Research enquiry starts with curiosity, the question that asks us to dive into the unknown. Not only about answering the questions, but also opening new fields of interpretation. It’s not often that the best questions are ones that settle our doubts but ones that expand our minds, which force us to face up to things we didn’t even know we didn’t know. This is the whole business of being an intellectual: asking questions that lead to deeper ones.

This is how research becomes not a problem-solver but a discovery agent. You can research, for instance, a question like "Why is something happening?". could be expanded into asking "What does this phenomenon tell us about the system that it’s part of?" These kinds of grand questions turn answers into knowledge, not answers, but truths, a kind of zone where knowledge is destination and pathway.

Then again, good research loves fuzziness and mystery. It doesn’t avoid the unanswered questions; it is indebted to them, so there’s room for further study. When we approach research as a series of attempts to unlock the unknown, we solve the question, but we open up new avenues of investigation, and so learn more about the world and our place in it.