

**First Chance = Last Chance**

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**The Page of Reason**

Third Edition: Integrating 2600 Years of Rational Investigations

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

Eight-Parts in Eight-Pages

Part 5 is The Page

**A Brain is Free. A Mind is Earned.**

**Orrin Smith**

ThePageOfReason.com

**Welcome to The Page of Reason**

A seminal essay for the rational-self-interest of each able individual,  
and for the cultures and civilizations that they will gloriously enrich.

**Supplement: The Great Persuasion**

A participatory project to enrich rationality,  
within all cultures and civilizations, all around the Earth.

**The Declaration of Intent**

**From all of my life experience**, from all knowledge that I have ever acquired from a magnificent array of generous knowledge predecessors, 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.

**The Preface**

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 counter-destructive effect, we are able to counter-assault primeval anything-goes ideas by wisely employing our reasoning skills. And it is only by such rationally wise counter-assaults that we will ever become able to consistently cultivate our pursuits of happiness.

**Rationality** has always been our distinctive human attribute, our principal moral 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 four primary reasons:

- **One:** Rationality's fundamental importance must become recognized.
- **Two:** Reason (rationality's method of work) is a set of voluntary skills that can only become performed within individual human minds.
- **Three:** Rational-work (non-contradictory integrations of observations and concepts by logical reason) must become performed.
- **Four:** 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 twelve 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 nearly 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 *The Page of Reason***, I have done my utter best to communicate those principles.

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

**I invite you** to now embark with me upon this brief *greatest ever possible adventure*, and to then employ *The Page of Reason*, as a potent tool, within your own enduring *greatest ever possible adventure*. You and I have much to discuss: me within my rational text, you within your own rational mind.

**\$Free Reading:** Enjoy reading the complete essay from the website:

- The WebText page: A standard, font-size adjustable webpage.
- The PdfText1 page: An embedded pdf file, in the original 8-point font.
- The PdfText2 page: An embedded pdf file, in a larger 11-point font.

**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 document. During nearly 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. Some individuals will find one of the larger font presentations to be more readable.

# The Page of Reason

## Part 1 of 8: The Preliminary Introduction

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.

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### 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 incisive understanding of Objectivism.
- Objectivism's principles have been incisively defined on a single page of about 2000 words (Part 5: The Page).

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### Section 2: Reality Integrated Objectivist Principles:

The absolutely sublime, 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.

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### 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 non-contradictory 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.

Sir Francis Bacon. First Book. *Novum Organum*. 1620. Aphorism 129.

Reason is a set of voluntary skills that can only become progressively mastered by punctuated rational-work within individual human minds. And to integrate is to assemble valuable parts into a non-contradictory purposeful whole. The purpose of non-contradictory 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.

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### 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 observations and concepts by logical reason), not by suffering further irrational ideas.

I present *The Page of Reason*, as a potent tool, 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.

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### Section 5: Understanding The Page of Reason

**The Initial Purpose:** My work to compose *The Page of Reason* began with a desire to rationally integrate a lifetime's worth of personal experience with a broad range of important knowledge to which I had recently been applying years of systematic study (P4, S4). Towards that purpose, I have worked consistently to make this text a 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 likewise consistently communicate them to 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 this text 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 work. 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.

Judging it complete, I first published *The Page of Reason* on April 1st of 2016 (on the website). However, I was then unable to restrain myself from authoring further enrichments and refinements. On July 4th, I called a final halt. Then, on August 15th, following numerous re-reads, I embarked once more! *Then, all over, again, again, and again!* On August 28th of 2020, I called one last final halt.

**The Parts:** I began composing this text 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 complete essay 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.

- Nevertheless, rational definitions do reside on each page.

**The Razor:** Part 5, Orrin's Razor, concludes my attempt to formulate an utterly essential, 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*.
- Prodigious few adults are ever thoroughly unable.

**The Emotions:** Though I am most definitely not an emotionalist, each time that I have read through this text, 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 preformed value judgments, and thereby cause our emotions. (P5, S3, p10).

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

Should you choose to read the complete essay, then know that I will be engaging in a no holds barred effort to communicate to you: the essential facts of Objectivist Principles—with all of the *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 absolutely 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, I absolutely intend that *The Page of Reason* become shared with each able individual, on Earth. Then, for each one, to read, or not to read: *that be the choice*. To ascend to the mountain top, or not: *that also be a choice*.

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