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The Page of Reason

Integrating 2600 Years of Rational Investigations
Catalyzing the Age of Rationality

**Objectivism: The Philosophy of
Reality Integrated Reason**

Eight-Parts in Eight-Pages
Part 5 is The Page

Orrin Smith

Based upon the Principles of Ayn Rand's Objectivism, *The Page of Reason* is a cause-and-effect analysis concerning the future prospects for human life, on Earth. And it incorporates an action plan for elevating those prospects.

Preface

From all of my life experience, from all knowledge that I have ever acquired from a magnificent array of generous knowledge contributors, I assert that Objectivist Principles are the only possible principles for *incisive* pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness, for all humans, all around the Earth. Within *The Page of Reason*, I will make my case.

Since the advent of primeval languages, our human minds have been assaulted by ever-more, ever-various, ever-contradictory, and ever-evasive irrational ideas. And, on countless occasions throughout the ages, willfully chosen and enacted to their final social conclusions, irrational ideas have caused vast destitution, destruction, and death.

Our primeval natures will always be with us. However, irrational ideas are just simplistic conceptual errors. They are just ideas that have become entangled with the persistent and pernicious, primeval principle that: *anything-goes!*

With great life-enriching effects, we are able to overcome primeval anything-goes ideas by wisely employing our reasoning skills. And it is only by such wise reasoning that we will ever become able to consistently cultivate our pursuits of happiness.

Such a wise desire notwithstanding, it is impossible to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—about the facts of human rationality, in detail. However, by well-formulated principles, we can profitably progress towards that important purpose.

To be useful, to be stable, to be good, to be true, such well-formulated principles must subsume the broadest reasonably possible range of presently known facts, and they must be well-anchored within objective reality, by incisive rational-work.

Rationality has always been our distinctive human attribute, our principal virtue, and our fundamental talent. Nevertheless, it has only been within the most recent 2600 years that we humans have engaged in meaningful investigations of rationality. Thus, within the prodigiously long duration of human history, we have only just recently begun to actualize the vibrantly good life that rationality offers.

Why has this investigation work only just recently begun, and then evolved at such an excruciatingly slow pace? For three primary reasons:

- **One:** Reason, rationality's method of work, is a set of voluntary skills that can only become performed within individual human minds.
- **Two:** Rational-work, non-contradictory integrations of percepts and concepts by logical reason, must become performed.
- **Three:** Culturally significant rational-work always depends upon present states of literacy and of various sorts of information technologies.

It is only within individual human minds that reasoning skills and conceptual knowledge can exist and develop. However, at birth, our minds became formed devoid of such content. Nevertheless, since our births, our minds have become slates, upon which, by choice, we can write and rewrite to the very end of our conscious lives.

By my choice, for almost thirteen years, I directed my mind towards important, purposeful work:

- **First:** I worked hard to systematically investigate and to thereby reasonably assimilate a very broad knowledge context.
- **Second:** Once I came to understand their utterly crucial importance, I then worked hard to acquire an incisive understanding of fundamental rational principles.
- **Third:** Beginning with a limited set of writing skills, I then worked very hard to further develop, hone, and polish those skills.
- **Fourth:** During five years, as I worked on those writing skills, I composed *The Page of Reason*, the final purpose of which is to communicate fundamental rational principles to you, and to each other able individual, on Earth.

Within this book, I have done my utter best to incisively define those principles.

- For incisive pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness, on Earth, such principles, Objectivist Principles, are necessary.

Let there be light! And there *is* light, a human light: reason. And, as we proceed, by principles, to further separate the light from the darkness, we will see that this light *is* good.

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 - Optionally, close the sidebars and use the zoom function.

Eight-Parts in Eight-Pages is a self-imposed, one part per page, artistic constraint that is implemented in this 8-point font, on legal-size pages, within the master copy. During five years' worth of rational-work, I employed this artistic constraint to systematically prevent textual bloat, while progressively enriching, refining, and tightly packing textual content, most particularly within Part 5, the part that drove the need for the 8-point font.

- Within this book, ThePageOfReason.com is often referred to as "the website."
- The website hosts supplemental information in support of this book's themes.

Some ages, brow did sweat.
Some pages, brow did whet.
From dust came pages, brow, and sweat,
And to dust they shall pay their debt,
But not, just, yet.

Section 1: The Principal Themes

- Reason constitutes the essential tool for the survival, prosperity, and happiness of each human individual.
- Objectivism constitutes the philosophy of reality integrated reason.
- Each able individual, on Earth, would most certainly benefit from an understanding of Objectivism.
- Objectivism's fundamental principles have been incisively defined on a single page of about 2000 words (Part 5: The Page).

Section 2: Reality Integrated Objectivist Principles

The easily understood rational principles that are necessary for incisive pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness:

Rational Reality and Knowledge

Rational Ethics, Virtues, and Rights

Rational Freedom, Liberty, Justice, and Government

Rational Artistic Purpose

Philosophy is not a bauble of the intellect, but a power from which no man can abstain. Anyone can *say* that he dispenses with a view of reality, knowledge, the good, but no one can implement this credo. The reason is that man, by his nature as a conceptual being, cannot function at all without some form of philosophy to serve as his guide.

Peikoff, Leonard. Chapter 1, "Reality." *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand*. New York: Meridian, 1993, page 1, paragraph 1.

Section 3: Reason, Integration, and Pursuits of Happiness

Throughout the ages, to achieve beneficial outcomes, humans have rearranged bits and pieces of cause-and-effect natural reality. However, not being nature's creators, to achieve those cause-and-effect rearrangements, it has always been necessary for us to first grasp nature's non-contradictory truths. And, just as reason ever has been our tool for grasping those truths, it will ever be just so.

Nature is only to be commanded by obeying her.

Bacon, Sir Francis. First Book. *Novum Organum*. 1620, aphorism 129.

Reason (logical reason) is a set of voluntary skills that can only become progressively mastered by careful rational-work within individual human minds. And to integrate is to assemble valuable parts into a non-contradictory purposeful whole. The purpose of reason is to integrate observations of reality into non-contradictory knowledge; from non-contradictory knowledge, to integrate non-contradictory values and judgments; and from those, to integrate non-contradictory actions.

Close evaluations of knowledge, values, judgments, and actions will disclose that, to the degrees well-integrated, they are ultimately employed within pursuits of happiness. Moreover, it is from these inescapable facts of everyday life that the fabric of each individual's life becomes composed.

Section 4: Irrationality, Consequences, and Corrections

Natural reality = objective reality + subjective reality. Within objective reality, contradictions do not exist. However, within subjective reality, irrational ideas, which always entail contradictions, do exist. And ideas do cause consequences. At minimum, they simply consume precious time. However, at worst, on countless occasions throughout the ages, willfully chosen and enacted to their final social conclusions, irrational ideas have caused vast destitution, destruction, and death.

Excepting simple accidents and innocent knowledge deficits, such ideas are *the root causes of all human generated tragedies*. And ultimately, such ideas can only become corrected by rational-work, non-contradictory integrations of percepts and concepts by logical reason, not by suffering further irrational ideas.

I present *The Page of Reason*, as a potent tool, as a powerful catalyst, to substantially correct irrational ideas: *to thereby diminish human generated tragedies*.

Choices are required. Time and work are also required. However, this is not particularly difficult work, and it is virtually guaranteed to become extraordinarily rewarding and pleasurable work. Our choices. Our time. Our work. Our rewards. Our pleasures. Reason *is* noble. Welcome! And I am pleased to meet you here.

Section 5: Understanding The Page of Reason

The Initial Purpose: My work to compose *The Page of Reason* began with a purposeful desire to rationally integrate, within my own mind, a lifetime's worth of knowledge and experience. Towards that purpose, I began within an earlier attempt to formulate the best of my ideas onto a one-page written text. Then, throughout my later long writing project, I worked consistently to enrich and refine that text into an expanded work of internal consistency. However, . . .

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Self-Reliance*. 1841, paragraph 14.

- Clearly, Ralph Waldo would judge my mind to be: *a foolish little hobgoblin mind*.

From the very first page of my writing, I employed a self-imposed one-page constraint. I sensed a purposeful need to tailor a BIG memory full of BIG ideas into a fashionable hat of a consistent texture and style that would comfortably fit my own *foolish little hobgoblin mind*.

Furthermore, also from the very first page, I employed the principle that I should compose in a consistent texture and style that would consistently communicate my ideas to you. If I could consistently communicate my ideas to you, then I would consistently understand them within my own *foolish little hobgoblin mind*.

Oh Ralph, Ralph, Ralph Waldo! Take a hike! Slump along now and hump your foolish, inconsistent, misfit ideas into some stinky slug-plumped swamp—some-where, light-years away. Dump 'em there. Then, sprint back to us: unburdened and refreshed.

The Long Project: I began composing *The Page of Reason* on October 15th of 2015 as a novice author who possessed reasonably well-developed verbal language skills. However, I did not possess any significant writing experience, and I most definitely did not possess the writing skills that were necessary to produce this book. Therefore, I had to acquire, hone, and polish *much* of that, and that work, well-increased by countless bits of rational-work on all other aspects of this project, consumed considerable doses of time and effort.

On April 1st of 2016, I judged *The Page of Reason* to be completely done: final! However, I was then unable to restrain myself from authoring further enrichments and refinements. On July 4th, I called another final halt. Then, on August 15th, following numerous re-reads, I embarked once more! *Then, all over, again, again, and again!* (Finalized: February of 2021.)

- By rational-work, I *chew, chew, chewed* a lifetime's worth of knowledge and experience. By that, I produced this book. Never give up!

The Parts: I began my writing with initial work on Parts 4 and 5. And, throughout my long writing project, I worked assiduously to make those two parts easy to read, easy to understand, and incisively accurate. However, my self-imposed one-page constraints excluded further, important and valuable, information and context. Therefore, once I had resolved to share Parts 4 and 5 with you, I then concurrently composed the additional parts and supplements.

Part 5 constitutes an exceptionally independent sub-essay. However, to establish important context, the whole book should first be read in sequential order. Once that context has been established, then Part 5's value becomes greatly enriched, and all other parts and supplements become substantially independent sub-essays.

The Razor: Part 5, Orrin's Big Razor, concludes my attempt to formulate a one-page incisive definition of Objectivism. I am confident that individuals who possess significant preknowledge of Objectivism will find Part 5's definition to be extraordinarily accurate and valuable. However, concerning such conclusions, each Student of Objectivism must formulate their own judgments.

The Cultivators: Here are four facts that each able individual should know:

- Objectivism constitutes the presently unsurpassed cultivator of fundamental rational principles.
- The Page of Reason*, coupled with the Great Persuasion, constitutes the presently unsurpassed cultivator of Objectivism (my intention).
- By choice, one can cultivate one's own conceptual mind: *to thereby cultivate one's own pursuits of happiness*.
- Prodigiously few adults are ever thoroughly unable.

The Emotions: Though I am most definitely not an emotionalist, each time that I have read through this book, I have experienced important emotional responses. I can therefore testify that one's rational efforts to grasp the truths of reality, knowledge, the good are not cold, dry, and remote.

Well-integrated knowledge consistently causes appropriate, noble, well-informed, and well-nuanced emotions. Value judgments constitute consequential subsets of our knowledge. And vigorously, subconsciously, at lightning fast speeds, our minds match our variously directed, variously focused, limited observations with our pre-formed value judgments, and thereby cause our emotions.

- Rational knowledge enriches and refines value judgments, and thereby enriches and refines emotions.

Should you choose to read the whole book, then know that I will be engaging in a no holds barred effort to communicate to you: Objectivism's fundamental principles—with all of the rational knowledge and *emotional power* that my *foolish little hobgoblin mind* can possibly muster.

The Final Purpose: Too often, our lives become swamped, by treacherous assaults, of multifarious kinds, from copious-cadres of death-worshipping, death-dealing, anything-goes misfits.

Distinctly counter-assaulting such evils: Objectivism incisively identifies, defines, and explains the only known full-set of fundamental rational principles that are necessary to establish rational order within each of our cultures and civilizations: for the life-enriching rational-self-interest of each human individual.

Therefore, due to Objectivism's unrivaled importance, amongst all possible earthly ideas, it would be good if *The Page of Reason* were to become available to each able individual, on Earth. Then, for each one, to read or not to read: that would be a choice. To ascend to the mountain top, or not: that would also be a choice.

- Would it be good to become well-informed about rationality, our fundamental talent, the talent by which we live or die every day: *bit by tiny bit?*