# PREVIEW_ Q&A with Gary Taubes –

# Would it be different if Atkins was more likeable_ (SD 2016)

**Questioner:** Do you think the outcome would've been different if Atkins was a little bit more likable and didn't have an anger problem?

**Gary Taubes:** Well, I'll give you an example, Yudkin was a very likable guy, and I mean, Atkins was likable, he just was abrasive and he taught he was right. Yudkin, who was the primary opponent of sugar in the 60s, and I think was more right than any other individual, and was the founder of the first dedicated nutrition department in the UK, his graduate school work was used by Jack Monod as a base of his work, that won Monod the Nobel Prize, he thanked Yudkin in his Nobel Prize speech.

This was an exceedingly smart insider and he was ridiculed for pushing something that everyone else believe. So on some level, I think it was inevitable, you know, it's just you can't... And I'm experiencing this today, regrettably to a frequent level, when you come along and insinuate that you're right and other people are wrong, it's very hard to phrase it in a way. If they are smart, they know what you are saying.

I mean, you guys may have heard me say, I gave a lecture at the Pennington, I gave this lecture, an early version at the Pennington Biomedical Research Institute, back in 2009. This is the leading obesity, academic obesity researcher center in the country, and after my lecture, in the Q&A, one of the faculty raised his hand and said "Mr. Taubes is it fair to say that one subtext of your talk, is you think we are all idiots?"

And I was very polite, and I didn't say... you know, I explained this, "I think you inherited the paradigm from generation that proceeded you." that seemed so obvious, that nobody questioned it. But it's very difficult, none of us can do it. If somebody comes up to us, whatever area of life you think you're an expert in, and then somebody from outside your field comes up and says, "I know better and you're wrong", it's hard not to have a conversation that gets to where you wanted to go.