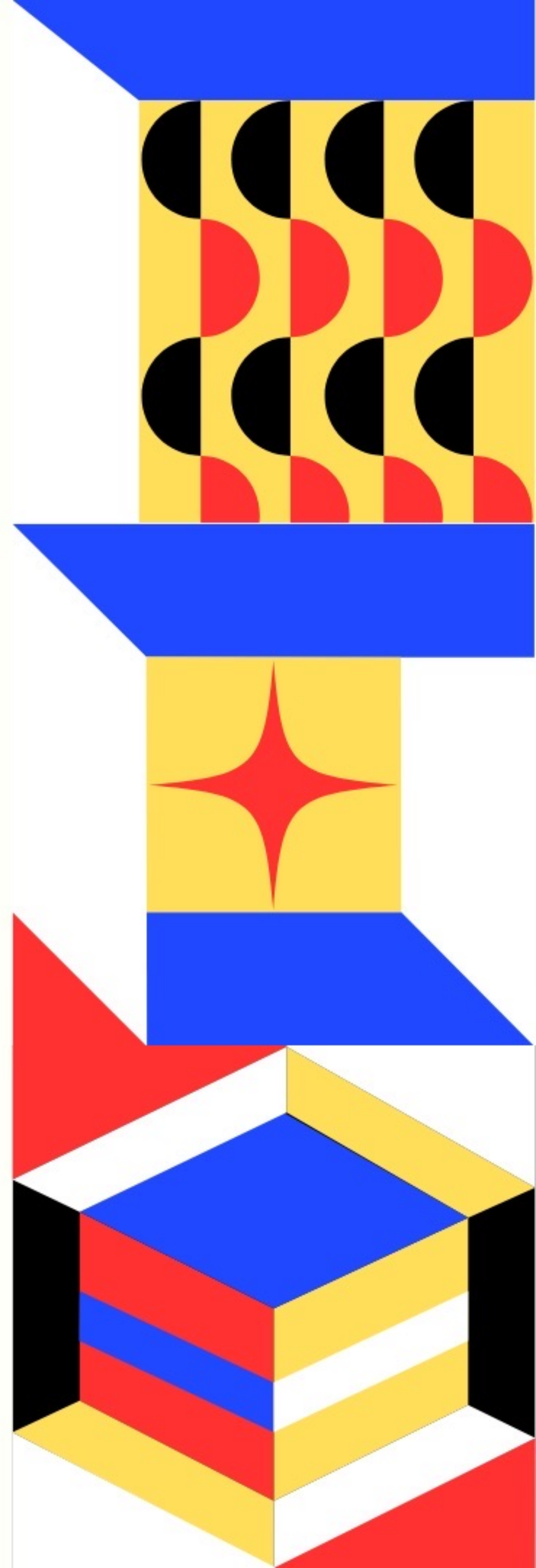
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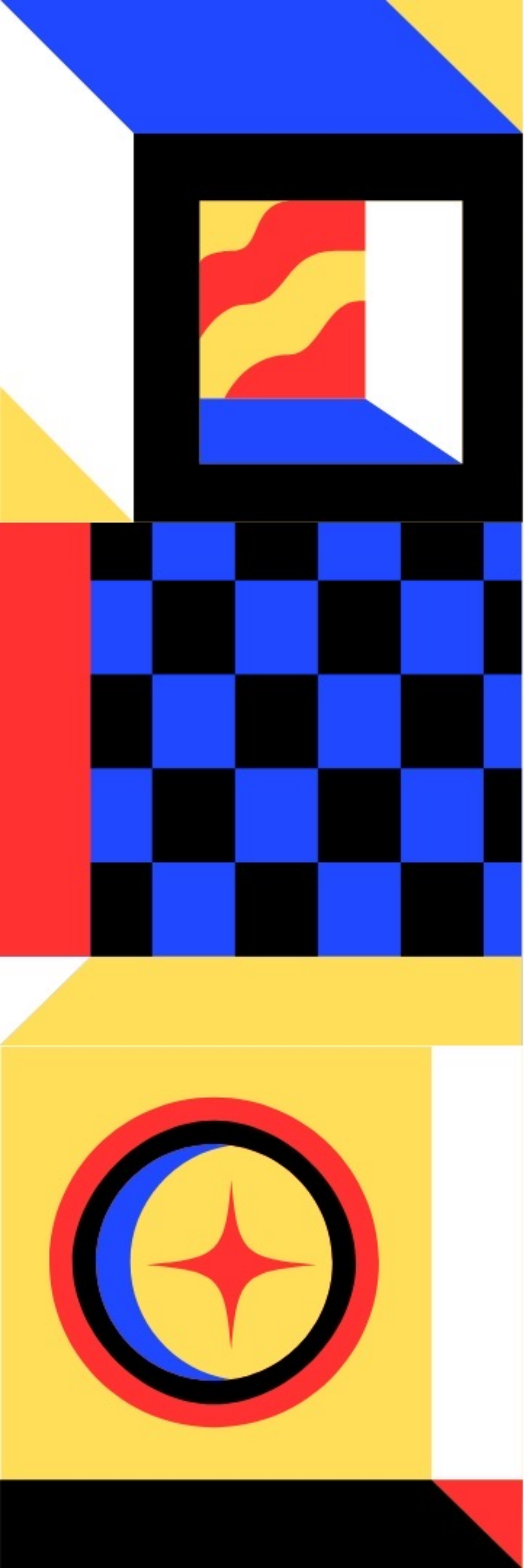
- No... but there is a difference between meaning that is **created**, and meaning that is **discovered**
 - **Discovered** meaning is inherent to life
 - **Created** meaning is made up



Discovered Meaning

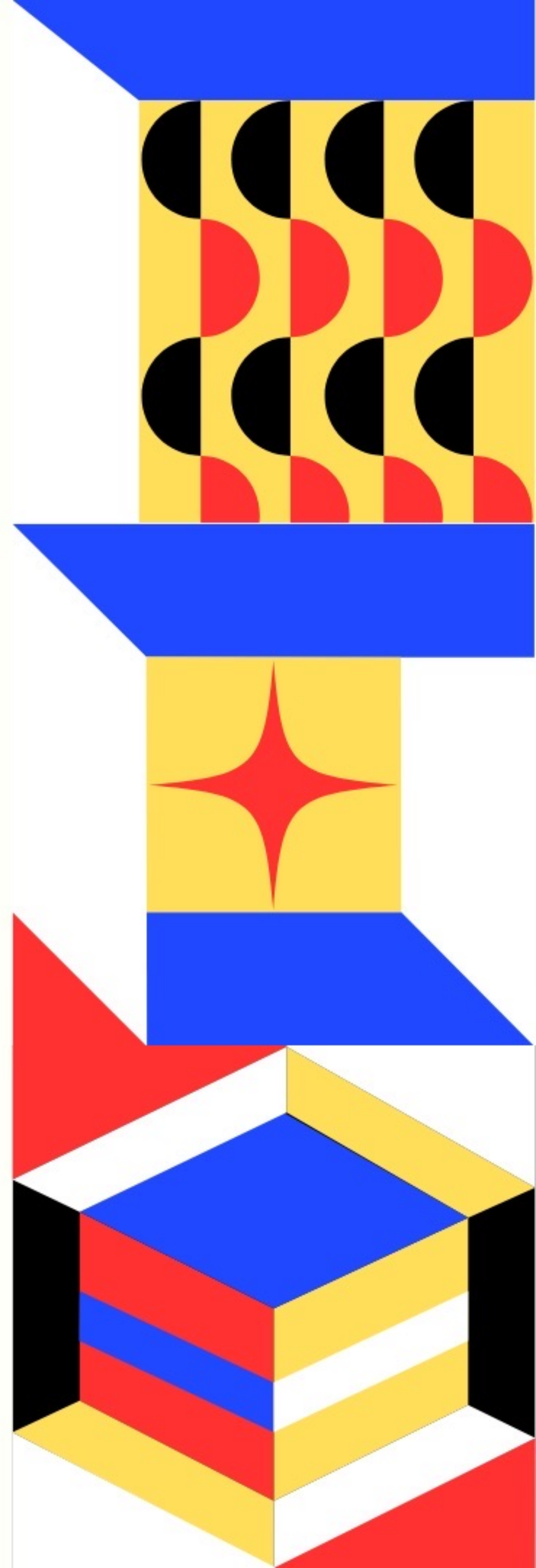
- More Rational

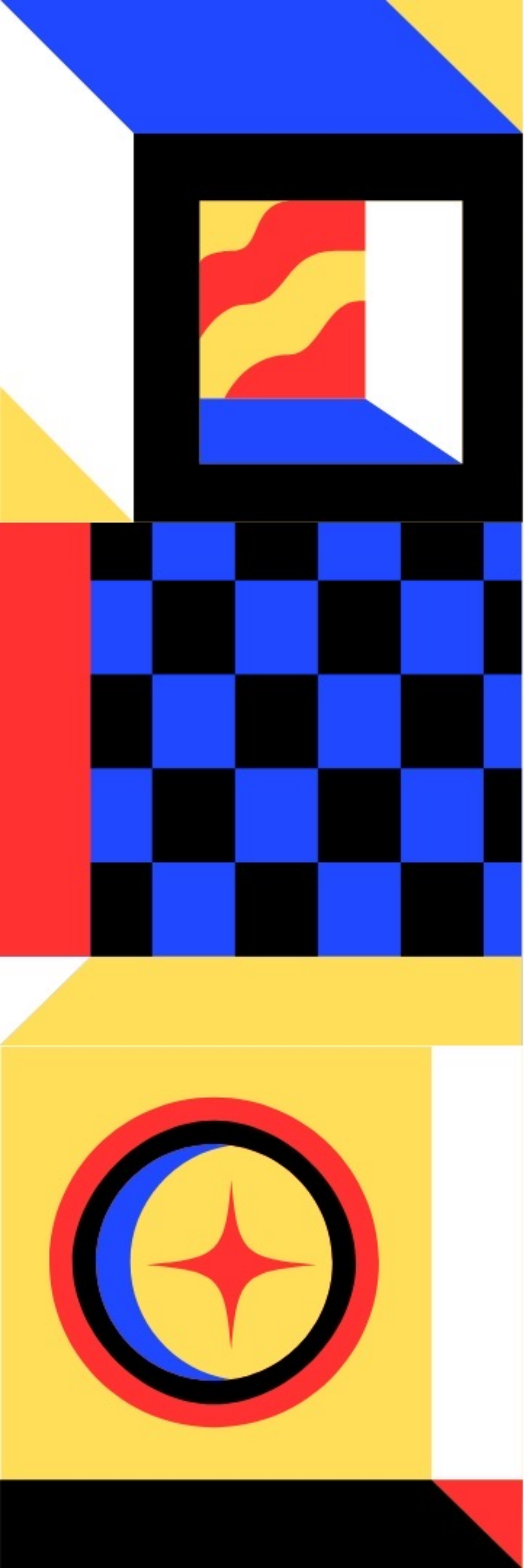




Discovered Meaning

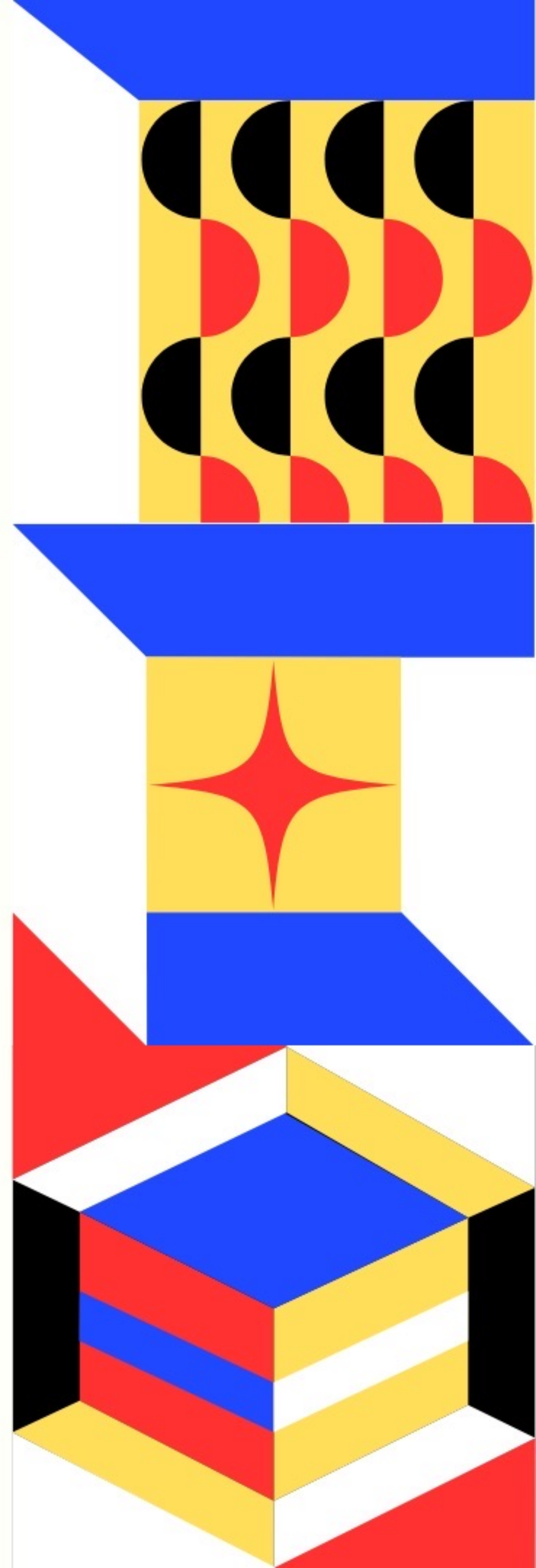
- More Rational
- More Communal





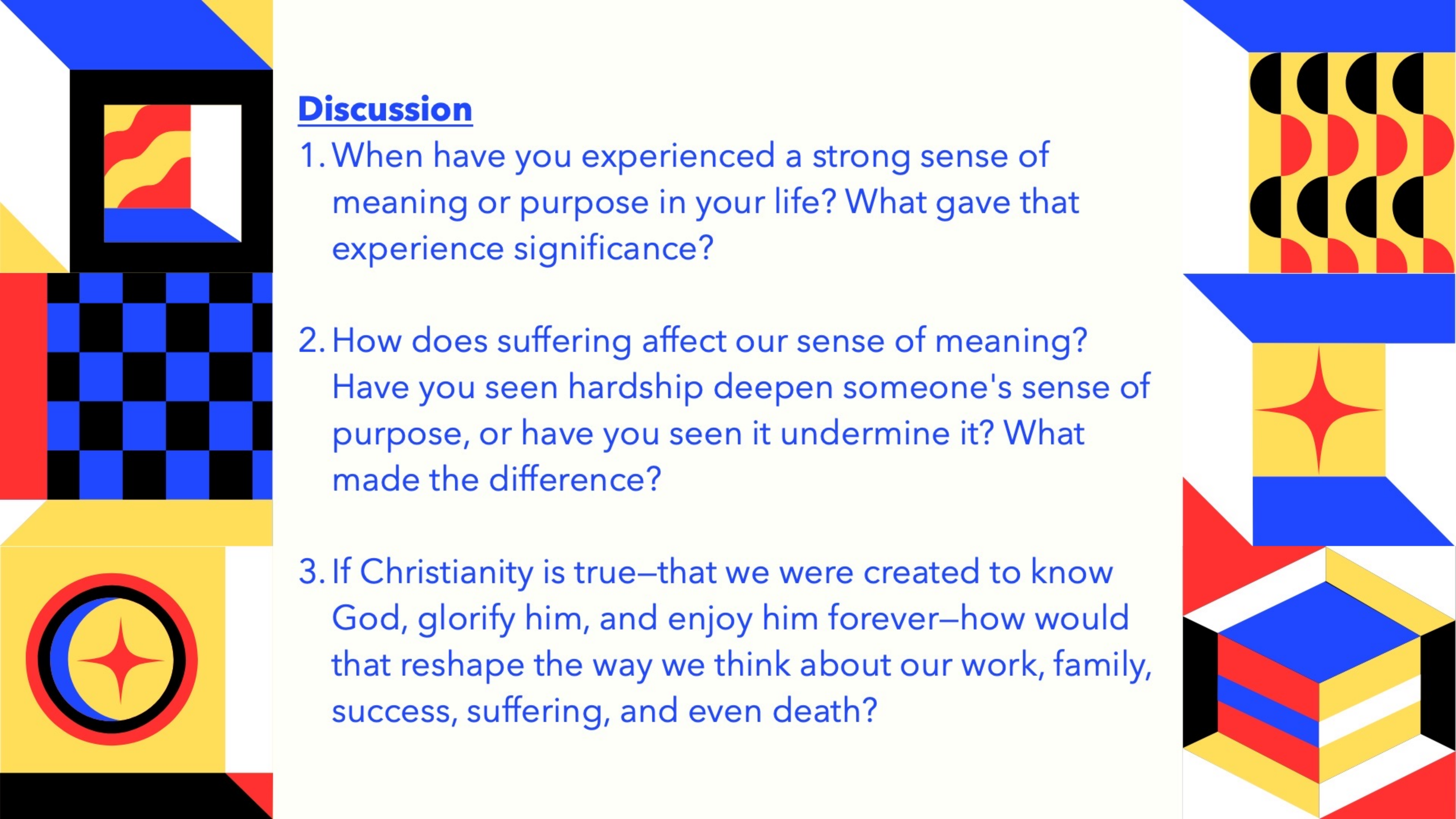
Discovered Meaning

- More Rational
- More Communal
- More Durable





One of my recent guests was Bart Ehrman, who's New Testament scholar,



Discussion

1. When have you experienced a strong sense of meaning or purpose in your life? What gave that experience significance?
2. How does suffering affect our sense of meaning? Have you seen hardship deepen someone's sense of purpose, or have you seen it undermine it? What made the difference?
3. If Christianity is true—that we were created to know God, glorify him, and enjoy him forever—how would that reshape the way we think about our work, family, success, suffering, and even death?



CANYON CREEK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MEN'S AFTER HOURS

FRIDAY, JULY 17 | 7 - 9 PM

HOST-CLAUDIO INNAMORATI



Men's Retreat

TAHOE | SEPTEMBER 18-20



Speaker | Alan Noble

Author of *To Live Well, You Are Not Your Own*,
On Getting Out of Bed, and *Disruptive Witness*

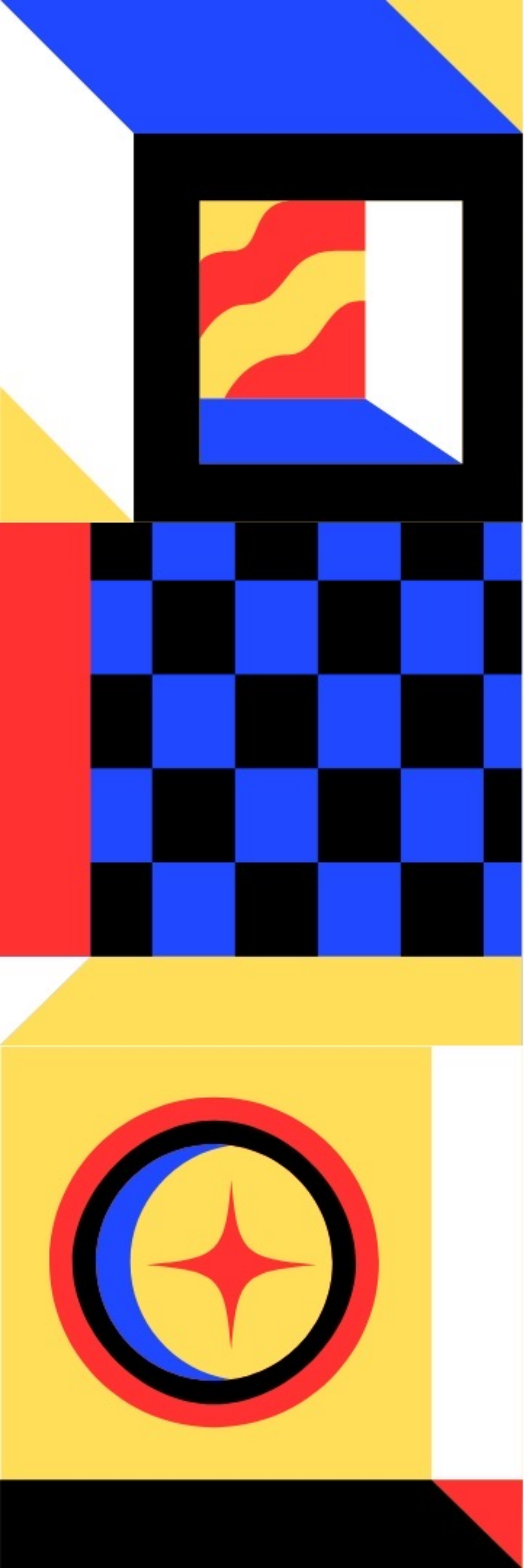
Theme | Men of Virtue in a Chaotic World

Based on Noble's latest book, *To Live Well*



CANYON CREEK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

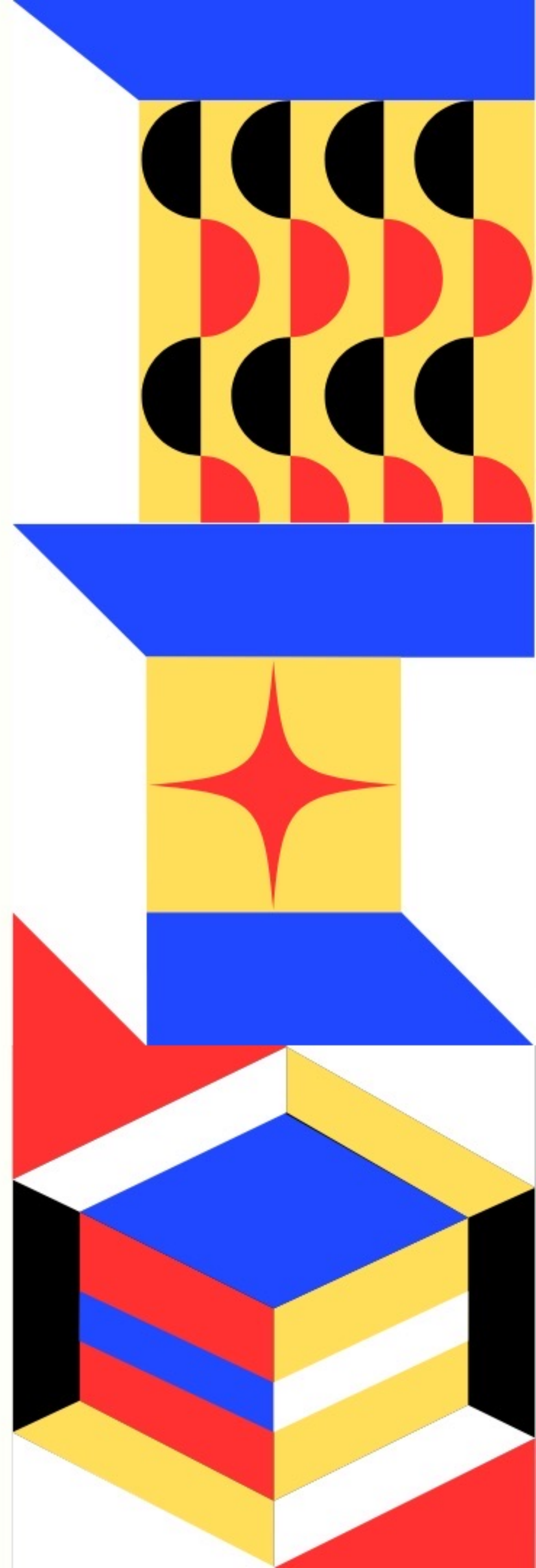




Setup and Tear Down

Who can help setup before next week?

Who can stay to help tear down tonight?



The Heart Is Like a Compass

- What is the purpose of the Heart?
- How do we care for the heart?
- What happens the heart is not in tune with the true north?
- How do we re-calibrate our hearts?

Over the next week...

- Take an audit of your daily routines/practices.
(List out activities, habits, inputs, influencers)
- What is influencing your heart & mind?
- What vision do you have for/of the good life?
- How are you being carried by/in the practices that you do toward that vision of the good life?