

# THE PAGE OF REASON

*Third Edition: Integrating 2600 Years of Rational Adventure*

## 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.*

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#### THE DECLARATION OF INTENT

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

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#### THE GREAT PERSUASION

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

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### THE FUNDAMENTALS

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

Our primeval natures will always be with us. However, irrational ideas are essentially 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 carefully employing our rational persuasion skills. And it is only by such rational counter-assaults that we will ever become able to consistently accelerate our incisive pursuits of happiness.

Rationality has always been our essentially 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 actually engaged in progressive, systematic investigations of reason. Therefore, within the prodigiously long duration of human history, we have only just recently begun to hone, polish, and apply our rational skills.

Why has this work only just recently begun, and so very slowly progressed? It is because: (1) Rationality's importance must first become recognized. (2) Rational skills, rationality's method of performing work, must become employed. (3) Rational skills are voluntary skills that can only become progressively mastered by punctuated, focused work within individual human minds. And (4) Substantial knowledge transmittals have always depended upon progressive developments of literary and delivery technologies.

It is only within individual human minds that rational skills and conceptual knowledge can exist and develop. However, at birth, our minds became formed entirely devoid of such content. Nevertheless, since those 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 well-over ten years, I engaged purposeful rational work. First: I worked hard to acquire and reasonably assimilate a very broad knowledge context. Second: Once I came to understand its utterly crucial importance, I then worked hard to acquire an incisive understanding of fundamental rational knowledge. Third: Beginning with a limited set of writing skills, I then worked very long and very hard to further develop, hone, and polish those skills. And Fourth: Within the punctuated processes of polishing those skills, I produced *The Page of Reason*, the final purpose of which is to precisely communicate fundamental rational knowledge to you, and to each other able individual, on Earth.

Within *The Page of Reason*, I have done my utter best to communicate the essential facts and principles of fundamental rational knowledge.

If, if, if human life, on Earth, is our dearly treasured value, then our need for fundamental rational knowledge is truly dire. And for incisive pursuits of happiness, it is absolutely necessary. Furthermore, to enrich rationality, within all cultures and civilizations, all around the Earth, much rational persuasion work will become required: *bit by tiny bit*.

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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.

The full text resides on the website: Original.pdf (eight-parts in eight-pages), LargeFont.pdf, and MobileFont.pdf (~~\$\$\$~~, Logins, Advertisements).

A rational gift from:

For the pleasure of:

# THE PAGE OF REASON

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 is the essential tool for the survival, prosperity, and happiness of each individual.
- Objectivism is The Philosophy of Reality Integrated Reason.
- Each able individual, on Earth, would most certainly benefit from an incisive understanding of Objectivism.
- Objectivism's essential facts and principles have been incisively defined on a single page of about 2000 words (Part 5: *The Page*).

## 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. Print.

## SECTION 3: REASON, INTEGRATION, AND PURSUITS OF HAPPINESS

Rational skills are voluntary skills that can only become progressively mastered by punctuated, focused 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 knowledge, to integrate non-contradictory values; and from values, to integrate non-contradictory judgments and actions.

Close evaluations of judgments and actions will disclose that, to the degrees well-integrated, they are ultimately employed within pursuits of happiness. Moreover, it is the common, everyday knowledge, values, judgments, and actions, from which the fabric of one's life becomes composed, that are most important.

## SECTION 4: CONTRADICTIONS, CONSEQUENCES, AND REMEDIATION

External to human consciousness, contradictions are not known to exist. However, within human consciousness, conceptual contradictions are are known to exist. And conceptual contradictions, of any nature, do cause consequences. At minimum, they simply consume precious time. However, at worst, on countless occasions throughout the ages, willfully chosen conceptual contradictions, employed to their final, social conclusions, have caused vast destitution, destruction, and death.

Excepting simple accidents and simple ignorance, it is the ever-irrational, ever-evasive, anything-goes nature of conceptual contradictions that cause all human-generated tragedies. Ultimately, conceptual contradictions can only become remedied by non-contradictory reason, not by employing further contradictions.

I present *The Page of Reason*, as a potent tool, for the remediation of conceptual contradictions. 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. Your choices. Your time. Your work. Your rewards. Your 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 burning desire to rationally integrate, within my own mind, a broad range of important knowledge to which I had been applying years of thoughtful study (P4, S4). Therefore, this is a composition of well-informed, prodigiously careful, incisive reason. However, I must here confess that my mind is just another, middle-brow, little mind that has become a considerable hobgoblin of foolish consistency.

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Self Reliance*, in *The Harvard Classics*. New York: P. F. Collier & Son Corporation, 1937. Volume 5. Page 66. Print.

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 size and form that would fit my own "foolish, little, hobgoblin mind".

Moreover, also from the very first page, I employed the principle that I should compose in some form 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. And then, sprint back to us, unburdened and refreshed!*

**THE LONG PROJECT:** I began this composition on October 15th of 2015 as a novice author who possessed a reasonably well-developed collection of verbal language skills, but who did not possess any significant formal writing experience. And I most definitely did not possess the precise language and writing skills that were necessary to produce this composition. Therefore, I had to acquire, hone, and polish those skills, and that work consumed considerable doses of time and effort.

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

*For numerous days and numerous nights, no dry spell did I know.*

*For nearby did lay and hot for a swipe, a double mug of joe!*

*Now, finally, finally, it's show time!*

**THE PARTS:** I began this composition with Part 5, composed Part 4 in parallel with it, 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, context, and tools. 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, one should first read the full text 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 EMOTIONS:** Though I am most definitely not an emotionalist, I have never been able to read through this text once without experiencing significant emotions. I can therefore honestly testify that one's consistent, rational engagement with reason, reality, and knowledge is not a cold, dry, remote processes.

When well-integrated, knowledge consistently causes appropriate, noble, well-informed, and well-nuanced emotions. Value judgments constitute a consequential sub-set of knowledge. It is preformed value judgments, whether consistent or contradictory, that, for better or for worse, cause all emotions (P5, S3, p10).

Should you choose to read the full text, then know that I will be working very hard to precisely communicate to you: the essential facts and principles of non-contradictory fundamental rational knowledge—with all of the rational and *emotional* power that my "foolish, little, hobgoblin mind" can possibly muster.

**THE CORE SUBJECT:** Part 5 concludes my attempt to formulate an utterly essential, one-page definition of Objectivism. I am confident that individuals who possess significant pre-knowledge of Objectivism will find Part 5's definition to be extraordinarily accurate and valuable. However, in these respects, each Student of Objectivism must formulate their own judgments. Nevertheless, I am absolutely confident in asserting these three facts now:

- Objectivism is the presently unsurpassed *Accelerator* of Fundamental Rational Knowledge.
- *The Page of Reason*, coupled with The Great Persuasion, is the presently unsurpassed *Accelerator* of Objectivism.
- We can each choose to turbo-charge our own conceptual minds: *To Thereby Accelerate Our Own Pursuits of Happiness*.

**THE FINAL PURPOSE:** Too often, our lives become swamped, by treacherous assaults, of multifarious kinds, from copious cadres of death-worshiping, death-dealing, anything-goes misfits. And Objectivism does incisively define the only known full-set of non-contradictory rational principles that are necessary to establish rational order within each of our cultures and civilizations: for the life-supporting, rational self-interest of each 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*.

**OUR ADVENTURE CONTINUES:** I invite you to further embark with me upon this brief *Greatest Ever Possible Adventure*. You and I have much more to discuss.

## SECTION 6: INTERREGNUM: READING AND REPRODUCTION RIGHTS

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NOTHING CAN BE RATIONALLY KNOWN TO EXIST THAT IS MORE MAGNIFICENT, MORE IMPORTANT, OR MORE GLORIOUS THAN ONE'S OWN CONCEPTUAL MIND.

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- **PART 5: ORRIN'S BIG RAZOR: HIS ONE PAGE DEFINITION OF OBJECTIVISM**

- o **Section 1: A Rational Philosophy One: The Precise Requirement: One Sovereign Hierarchical Concept**
  - **The Root: Reality:** "What exists?" **Plus: Knowledge:** "What can we know, and how can we know it?"
  - **The Trunk: Ethics:** "What is moral conduct within oneself?"
  - **The Branches: Politics:** "What is moral conduct within social contexts?" **And: Esthetics:** "What is beautiful, worthy of admiration, worthy of emulation?"
- o **Section 2: Root: Rational Reality: "What exists?"**
  - **Outline Note One:** Our conceptual minds possess only, within invalid to absolute degrees of certainty, reality perspectives.
  - **Outline Note Two:** To the degree that a concept is rationally valid, is rationally certain, it is also a fact.
  - **Objectivism's Three Axiomatic Concepts:** The humanly observable, mutually integrated, and rationally irrefutable, reality perspectives.
    - o **Existence:** The human universal, spherical reality perspective.
    - o **Identity 1:** The human differentiating reality perspective.
    - o **Identity 2:** The human cause-and-effect reality perspective.
    - o **Consciousness:** The human identification reality perspective. **Plus:** Objectivism's Primacy of Existence Corollary.
- o **Section 3: Root: Rational Knowledge: "What can we know, and how can we know it?"**
  - **1. Percepts:** The original raw data, for all higher-animals.
  - **2. Concepts:** Possible knowledge, for humans only.
  - **3. Power:** Rational skills are prodigiously powerful tools that can empower individual rational humans with gargantuan advantages.
  - **4. Range:** From an individual mind's all-inclusive isolation to its potential turbo-charging from civilizations' rich intellectual legacies.
  - **5. Language:** Language is primarily a tool of reason, only secondarily of communication.
  - **6. Progression:** A brief integration of the preceding rational principles with important rational progressions.
  - **7. Validity:** The roots of valid concepts reside exclusively in non-contradictory, observable reality.
  - **8. Smoke and Fog:** From within turbulent clouds of *smoke and fog*, a mind subtly fuels alleged forms of "just knowing".
  - **9. Emotions 1:** Their three purposes: attachment, reporting, and motivation.
  - **10. Emotions 2:** Their one cause: observations matched with preformed value judgments.
- o **Section 4: Trunk: Rational Ethics: "What is moral conduct within oneself?"**
  - **1. Irrationality:** Irrationality is the principal root cause of all human-generated tragedies.
  - **2. Ethics Hierarchy:** The integrated value structure. **Root:** individual human life; **trunk:** virtues; **branches and leaves:** morals, laws, rules, and options.
  - **3. Virtues:** The trunk of important, life-supporting, and root integrated, primary moral principles.
  - **4. Rights:** The bridge to social interactions: individual rights to employ evil-force-free, life-supporting actions. **Plus:** Delegated, restricted, group rights.
- o **Section 5: Branch: Rational Politics: "What is moral conduct within social contexts?"**
  - **1. Evil-Force:** Evil-force-actions, of any kind, by any method, by anyone, that abrogate any individual right, of any other, are strictly prohibited.
  - **2. Government:** Its exclusive source, purpose, and obligation: individual rights—civil adjudication and retaliatory force justice.
- o **Section 6: Branch: Rational Esthetics: "What is beautiful, worthy of admiration, worthy of emulation?"**
  - **Artistic Purpose:** Weaving affirmations, inspirations, and motivations for boundless, evil-force-free pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness.
- o **Section 7: A Rational Philosophy Two: The Precise Delivery: One Sovereign Hierarchical Concept: Objectivism**
  - **Reality Integrated Incisive Reason:** The only possible razor for validly cultivating knowledge, values, judgments, and actions.
  - **Reality Integrated Objectivist Principles:** The absolutely sublime, easily understood, rational principles for survival, prosperity, and happiness.
  - **Objectivism:** The only known indestructible map to rational human life.

- **PART 6: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS: OBJECTIVISM IN CONTEXT**

- o SECTION 1: OBJECTIVISM IN CONCEPTUAL CONTEXT: THE WORD OBJECTIVISM NAMES A VALID HIERARCHICAL CONCEPT
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- o SECTION 3: THE RATIONAL DREAM: YOUR VERY OWN NOBLE PRIZE—IF YOU SHOULD CHOOSE TO EARN IT
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- **SUPPLEMENT 2: THE AFTERWORD AND POSTSCRIPTS**

# THE PAGE OF REASON

## SECTION 1: EARLY WORK HISTORY: RESPECT FOR END-TO-END, EVIL-FORCE-FREE TRADE

Hello. My name is Orrin Smith. I became a very small individual in August of 1953 in Macon, Missouri, USA. Those who have known me from that time of birth, and through my early college years, customarily call me “Hoke”.

In 1949, my parents established Missouri Oxygen Company (MO-OX). Over the subsequent forty years, they reasoned very carefully, worked very hard, and built their business into a generously successful industrial supply operation that served most of non-metropolitan Missouri. Starting at the age of five, at five cents per hour, and then well into my 34th year, I willfully traded large portions of my early life for gainful employments in various aspects of that business.

I there acquired my initial educations in responsibility, productivity, and self-respect. I also observed many other individuals who each worked hard for their own survival, prosperity, and happiness. From those and subsequent observations, I eventually acquired my knowledge that by end-to-end, evil-force-free trade (reason, labor, products, services, etc.), we can, each with each, engage in mutually enriching enterprises; and that evil-forced trade, of any nature, is never a better choice.

## SECTION 2: EARLY EDUCATION HISTORY: MODERATE ACHIEVEMENTS

I acquired a standard, mostly public, early education. And then, by intermittent rational work that eventually totaled to five years’ worth of private college study, I finally earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. That was a catch-all to finally escape degree title.

That education, in combination with the broader context of my early life experiences, supplied my mind with a large collection of hodgepodge ideas: many contradictory understandings of reason, reality, and knowledge. And within those times, I earned moderate scholastic scores (overall average: about a B-minus).

It might have been better, or worse, or different, but those are just the facts.

However, I did learn much that was rationally important. I imbibed what I could, and I acquired an abiding interest in knowledge, which has continued to evolve throughout my life. However, until April 1st of 2008, my rational knowledge only evolved in fits and starts, often in just dribs and drabs. (*April Fools? Not!*)

## SECTION 3: BROADLY STATED INTELLECTUAL STATUS: JUST ANOTHER GUY (WITH A LIGHT!)

At birth, I became a wholly new individual (an undivided, indivisible entity). I possessed a mind that was devoid of concepts: it was tabula rasa (a blank slate); I was not yet able. All fundamental ideas that I have ever possessed, I acquired later in life, and I acquired them exclusively from other human individuals. Furthermore, except on a few rare and inconsequential occasions, I have never been an activist, an author, a teacher, or any other type of public intellectual or leader.

Within my life’s early periods, I experienced many of the same twists and turns common to other individuals of my times, culture, and background. From those experiences, my mind imbibed its early ideas, judgments, and attitudes. And from those imbibements, my mind eventually evolved into a somewhat rational, somewhat irrational mind. My mind had become substantially imbued with turbulent clouds of ever-contradictory, ever-evasive, anything-goes, *smoke and fog*.

Consequently, other than within various realms of highly specific rational ideas (common work, technologies, sciences, etc.), identifying the ultimate sources, meanings, truths, falsehoods, and consequences of complexly abstract ideas became a virtually impossible proposition. And I was most certainly not equipped to rationally evaluate fundamental irrational ideas, of any kind. Any such thoughts became squelched by the requirements and influences of daily life.

As it ever has been and ever will be for each individual, my mind constitutes the essential foundation of my self-identity. Unfortunately, within those early periods, it had come to constitute a self-identity that seemed impossible to rationally integrate—*should I have ever then contemplated such a radical idea!*

I had become a petty ruler within the small realm of a hodgepodge mind. (Hodgepodge: a heterogeneous mixture, a jumble, of unrelated ideas or parts). However, I now know, for certain, that to be a petty ruler within the small realm of a hodgepodge mind is no longer necessary, for any able individual: *anymore*.

During 2012, I participated in weekly meetings of a local Objectivism meetup group. Later in that year, one of our meetup organizers remarked to me: “At first, I thought that you were just another guy.” Her first thought was entirely accurate—but I had not “transmogrified” into some other “thing”. However, I had come to know that each able individual possesses the absolute right to become the sovereign ruler within their very own magnificent, important, and glorious, rationally integrated mind. Furthermore, I had already made my choice to perform the necessary work that is required to earn my own mind’s rational integration.

How? Well, from just anyone’s very first day, the only possible tool for that work is reason. Reason is the human light, and you will see that it is good: every! day.

## SECTION 4: MIDDLE PROFESSIONAL HISTORY: ADEPT, PRODUCTIVE, AND RESPECTED: SHARPLY TERMINATED

In February of 1987, during my 34th year, I began one last round of formal education at DeVry University in Kansas City, Missouri. During most of that time, I worked nights, full time, for a bank data-processing operation. Then, in October of 1989, following less than three years of work and study, I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems, *with Honors*. That achievement launched me on a new and profitable career.

My career progressively bloomed. On April 1st of 1998, I began contracting my services to the information systems departments of major Wall Street financial firms. I worked with large, globally distributed teams to build, enhance, and repair, large and complex, financial data-processing systems. (*April Fools? Not!*)

Then, on March 31st of 2008 at four o’clock p.m., my hard earned, highly productive, and *sharply honed* career became *sharply terminated*. (*April Fools? Not!*)

Over 21 years, from 1987 to 2008, by intermittent rational work, I gradually acquired new professional knowledge, and I progressively honed my rational skills. Within my work, I became progressively able to simultaneously exhibit the virtues of quality, speed, and focused purpose. Thereby, I progressively became ever-more adept, productive, and respected in my work. And I eventually earned my very own place amongst that class of workers who are known to be most able.

Nevertheless, The Financial Crisis of 2007–2008 was *A Rampaging Ravenous Bear*. And all major financial firms had elected to cut their expenses as rapidly as possible and by any feasible method. As a direct consequence, my knowledge and skills contract became terminated. My kind of hero had become *passé*.

However, that termination had not come as a surprise. For quite some time, off-shoring, and H1B Visa holders’ *desperate* on the job training, had been progressing. And on about January 2nd, I had received an informal termination notice. During the ensuing three months, several continued employment options were offered, each of which I rejected. My final reason for rejecting those offers was that I had already conceived for myself: *The Greatest Ever Possible Radical Offer!*

*Sharp termination day* sprouted a *sharply clear*, warm, spring afternoon. I said goodbye to good friends, many of whom I might never see again. Nevertheless, it was with *A Light Heart and A Pocket Full of Change* that at four o’clock p.m. I stepped out onto the sidewalk at 24th and Park. I reckoned to light out for the territory, ahead of the rest. They had tried to sivilize me one more time, but I just could not stand it anymore. I had already been sivilized: *far, far too many times!*

By careful reasoning and *Good Jackrabbit Sense*, I had made my choice. On the very next day, I would embark upon: *The Greatest Ever Possible Adventure!*

## SECTION 5: APRIL FOOLS’ DAY OF 2008: THE SECRET PLAN: BREW A BATCH OF TASTY LEMONADE

On April 1st of 2008, I was in my 55th year. In my own language of that time, I had finally come to understand that: “My entire life experience resides behind my eyes and between my ears.” I had also finally come to understand that to be a rationally irrefutable fact for each other individual.

Concurrent with the development of those explicit understandings, I had conceived two knowledge goals. And then, following some periods of careful reasoning, I finally concluded that working towards their achievement was crucial to my own continued pursuits of happiness. In evolved language, here are those two goals:

- Knowledge Goal #1: To acquire and reasonably assimilate a very broad knowledge context.
- Knowledge Goal #2: *If ever, ever possible*, to discover and employ a method by which to rationally integrate my knowledge.

Though I might never discover a method by which to rationally integrate my knowledge, I judged it wise to begin by acquiring the very best quality knowledge available, and in the most effective manner possible. Since early 2007, while working full time, I had already completed 43 of *The Great Courses*. Therefore, identifying an effective method, by which to achieve Knowledge Goal #1, was a knock-down cinch: *The Great Courses* fit that bill to a T.

It has been said: “When handed lemons, make lemonade!” I heard! I heard! Therefore, on that April Fools’ Day, I resolved to *bootstrap* my mind, to *start all over again*, to begin an aggressive exploration of knowledge. And I did *secretly reason* that someday, *just possibly*, I might become able to brew a batch of tasty lemonade.

Though April Fools’ Day might sometimes be funny, it isn’t necessarily always stupid, or at least I so judge.

## SECTION 6: THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: YES! YES! AND A VIBRANT SPRINT-IN-PROGRESS!

**GOAL #1: HIGH EXPECTATIONS GREATLY EXCEEDED:** By the end of 2014, I had completed 330, plus 48 repeats, of *The Great Courses*. I studied most courses on DVDs, which usually contained 6 30-minute lectures each. That comprised a convenient study unit, so on many days, I studied 6 or 12 lectures, and on some days, I studied 18.

Because I did not know where my studies would eventually take me, I employed that rather extravagant approach. If someone has sufficient desire and time, a version of that same sort of study work could be both valuable and pleasurable. However, it is not necessary, and I do not recommend it to everyone. We will discuss this issue further, along with some well-considered advice, in Part 7: Learning Resources. (*The Great Courses provision a most excellent learning opportunity.*)

**GOAL #2: VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE GOAL SUPERLATIVELY EXCEEDED:** For evidence of this accomplishment, I refer you to *The Page of Reason* Part 5. That part, well-informed by the critical work of Part 4, was primarily composed, as a potent tool, to rationally integrate my own conceptual mind.

Subsequent to achieving substantial progress towards Goal #2, I re-conceived from memory, and exploded with prodigious purpose, a third knowledge goal:

- Knowledge Goal #3: To propagate Objectivist Principles to each able individual, on Earth.

**GOAL #3: A VIBRANT SPRINT-IN-PROGRESS:** *The Page of Reason*, all-inclusive, was secondarily composed, as a potent tool, for any able individual who might choose to pursue their own progressive mastery of reason. For valid evidence of Goal #3’s *vibrant sprint-in-progress*, I refer you to the website’s full content.

## • • • SECTION 7: SHOW TIME! A SUPERBLY TASTY BATCH OF PROUD LEMONADE! • • •

My “foolish, little, hobgoblin mind” has done its utter best to give the faint glow of reason an incisively honest investigation, and to produce an utterly magnificent work of fundamental rational knowledge. Therefore, I am now magnificently proud to be sharing with you: *This Superbly Tasty Batch of Proud Lemonade!*

# THE PAGE OF REASON

## SECTION 1: OBJECTIVISM AND THE PAGE

**OBJECTIVISM:** Objectivism is exclusively presented in the works of Ayn Rand, or in material that she endorsed. Though no one has authority to speak on her behalf, Dr. Leonard Peikoff, her thirty-year friend, associate, best student, and chosen heir, is today's foremost authority on her philosophy.

**THE PAGE:** Well-armed by close readings of their literature, well-informed by a very broad knowledge context, wholly engaging a carefully selective sense of purpose, and incisively polishing my own concept definitions and word choices as I composed, I strove to formulate an utterly essential, one-page definition of Objectivism.

## SECTION 2: MASTERING ANY SUBJECT

**OUR REQUIREMENT:** Should any individual desire to achieve a degree of mastery over any subject, then they must earn that mastery. To the degree of mastery desired, one must chew, digest, understand, and practice that subject's rational content. One must perform one's own root-to-branch reconstruction of its rational ideas.

**OUR TALENT:** Over 2300 years ago, Aristotle of Athens (384–322 BCE) correctly identified rationality as our essentially distinctive human attribute. We can further correctly identify rationality as our principal moral virtue, and as our fundamental talent: our evolutionarily endowed ability to reason. And it is an irrefutable fact that reason is our essential tool for survival, prosperity, and happiness. Thus, rationality is the irrevocable foundation for every form of our life-enriching work.

**OUR SKILLS:** Each integrated-body-and-consciousness incorporates a spectacularly prodigious abundance of automatic processes. Amongst these processes, it is only perception functions that deliver all of the original raw data (percepts, raw information) that is processed within individual minds. However, reason (logical reason!) is not an automatic process. Rational skills are voluntary skills that *only we humans* can develop to abstract concepts (knowledge) from that raw data.

**OUR MASTRIES:** By focusing our perception functions and rational skills upon the best communications of our knowledge predecessors, we can gain enormous and necessary advantages within this earthly life. We initially borrow their words and examples. Then, by punctuated employments of variously mixed learning skills (listening, observing, practicing, reading, reasoning, writing, etc.), within our previously acquired conceptual contexts, we can progressively master any subject.

## SECTION 3: MASTERING THE SUBJECT OF RATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

**OUR SUFFERINGS:** Each individual, every day, engages with sub-forms of the four fundamental human questions: "What is reality? What is knowledge? What is moral conduct? What is beauty?" This ever has been and ever will be our quintessential attempt to get a rational grip on this earthly life. However, many of our long-ago learned ideas became entangled with various befuddling, irrational ideas—and became subconsciously automated within our minds. By such befuddling entanglements, our pursuits to get that rational grip have become virtually impossible to wholly conclude. In succinct language: our pursuits of happiness suffer.

**OUR CONCLUSIONS:** Within one's own mind, one's own judgments always are the final arbiters of truth. One does independently incorporate one's own conclusions into one's own mind. And then, for better or for worse, by the necessary and inevitable consequences of one's conclusions, one will live or die: *bit by tiny bit*. Therefore, if one values one's life, then one must incisively understand that: Whereas the past consequences of conclusions cannot be revised, conclusions can be.

**OUR REPAIRS:** To repair a thing is to re-pair it with its essentially distinctive nature. To repair a conceptual mind is to re-pair it with its rationality. If any able individual chooses to work for their own mind's self-repair, then they can most certainly expect to profitably earn its progressive rational integration. By one's own punctuated rational work, one's own understandings and practices of rational philosophy will *soon, soon, soon* subconsciously stabilize and progressively solidify. It is only by incisive rational work that such outcomes can substantially occur. For the accomplishment of such heroic feats, exquisite models have been well-provided.

**OUR RATIONAL PHILOSOPHY:** By my life experiences and persistent investigations, I have discovered that: Objectivism is The Philosophy of Reality Integrated Reason.

## SECTION 4: THE SWEAT OF HIS BROW: ORRIN'S GREAT BIG RATIONAL CHEW

**April 1, 2008:** With no knowledge of where it would eventually take me, I began an earnestly aggressive re-education of my mind with *The Great Courses* from The Teaching Company. By the end of 2014, I had completed 330, plus 48 repeats, of these university level lecture courses: 10,810 lectures, 5,487 hours. Those lectures were digitally delivered to me by 204 diverse and highly distinguished professors. By employing those professors, I infused my mind with a reasonably assimilated, very broad knowledge context. Thereby, I generously over-met my Knowledge Goal #1. My course study record is linked to the website's GCourses sub-menu.

**Oct. 28, 2011:** I had initially judged that my Knowledge Goal #2 would be virtually impossible to achieve. Nevertheless, upon befriending Mr. Howard Roark, my well-prepared mind promptly identified, in then loosely defined language, that: Reason is The Essential Tool for Integrating All Knowledge. It seemed to me that underlying Mr. Roark's noble character was a crucially important life secret. And I felt purposefully compelled to discover the nature of that secret.

**Oct. 29, 2011:** I proceeded to repeat close readings of the below tabled objectivist literature. Then, with about six references to external sources, drawing exclusively from my own mind, I worked intensively for three solid months and composed *Objectivism On One Page*. I finalized that work on April 13th of 2013.

**April 14, 2013:** I then engaged in further, repetitive, close readings of objectivist literature. By the end of 2014, I had completed, in total, the below tabled reads.

**Oct. 15, 2015:** For three years, by prodigious rational introspections and just word and grammar research, I meticulously composed *The Page of Reason*. And minute by careful minute, *bit by tiny bit*, *The Page of Reason* unfolded. Thank! Goodness! for word processors, for each life-supporting technology and idea, and for each individual who, within our prodigiously long human history, by careful rational work, against insurmountable odds, meticulously produced them: *bit by tiny bit*.

**Nov. 19, 2018:** Thus, I have earned a wealth of knowledge. And Part 5 now objectifies the quintessential value of that entire, GREAT BIG, *bit by tiny bit*, rational chew.

## SECTION 5: TABLE OF KEY OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE

PUBLICATION TITLE	AUTHOR/EDITOR	PH. GENRE	PUB. YEAR	BRIEF COMMENT	READS
<i>We the Living</i> * (*reference P7, S2.)	Ayn Rand	Fiction	1936/1959	Individualism vs. Collectivism	3
<i>Anthem</i> *	Ayn Rand	Fiction	1938/1946	A mental <i>State of Nature</i> tale	3
<i>The Fountainhead</i> *	Ayn Rand	Fiction	1943	Here, I befriended Mr. Howard Roark.	3
<i>Atlas Shrugged</i> *	Ayn Rand	Fiction	1957	The Premier Objectivist Work of Art	2
<i>For the New Intellectual</i>	Ayn Rand	Essays	1961	Escape reason? Not possible!	2
<i>The Virtue of Selfishness</i>	Ayn Rand	Essays	1964	Rational Self-Interest	2
<i>Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal</i>	Ayn Rand	Essays	1966/1967	Its roots are embedded in reason.	2
<i>Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology</i> *	Ayn Rand	Philosophy	1966/1990	Concepts Mastered	7
<i>The Romantic Manifesto</i>	Ayn Rand	Essays	1969/1971	Objectivist Art = Romantic Realism	2
<i>Return of the Primitive</i>	Ayn Rand	Essays	1971/1999	<i>Primeval Wobble</i> or <i>Vibrant Sprint</i> ?	2
<i>Philosophy: Who Needs It</i>	Ayn Rand	Essays	1982	We've all got it. But what is it?	2
<i>The Ominous Parallels</i> *	Leonard Peikoff	Philosophy	1982	Roots of Human-Generated Tragedies	3
<i>Understanding Objectivism</i> *	Leonard Peikoff	Philosophy	1983/2012	Important Objectivist Learning Guide	2
<i>Teaching Johnny to Think</i>	Leonard Peikoff	Philosophy	1985/2014	Rational Youth Education (adults too!)	2
<i>The Ayn Rand Lexicon: Objectivism from A to Z</i>	Harry Binswanger, Ed.	Reference	1986	The Ayn Rand "Encyclopedia"	Ref.
<i>The Voice of Reason: Essays in Objectivist Thought</i>	Ayn Rand	Essays	1989	The coda of Ayn Rand's essays	2
<i>Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand</i> * (OPAR)	Leonard Peikoff	Philosophy	1991/1993	Definitive Statement of Objectivism	10
<i>The Objective Standard: Reason, Egoism, Capitalism</i>	Craig Biddle, Ed.	Journal	2013–2015	Rational Quarterly Journal (2006 ...)	10

## SECTION 6: FURTHER COMMENTS ON KEY OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE

Ayn Rand's rational fiction works are chock-full of romantic tension, dramatic interplay, and tragic consequences. Her incisive depictions of rational heroes and despicable villains (collectivists, second handers, moochers, and looters), within vibrantly arrayed panoramas of human life, delightfully entertain and rationally inform her readers. Most particularly, Ayn Rand identified the speech in *Atlas Shrugged*, "This is John Galt Speaking", as the "briefest summary" of Objectivism.

What are the intellectual roots of our rational knowledge? Concepts. What are concepts, and exactly how do our individual minds form them? This Problem of Universals has been the most fundamental question underlying 2600 years of diligent philosophical investigations. Within *Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology*, Ayn Rand eloquently and decisively resolves this Problem of Universals. Her key discovery is the "essential connection between concept-formation and mathematics." (Peikoff, *OPAR*, p. 81). Her easily understood 87-pages define the master keys to rational concept-formation: not what to think, but how to think, rationally.

*The Ominous Parallels*, thoroughly imbued with rationality, brilliantly illuminates the incendiary roles played by irrational ideas as the principal root causes of human-generated tragedies. Rationally explaining irrationality is a daunting challenge. Here, Dr. Leonard Peikoff *superlatively* meets that challenge.

*Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand* is the most systematically unified, exclusively philosophical, definitive statement of Objectivism. For an incisively lucid and logical, cause-and-effect, principled understanding of Objectivism, this work is most certainly a most important must read. Dr. Peikoff: *superlative again!*

The essays, *The Ayn Rand Lexicon* (Rand excerpted and indexed), and *The Objective Standard* all present excellent examples of highly productive rational work.

Most individuals first encounter Objectivism within Ayn Rand's rational fiction works, which incorporate some delightfully unique characters. Many able individuals find these romantic realism works sufficient for their personal needs. *Atlas Shrugged* is the most popular read, and it is regarded as The Premier Objectivist Work of Art. My first read was *The Fountainhead*. I there befriended Howard Roark, the protagonist, an orange coiffed architect who possesses an absolutely independent and profoundly moral mind. Howard *grip, grip, gripped* my curiosity and inspired me to initiate my objectivist explorations.

• • • Now, gently squeeze your conceptual triggers. Bullseyes in Part 5 are highly condensed. • • •

# THE PAGE OF REASON

## SECTION 1: A RATIONAL PHILOSOPHY ONE: THE PRECISE REQUIREMENT: ONE SOVEREIGN HIERARCHICAL CONCEPT

**RATIONAL PHILOSOPHY:** To be rational, a philosophy must mutually integrate, mutually correlate, the essential facts and principles of five hierarchical sub-concepts:

- **The Root:** **REALITY:** "What exists?" Plus: **KNOWLEDGE:** "What can we know, and how can we know it?" These two constitute an inextricably intertwined pair.
- **The Trunk:** **ETHICS:** "What is moral conduct within oneself?" The corollary principles of Ethics must be rationally derived exclusively from the root principles.
- **The Branches:** **POLITICS:** "What is moral conduct within social contexts?" And: **ESTHETICS:** "What is beautiful, worthy of admiration, worthy of emulation?" The corollary principles of both Politics and Esthetics must be rationally derived exclusively from the root principles and the trunk principles.

## SECTION 2: ROOT: RATIONAL REALITY: "WHAT EXISTS?"

**OBJECTIVISM'S THREE AXIOMATIC CONCEPTS:** **Observe** that **EXISTENCE**, **IDENTITY**, and **CONSCIOUSNESS** are our three most utterly essential, observably knowable realities. And any able individual can easily, immediately, directly **observe** these three axiomatic facts: existence exists; existents possess identity; consciousness identifies existents. **Discover** that it is not possible to rationally refute these three mutually integrated axiomatic concepts: judge the facts and principles of the Root: sections.

- **EXISTENCE:** **EXISTENCE EXISTS.** Non-existence does not exist. Existence (reality) is all-inclusive, fully integrated, persistent, and progressively knowable.
- **IDENTITY 1:** **IDENTITY IS EXISTENCE** but viewed from a differentiating perspective. Each existent possesses a unique identity that differentiates it from each other existent: from existence and non-existence are distinctly different to any two experiences of an individual human, though often similar, are distinctly different.
- **IDENTITY 2:** **CAUSE-AND-EFFECT IS IDENTITY-IN-ACTION.** Effects can only be caused by existents, and particular kinds of effects can only be caused by particular kinds of existents: from only fundamental force existents can cause the binding of Our Big Cosmos Reality to only individual rational human minds can cause concepts.
- **CONSCIOUSNESS:** **CONSCIOUSNESS IS IDENTIFICATION.** **Observe** that consciousness exists only within living organisms. It is a faculty of lively awareness that first functions to identify existents. Then, through an organism's integrated-body-and-consciousness, it is able to cause rearrangements of external existents, but it is unable! to ever cause them. Also, within natural limits, and when rationally applied, consciousness functions only to support the organism's life. Thus, consciousness is incorporated within existence, and it is therefore secondary to existence. These rationally irrefutable facts validate Objectivism's Primacy of Existence Corollary.

## SECTION 3: ROOT: RATIONAL KNOWLEDGE: "WHAT CAN WE KNOW, AND HOW CAN WE KNOW IT?"

**1. PERCEPTS:** Percepts are the exclusive type of original raw data presented to consciousness. Percepts are identifications of extra-conscious existents that are generated by automated perception functions. Emotions, localized sensations (pains to pleasures), and diffuse sensations (hunger to satiety, lethargy to vitality, agitation to tranquility, etc.) are automatically identified, and presented to consciousness, for observations and evaluations, by internal perception functions. Therefore, these, and other such types, are also perceptible extra-conscious existents. Percepts, a mind's exclusive view into extra-conscious reality, are not valid, invalid, or arbitrary: *while immediately raw, they just are, and they do not have names.* Other higher-animals also experience and rearrange percepts, but not concepts.

**2. CONCEPTS:** Rational work identifies differences and similarities amongst any percepts, post-percept mind-process observations, or preformed concepts. That work might then integrate certain similarities into a category, define it, and name it with a word. A new concept is formed. Formulated exclusively from percepts, a concept is simple; otherwise, it is complex, and might identify a vast conceptual hierarchy. Concepts are stable and intermingle. **Definitions evolve.** Words morph.

**3. POWER:** Percepts identify complex existents in specific times and places, thereby placing severe limits on each higher-animal's ability to experience, rearrange, and communicate percepts. Concepts abstract away time, place, and immediately non-relevant complexity. Nevertheless, concepts must integrate, within degrees of certainty, all presently known facts, and remain open to new discoveries. Thus, concepts can pack and file evolving knowledge under the knowledge symbol of a single word. And thus, rational skills are prodigiously powerful tools that can empower individual rational humans with gargantuan advantages.

**4. RANGE:** A mind, all-inclusive, exists in isolation. Percepts are its exclusive type of extra-conscious data. Sound and gesture languages are the primary human tools for localized knowledge communications. Written languages can transmit knowledge across space and time. Other technologies, from primeval to modern, can also variously do so. Crucially, an individual human mind can be profitably turbo-charged from civilizations' rich intellectual legacies of knowledge communications.

**5. LANGUAGE:** Rational work is performed exclusively in introspective language. Language is primarily a tool of reason, only secondarily of communication. Try this reason experiment: count words that you think vs. ones that you speak, hear, or read. If assigned to a single, specific existent, a word is only a proper name.

**6. PROGRESSION:** We develop our knowledge by intermittent processes of logical-and-hierarchical differentiations-and-integrations (rearrangements) of observations and concepts. We direct and focus our percept and introspective observations. And we engage and direct our rational skills. Both processes are naturally limited, consciously selective, and can be willfully evaded, each of which make concept errors possible. Together, both processes also embody our exclusive source of free-will (choice)—our uniquely human method of cause-and-effect. Our observations might be direct, or, if rationaly trusted, they might be indirect, which is a crucial learning tool. Our preformed concepts constitute our present conceptual contexts. Crucially, we can each choose to turbo-charge our own rational knowledge.

**7. VALIDITY:** A concept is valid if directly integrated (rare) from, or honestly back-traced (common) to, non-contradictory observations. A concept will be certainly valid within a well-defined context (~rare), provisionally valid within degrees of certainty (common), or invalid (often). A concept that willfully evades reason, if such context is clearly conveyed, will be valid, and might be valuable (art, fantasy, humor, speculation, etc.). A concept *might* be valid within another's context, but if borrowed, honest validation is evaded, and it becomes advocated, then it just constitutes Arbitrary Parrot Talk (often manifested in batches of undefined squawks).

**8. SMOKE AND FOG:** A mind chews information within turbulent clouds of *smoke and fog*: anxieties, concept and judgment anchors, culture, expectations, desires, distractions, fears, hopes, traditions, undefined squawks, etc. Thereby, a mind subtly fuels alleged forms of "just knowing" (instincts, intuitions, revelations, etc.).

**9. EMOTIONS 1:** Emotions' three purposes are attachment, reporting, and motivation. Employing reason, we sow, cultivate, harvest, process, and eat grub. Then, our words might voice our emotions as follows. Attachment: "*Lub! Lub! Lub! Grub!*" Reporting: "*Belly Bulges.*" Motivation: "*Gobble! Gobs! Grub! Blater!*" However, we can never just project the concept "no-hunger!" into our emotions, and thereby gain nutrition. If we persist exclusively in that attempt, no matter how ingenious our methods, we soon die! Emotions do! embody important information, but they absolutely lack reason, concepts, knowledge, and *words!* Emotions are one of our evolutionarily endowed, primeval attributes. And if carelessly allowed, these raw, immediate fEELiNGs can become Cains: Killers of Able Reason.

**10. EMOTIONS 2:** Our minds, vigorously, subconsciously, at lightning fast speeds, match our variously directed and focused, limited observations with our preformed value judgments, and thereby cause our emotions. Our observations might be fresh or drawn from memory. Our preformed value judgments, a sub-set of our knowledge, can likewise become turbo-charged. Emotions are caused by observations/judgments, can be subjected to both observation and rational evaluation, vitaly fuel the functions of reason, but are unable! to ever function as rational tools. Emotions are not tools of cognition. Reason is the essential tool of knowledge.

## SECTION 4: TRUNK: RATIONAL ETHICS: "WHAT IS MORAL CONDUCT WITHIN ONESELF?"

**1. IRRATIONALITY:** Primacy of Consciousness Axioms are fundamental knowledge errors. Simple ignorance, not inherently irrational, can enable irrationality. Sacrifice, the willful trade of greater-value for lesser-value, is a BIG moral error. (In conflicts, evil enemies enact the sacrifices.) Altruism = willful self-sacrifice. Ignorance of professed influential knowledge is also a BIG moral error. Willful evasion, the refusal to observe and reason, is the root of evil. From irrationality, tragedies ensue.

**2. ETHICS HIERARCHY:** By incisive rational work, individual human life emerges as our root standard of moral value. Virtues are primary moral principles that identify important, life-supporting, and integrated aspects of that root. Virtues constitute the trunks of our individual value hierarchies. As we conceptualize them, subsequent moral values, laws, rules, and options constitute our progressively numerous and conditional branches and leaves. Then, within our present contexts, we chew our hierarchies, in well-judged degrees from-root-to-leaf, for judgment and action guidance: What is the value of this or that? What shall I think about or do? Whom shall I associate with, befriend, or love? What, why, and how shall I communicate? Why am I doing this now? *Shall I persuade, or just bury my head?* Etc.

**3. VIRTUES:** By incisive rational work, our valid virtues emerge as: rationality (our fundamental talent), honesty, independence, integrity, justice, pride, productivity, purpose, and self-esteem—a non-exhaustive, alphabetical list. If directly integrated or honestly back-traced, additional virtues can become conceptualized.

**4. RIGHTS:** Rights constitute the bridge between ethics and actions within social contexts. A valid right is a non-contradictory individual human right that identifies an integrated aspect of each individual's right to live. By incisive rational work, our valid rights emerge as evil-force-free rights to act or not to act: to think, communicate, move-about, and associate; to produce, possess, trade, and dispose. Group rights are derived exclusively from individual rights that have been voluntarily delegated, always with restrictions, by individuals who must possess them. In just proportions, one self-abrogates one's own rights by abrogating others' rights.

## SECTION 5: BRANCH: RATIONAL POLITICS: "WHAT IS MORAL CONDUCT WITHIN SOCIAL CONTEXTS?"

**1. EVIL-FORCE:** Evil-force-actions are identifiable, direct or indirect, force initiations, perpetrations, and/or abetments that abrogate any individual right of any other: common crimes against persons and their property rights; significant conspiracy, incitement, sedition, or threat. Evil-force-actions are strictly prohibited. Ultimately, only individual humans can enact evil-force—often enacting via agency: other individuals, organizations, governments, etc. Furthermore, whereas only evil-force is capable of abrogating rights, force is unable! to ever abrogate reality (1+0=1). In just proportions, each evil-force-actor becomes subject to just retaliation(s).

**2. GOVERNMENT:** A government presides over a specific territory. It must be established upon an openly published, rational philosophy, but is restricted from engaging in intellectual discourse—and from engaging in evil-force-actions. Its exclusive purpose is to enforce individual rights through justice enforcement institutions: types for retaliations against emerging and concluded evil-force-actions, and types for *final* civil adjudications. Each able individual constitutes their own first line of just defense against evil-force-actions. Those not encumbered by enforcement restrictions are free to voluntarily depart; otherwise, all present are subject to the government's judgments. In just proportions, each evil-force-actor is responsible for collateral enforcement damages, including inconveniences to others' rights. A government is constituted from voluntary delegations of individual rights, and it is restricted in both purpose and methods. It is also a necessary tool for our survival.

## SECTION 6: BRANCH: RATIONAL ESTHETICS: "WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL, WORTHY OF ADMIRATION, WORTHY OF EMULATION?"

**ARTISTIC PURPOSE:** A fine artist selects, emphasizes, elaborates, and weaves artistic insights, with optional contrasts, into perceptible and understandable objects of beauty. The sublime purpose of a rational fine artist is to objectify heroic values that affirm, inspire, and/or motivate individuals within their own boundless, evil-force-free pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness. The individual human mind is the fundamental artistic canvas of human life.

## SECTION 7: A RATIONAL PHILOSOPHY TWO: THE PRECISE DELIVERY: ONE SOVEREIGN HIERARCHICAL CONCEPT: OBJECTIVISM

- **REALITY INTEGRATED INCISIVE REASON** is the only possible razor for validly cultivating knowledge, values, judgments, and actions. Lazy reason razors almost nothing.
- **REALITY INTEGRATED OBJECTIVIST PRINCIPLES** identify the valid conceptual roots of reality, knowledge, ethics, politics, and esthetics. Their purpose is human life: boundless, evil-force-free pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness. They are beautiful, incisive, integrated, noble, stable, valid, and can be easily understood by any able individual. Within all of human knowledge, no other such rational philosophy exists. For these reasons, Objectivism is both necessary and sublime.
- **OBJECTIVISM** identifies, defines, and explains the only known indestructible map to rational human life.

# THE PAGE OF REASON

The BIG word epistemology names The Science of Knowledge: "What can we know, and how can we know it?" Objectivist Epistemology wields an obsidian-sharp razor to excise, from-root-to-leaf, irrationally rotten, despicably destructive, intellectual weeds. *Bring along your hae!* All quotes are from Parts 4 and 5.

## SECTION 1: OBJECTIVISM IN CONCEPTUAL CONTEXT: THE WORD OBJECTIVISM NAMES A VALID HIERARCHICAL CONCEPT

**5, 3, 3:** Concepts must integrate, within degrees of certainty, all presently known facts, and remain open to new discoveries.

If the known fact natural forces were willfully disintegrated from the hierarchical concept physics, or if the known fact wheel were willfully disintegrated from the hierarchical concept automobile, or if the known fact flour were willfully disintegrated from the hierarchical concept bread, then the disintegrated valid concept would become corrupted, destroyed, invalidated. It would become a hodgepodge (a heterogeneous mixture, a jumble, of unrelated ideas or parts).

Objectivism is most certainly a valid hierarchical concept. If any known fact that is subsumed under Objectivism is willfully disintegrated, is willfully evaded, then this valid concept likewise becomes corrupted, destroyed, invalidated. It becomes a hodgepodge (a heterogeneous mixture, a jumble, of unrelated ideas or parts).

**5, 3, 2:** Concepts are stable and intermingle. Definitions evolve. Words morph. (Word morphing is a key aspect of linguistics: follow the reference in P7, S8.)

A valid definition of a valid concept can be acquired at almost any time, and then its definition can evolve. Example: Whereas one's first definition of "Objectivism" might be: "What somebody named Rand wrote in a book named *Atlas Shrugged*," their progressively informed definition might be: "The Philosophy of Reality Integrated Reason, from which to embark upon *The Greatest Ever Possible Adventure*, and that is well-elucidated within a grand-essay named *The Page of Reason*."

- However, to the degree that a concept is invalid, attempts to rationally define it become characterized by ever-contradictory, ever-evasive, *smoke and fog*.
- Moreover, to be employable, concept definitions must first reside within one's own mind. And then, by one's definitions, one will live or die: *bit by tiny bit*.

**5, 3, 8:** A concept will be certainly valid within a well-defined context (~rare), provisionally valid within degrees of certainty (common), or invalid (often).

One cannot incisively grasp a complexly abstract, valid hierarchical concept in just one, or two, or three cognitions, etc. Substantial grasps of such concepts require punctuated, step-by-step processes of rational concept-formation. This ever has required and ever will require explicit expenditures of rational work.

Witness the many years' worth of explicit rational work that is necessary to acquire valuable expertise within any sub-specialty of science. And the rational process of intermingled concept-formation, when properly employed within those subjects, sanctions no form of thoroughly invalid certainty. However, numerous able individuals have most certainly acquired huge quantities of variously valid certainties within those intermingled sub-specialties.

If that rational concept-formation process becomes integrated into epistemology, then epistemology absolutely becomes a sharply delimited subject, with an easily identifiable fundamental root. Thereby, acquiring the fundamental conceptual root of Objectivist Epistemology is a simple, easy process. Let's go there now ...

## SECTION 2: OBJECTIVISM IN HISTORIC CONTEXT: OUR GREAT AND EVER-EVOLVING RACE OF FUNDAMENTAL AXIOMATIC CONCEPTS

**5, 2, 5:** These rationally irrefutable facts validate Objectivism's Primacy of Existence Corollary. (Primacy of Existence Axioms exist in one mutually integrated form.)

**5, 4, 1:** Primacy of Consciousness Axioms are fundamental knowledge errors. (Primacy of Consciousness Axioms exist in multitudes of ever-contradictory forms.)

An axiom is a premise, a foundation, a root upon which knowledge becomes formulated. Objectivism's Primacy of Existence Axioms declare that the exclusive root of valid knowledge is: non-contradictory integrations of observations and concepts. Primacy of Consciousness Axioms declare that: there exist one to multitudes of ineffable "knowledge sources" that, in various manners, are free to willfully evade just any aspect of that valid knowledge definition: **Anything-Goes!** These two axiomatic forms are mutually exclusive, non-reconcilable, fundamental roots of knowledge-formation. Choose Existence Axioms. Why? Answers, more cometh ...

**5, 3, 10:** Emotions are not tools of cognition. Reason is the essential tool of knowledge. (Anything-goes ideas inevitably become hodgepoded with emotions.)

Since the advent of primeval languages, and directly into our present times, anything-goes ideas, in multitudes of forms, have dominated our human minds. Those ideas often promise! forms of effort-less, "knowledge" reception. Such "knowledge" is "acquired" by various, ineffable methods that, traced to their roots, always do reduce to emotions as follows. Directly: "I know!" How? "I just feel! that it is true!" Or as a second hander: "Someone said it, so I just feel! that it must be true!"

It is knowledge deficits, willful evasions, and/or evil-force-actions that *set-up* a mind to *willfully* choose anything-goes ideas. And on countless occasions throughout the ages, in regards to issues from small to great, willfully chosen anything-goes emotionalist ideas have caused vast destitution, destruction, and death.

It is an incisively demonstrated fact that rational work is our only valid method of knowledge-formation. Racing forward in *A Steady Vibrant Sprint!* rational philosophy has already trounced many cadres of *Wobbling Primeval Anything-Goes Misfits!* But why do misfit cadres endeavor to persevere? For two primary reasons:

- Whereas our emotions occur implicitly (rapidly automatic and essentially effortless), rational skills are voluntary skills that require our explicit rational work.
- Whereas primeval humans emerged circa 2.6 million years ago, historic rational work emerged circa 2600 years ago: evolving for only the most recent 0.1%.
  - o Well-chewed science informs us of the 2.6 million. And Thales of Miletus (624–546 BCE) is broadly regarded as the historic initiator of Western Philosophy.

Very briefly: within Historic Western Philosophy: Plato of Athens (d. 347 BCE), Augustine of Hippo and The Early Roman Church (d. 430 CE), and Immanuel Kant of Konigsberg (d. 1804 CE) are the primary perpetrators of death-seeking, anything-goes ideas; (long lost) Aristotle of Athens (d. 322 BCE), (revived by) Thomas Aquinas of The Late Mediaeval Roman Church (d. 1274 CE), and Ayn Rand of The United States (d. 1982 CE) are the primary producers of life-seeking, rational philosophy. Carefully notice the chronological effects of anything-goes' primeval head-start. Choose Rational Philosophy. Why? Again, answers, more cometh ...

It is prodigiously rare for any individual to originate a durable, widely held, fundamental idea. With precious little knowledge of the fact, we have inherited such ideas from influential philosophers, and, through them, from both their literate and preliterate precursors. Those ideas have become elucidated/obfuscated, elaborated/attenuated, glorified/scorned, etc. by subsequent philosophers, and by copious cadres of variously influential cultural, intellectual, and political leaders.

- From their turbulent clouds of *smoke and fog*, various ideas have trickled down to the rest of us in numerous, variously mixed: *Hodgepodge Collections*.

And, for better or for worse, those philosophers who have advocated the most fundamental, most broadly abstract, and most widely published ideas have always been the long-term pacers in Our Fundamental Life or Death Race. As regards the principal root causes of human-generated tragedies, are you acquiring knowledge?

Non-western philosophers have produced no significant historic philosophy that supports fundamental rational knowledge-formation. Therefore, individuals of their cultures have inherited from western philosophers virtually all rational philosophy that they presently employ. *Go! Go! Go! Come!! Come!! Welcome!!! Here.*

Today, most individuals, on Earth, in variously mixed, explicit and implicit forms, harbor and employ an inconsistent, contradictory mixture of these two axiomatic concept forms: with anything-goes ideas often possessing an anything-goes, childish edge. However, all over the Earth, in ever-increasing numbers, individuals are vibrantly maturing into rational adults: witness their glorious rearrangements, within modern history, of rational, life-supporting ideas and technologies.

*The Declaration of Independence* and *The US Constitution* represent the first, explicit, historic effort to establish a government based upon rational philosophy. The direct consequence has been: the greatest government, prosperity, and happiness that any human society has ever experienced! *Thank The Founding Fathers!*

However, that extraordinarily successful effort was not assiduously, comprehensively rooted in rational philosophy. Concurrently and subsequently, copious cadres of anything-goes misfits have extensively exploited pre-existing fissures from which to perpetrate their anything-goes emotionalist ideas. That! they! most certainly! have! done! And now, as a direct consequence, and observable by each able individual: We the People's government, prosperity, and happiness are in intermittent, progressively eroding, states-of-decay. Without a worthy clarification of fundamental philosophical principles, these decay processes will continue: unabated!

Objectivism, The Incisively Clarified Rational Philosophy, presently embodies the only known worthy clarification of We the People's fundamental philosophical principles. Furthermore, each able individual, on Earth, would most certainly benefit from an incisive understanding of Objectivism. Alternatively, ...

Of presently ubiquitous but very stealthy influence, Kant of Konigsberg tells us that valid knowledge of reality is impossible. He says: "Because you are not omniscient: *Give up! Be a zombie!! Obey!!!*" Karl Marx of Konigsberg Hell (d. 1883 CE) is Kant's evil spawn (intellectual descendent). Reviling reason, he foments evil-force. His evil spawns, Communism, by direct evil-force, and Socialism, by indirect evil-force, in ubiquitous, mixtures and spawns, seek destitution, destruction, and death.

- With our zombie blinders on, within our global age, our minds are being assaulted ever-more, ever-various, ever-contradictory, death-seeking, misfit ideas.

## SECTION 3: OBJECTIVISM IN LEARNING CONTEXT: RATIONALLY COGNIZING THE VALID CONCEPT OBJECTIVISM

**4, 3, 4:** Objectivism is The Philosophy of Reality Integrated Reason. (Today, by any rationally comprehensive definition, it is the only one.)

Objectivism does not advocate dogmas, catechisms, creeds, etc. that are to become emotionally adopted, lazily borrowed from others, and that become entangled with emotionally hodgepoded destructions of rational knowledge. Objectivism advocates the radical principle that valid knowledge can only become acquired by one's own incisively honest rational work: *bit by tiny bit*.

Within rational work, it is necessary that one incisively argue with acquired ideas within a careful effort to extract value from them. And throughout this entire, progressive, knowledge-formation process, one can only reason within one's own mind: *no two minds ever reason within one mind*. Furthermore, it is also a fact that a valid concept is a whole thing that cannot be willfully sundered: *without consequences*.

One might naturally harbor doubts concerning this knowledge, but desire to acquire a more thorough understanding of it. Useful in any case, there exists a well-known and crucially effective rational technique that has proven itself *over, and over, and over again*, within the conceptualizations of valid knowledge.

That rational technique is to approach objectivist explorations as reason experiments. Within reason experiments, *what if?* questions are asked, and final judgments are reserved until well-reasoned, incisive judgments can become observationally validated.

# THE PAGE OF REASON

## SECTION 1: TIME AND CHOICE

We each do possess an integrated-body-and-consciousness. Thus, we have each become endowed with an irrevocable nature that exists as a precondition to our knowledge, our values, our judgments, and our actions. And thus, it is also an irrevocable precondition to each of our pursuits of happiness. Therefore, for incisive pursuits of happiness, we must strive to acquire and to fruitfully employ knowledge of our distinctive human nature.

It is a broadly agreed upon observation that during any given moment our human minds can only process about four to seven distinct units of information within their working memory factories while simultaneously working towards two purposes and performing two physical actions. Thus, time is a fundamental key resource for our rational work. Within precious time, only voluntary choices, for rational integrations of observations and concepts, can engender valid knowledge.

From earliest childhood, many such choices, and various other guidance, are provided to unable dependents by various others. Then, as their minds mature, unable dependents become progressively able to choose for themselves. At about the age of 25, our human nervous systems become fully mature. Therefore, mature adults possess the greatest ability to make rational choices. You and I have become considerably able! Prodigiously few adults are ever thoroughly unable.

## SECTION 2: OBJECTIVISM: KEY OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE FROM PART 4

All literature tabled in Part 4 can be purchased through the website's [Bookstore](#) page. Should you choose to engage in your own objectivist explorations, you will then most certainly encounter many other able objectivist educators. Nevertheless, I emphatically recommend that each able individual first acquire a substantial grounding in the literature of Ayn Rand and Leonard Peikoff. For initial, immediate reads, I recommend, in both published and reading order: *We the Living*, *Anthem*, *The Fountainhead*, *Atlas Shrugged*, *Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology*, *The Ominous Parallels*, *Understanding Objectivism*, and *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand*. If you follow this [optional](#) sequence, then, along with its principal philosophers, you can usefully reason through the evolution of Objectivism's definition.

## SECTION 3: OBJECTIVISM: AYN RAND, OBJECTIVISM'S FOUNDING PHILOSOPHER, AND THE AYN RAND INSTITUTE

ARI is the official Ayn Rand Organization. At the ARI websites, you can discover authoritative information about Ayn Rand: her life, her work, and her philosophy.

- Links to the Ayn Rand Institute's websites reside on the website's [Links](#) page.

## SECTION 4: OBJECTIVISM: DR. LEONARD PEIKOFF: AYN RAND'S CHOSEN HEIR

Dr. Leonard Peikoff is today's foremost authority on Objectivism. His book, *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand (OPAR)*, "is the definitive statement of Ayn Rand's philosophy—as interpreted by her best student and chosen heir." (Peikoff, *OPAR*, p. xv). Dr. Peikoff has engaged in a vibrant career as a professor, an independent lecturer, and an author. You can discover Dr. Peikoff's numerous rational works at the ARI e-Store and/or at his own website.

- Links to Dr. Leonard Peikoff's website reside on the website's [Links](#) page.
- In regards to both Ayn Rand and Dr. Peikoff, further notes reside in The Afterword.

## SECTION 5: OBJECTIVISM: CRAIG BIDDLE AND THE OBJECTIVE STANDARD: REASON, EGOISM, AND CAPITALISM

Vibrantly nurturing rational knowledge into the irrationally anchored BIG issues of today is tough work: complexity explodes; difficulties abound; dangers lurk; opinions multiply. Nevertheless, Editor Craig Biddle and his Superb TOS Contributor Team perform diligent, intelligent work to vibrantly integrate rational principles and opinions within various aspects of our current cultural debates. Example: Sarah and Craig Biddle have co-authored a set of excellent essays on rational parenting. *The Objective Standard: Reason, Egoism, and Capitalism* is a quarterly journal and an online blog. You can explore some of TOS's rational products at TOS's website.

- Links to *The Objective Standard's* website reside on the website's [Bookstore](#) and [Links](#) pages.

## SECTION 6: OBJECTIVISM: THE PAGE OF REASON

This text was produced for our mutually beneficial pursuits of happiness. It is the product of three years' worth of enrichments and refinements—progressive trades of lesser-value for greater-value: *bit by tiny bit*. I recommend re-reads of *The Page of Reason*. I most especially recommend vibrantly reasoned re-reads of Part 5.

- If, by choice or necessity, you must settle for dribs and drabs of knowledge, then I offer *The Page of Reason* as one of your dribs or drabs. Either will do.

## SECTION 7: THE GREAT COURSES: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DEEP WELL-CHEWED NEWS

Each Great Professor owns many years' worth of vibrant learning and teaching experience. And *The Great Courses* encompass a nearly all-inclusive range of important knowledge. Objectivism excepted, these courses offer the deepest well-chewed news of Our Big Cosmos Reality that is conveniently available, to us, today.

Though these university level courses could enrich any specialist's knowledge, they were not produced for specialist training. They were produced for adult self-education. And virtually all of them are readily understandable by anyone who possesses a moderate education and a basic understanding of English.

I do think that many high school level individuals could enormously benefit from these courses. They could certainly supplement anyone's higher education. And for many able individuals who do not require a degree, they could entirely supplant such an education. So, whether you long ago acquired, have never acquired, never intend to acquire, or even just recently acquired, a formal, higher education, and regardless of your age, The Great Professors can greatly inform your mind.

- Cultural, intellectual, and political leaders of any age, type, or experience level, could also derive great value from The Great Professors.

**5, 2, 2:** Reality is all-inclusive, fully integrated, persistent, and progressively knowable. (This statement accords with all presently known rational knowledge.)

In a subordinate and partial manner, so is human knowledge. And exactly like each other human, each Great Professor does possess a unique conceptual context. Consequently, regardless of stated subject, important knowledge is often re-presented and re-evaluated, in diverse contexts, in diverse styles, by diverse professors who possess diverse knowledge and diverse opinions. Such quality diversity can be highly conducive to rational exercise *and pleasurable learning*.

And it is neither necessary for us to entirely understand, nor to always agree with, each idea as we acquire it. We only need to focus our observations, engage our rational skills, and keep on progressing: *at a pleasurable pace*. Pause, rewind, and repeat are highly useful tools. And whole course repetitions can sometimes be valuable. These are the methods that I have employed, and by these methods your knowledge and understandings can easily multiply and mature. Knowing is good.

A study approach that incorporates original source readings can also be a choice. I do occasionally read from original sources, and I do find that reading activity to be very informative and very enjoyable. However, I also find that such reading activity seriously slows my total learning progress. And the "live" professors do employ that generously engaging "live" method. Moreover, they also provide substantial context and commentary that would otherwise, for most of us, be virtually impossible to acquire. Therefore, by careful selection, I limit such associated readings, and rely upon The Great Professors to generously inform my mind.

- Links to *The Great Courses'* websites reside on the website's [GCourses](#) and [Links](#) pages.
- In order to vibrantly exercise one's voluntary rational skills, a variety of valuable knowledge content is necessary.
- In regards to this necessary variety, sections 8–10 express concurrent values. Proceed at-will. Choose your own steps: *bit by tiny bit*.

## SECTION 8: THE GREAT COURSES: A VIBRANT FOUNDATIONAL ENRICHMENT

In an honest best-effort, I have constructed a non-exhaustive list of 50 courses that directly pertain to *The Page of Reason's* core subject. A reasonable sampling of these courses can engender substantial rational knowledge, can serve to vibrantly enrich your objectivist foundations.

- 19 courses pertaining to [Consciousness](#): How our nervous systems and our minds function, from the latest knowledge of modern sciences.
- 18 courses pertaining to [Reason](#): Explanations and examples of rational work, from our exceedingly brief history of historic knowledge-formation.
- 13 courses pertaining to [Words](#), [Language](#), and [Linguistics](#): Words name concepts, language is primarily a tool of reason, and linguistics studies their essentials.
- The Page's [Short Course List](#) is linked to the website's [GCourses](#) sub-menu. (*Go to the [GCourses](#) page to discover a most excellent learning opportunity.*)

## SECTION 9: THE GREAT COURSES: A BROAD KNOWLEDGE CONTEXT

Should you desire to acquire a broad knowledge context, then I recommend that you direct your attention towards the broadest survey courses, *across all subjects*. Such courses can be identified by their titles, lecture counts, content time ranges, and/or by examinations of their website summaries. And amongst courses, in contexts that are meaningful, chronological approaches to knowledge can be useful.

However, it doesn't absolutely matter how you proceed. If any course particularly strikes your interest, then enjoy it, in any order: a change of subject and/or intensity can be pleasurable refreshing. The following list is well-organized and provides some useful aids for making intelligent course selections.

- The Page's [Long Course List](#) is linked to the website's [GCourses](#) sub-menu. (*Go to the [GCourses](#) page to discover a most excellent learning opportunity.*)

## SECTION 10: THE GREAT COURSES: A VAST CONCEPTUAL HIERARCHY OF HISTORY IN JUST 48 LECTURES

*Big History: The Big Bang, Life on Earth, and the Rise of Humanity*  
by Professor David Christian, D.Phil.

- *Big History* provides an excellent example of how well-conceived conceptual hierarchies can provide substantial understandings of vast, complex subjects.
- *Big History's* time coverage ranges from 13.7 billion years in the past to a briefly addressed trillions of years into the future. And it employs up to date knowledge from a wide range of modern subject areas. Thus, presently, *Big History* incorporates a broader time and knowledge expanse than any other *Great Course*.
- *Big History* is an amazing accomplishment, a favorite of many, and can provide an excellent first course for one's acquisition of a broad knowledge context.
- *Big History's* companion book, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*, can be purchased through the website's [Bookstore](#) page.

## SECTION 11: A BRIEF NOMINATION OF ADDITIONAL VIRTUES

**5, 4, 3:** If directly integrated or honestly back-traced, additional virtues can become conceptualized.

- For your rational evaluations, I nominate: enduring-persistence, punctuated-work, careful-selectivity, experimental-reason, and strategic-reason.

If the cultural contexts that we were born into, and that have come to dominate our lives, had been imbued with a sufficient degree of rationality, then we might have little present need for substantial self-re-education. However, rationality has never dominated any human cultural context to that sufficient degree.

SECTION 1: THE IRRATIONAL NIGHTMARE: GHOSTS AND ZOMBIES GALORE!

**4, 2, 3:** Our integrated-body-and-consciousness.

They have cut man in two, setting one half against the other. They have taught him that his body and his consciousness are two enemies engaged in deadly conflict, two antagonists of opposite natures, contradictory claims, incompatible needs, that to benefit one is to injure the other, that his soul belongs to a supernatural realm, but his body is an evil prison holding it in bondage to this earth—and that the good is to defeat his body, to undermine it by years of patient struggle, digging his way to that glorious jail break which leads into the freedom of the grave.

They have taught man that he is a hopeless misfit made of two elements, both symbols of death. A body without a soul is a corpse, a soul without a body is a ghost—yet such is their image of man’s nature: the battleground of a struggle between a corpse and a ghost, a corpse endowed with some evil volition of its own and a ghost endowed with the knowledge that everything known to man is non-existent, that only the unknowable exists.

Rand, Ayn. Part 3, Chapter 7, “This is John Galt Speaking.” *Atlas Shrugged*, 50th Anniversary Edition. New York: Signet, 1996. Page 939. Print.

It is worse than an utterly abysmal, crying shame that any human should ever employ emotionalism to dupe another into concluding that their life, on Earth, is utterly worthless; that their life is an evil that must become defeated; that their mind has no ability, no right, whatsoever, to engage reason with reality, knowledge, and values within any pursuit of happiness. And utterly, abjectly worse than even that is that any human should ever consciously employ their “superior intellect” to voraciously inscribe “tomes of knowledge” with the explicit purpose of endowing the whole subsequent human race with such manners of thought.

Waving *Smoke and Mirrors* to build *Castles in the Air*, such anything-goes philosophers have subtly portrayed themselves as “Omniscient Mystical Ghosts”. To those “Mystical Ghosts”, and willfully parroting their evasions, copious cadres of subsequent High-Brow Intellectual and Low-Brow Authoritarian and Totalitarian Servile Minions have *Bent the Knee*, and in countless conscious collusions have conspired to subdue all “foolish, little, hobgoblin minds” as their very own zombie slaves.

*But, but, but:* Because their minds were never well-rooted within fundamental rational principles, the purposes of those anything-goes misfits could never become finally concluded by rational persuasions. Thus, evil-force-actions became the only means by which they could finally conclude their ghoulish goals. And, by their willful employments of such evil-force-actions, they have willfully herded multitudes of humans into stinking swamps of destitution, destruction, and death.

Furthermore, all of the elaborate edifices they have erected, the fables they have favored, the feasts they have feted, the firearms they have forged, the florins they have figured, the foods they have farmed, the forts they have flagged, the frippery they have flaunted, the woeful weapons they have wielded, and all other such that the dirty dastards have so devilishly devoured, were factually fruits of individual reason: forcibly filched, as slavish tributes, from the common work of others.

*What an utterly grotesque nightmare!* Should any knee ever bend to those self-styled “Omniscient Mystical Ghosts”? For an incisively lucid and logical, cause-and-effect, principled understanding of how their anything-goes ideas have wreaked havoc in historic reality, I refer you to Dr. Leonard Peikoff’s *The Ominous Parallels*.

- But *who? who?* are today becoming the dirty dastards’, zealous zombie, recalcitrant recruits? *Not us! Not us!*

Not us? Are we incisively certain? We might first carefully consider this well-kept smoke and fog secret: Without radical rearrangements within mega-legions of “foolish, little, hobgoblin minds”, further multitudes will certainly wallow, slowly rot, and then die within those same old stinking ghost and zombie swamps.

SECTION 2: INTERREGNUM: BETWIXT THE NIGHTMARE AND THE DREAM

**INCISIVE COMMON SENSE:** Regardless of the fear, uncertainty, and doubt (FUD) cemented into their minds from an early age, and then from continuing lives within Primacy of Consciousness cultures: from the very acts of rising in the morning, dressing, eating, and engaging in the common work necessary for survival, each able individual, of the past, has known, from their very own direct experiences, in conclusions either explicit or (mostly) implicit, that reason was their essential tool.

- Likewise, today, for each and every able individual, on Earth.

**INCISIVE COMMON SENSE:** From an early human oral tradition, this rational wisdom statement has been bequeathed to us:

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.  
“God”. Genesis 3:19. *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. Page 4. Print.

- 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*.

**INCISIVE COMMON SENSE:** From a later human oral tradition, this rational wisdom statement has likewise been bequeathed to us:

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.  
“Jesus”. 1 Corinthians 13:11. *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. Page 1114. Print.

- My childish ways are now behind me. *But why? oh why? so very, very late?* Early on, I imbibed from copious cadres of *Wobbling Primeval Anything-Goes Misfits!*

**INCISIVE COMMON SENSE:** Evil-force-actions are *never, never* a chosen method of rational adults. Rational persuasion is *always* our freely chosen method of human interactions. However, just retaliations against evil-force-actions are an absolute requirement of reason. Just retaliations finally become the only methods of justly securing the valid, evil-force-free, living rights of individual rational humans who become forcibly engaged with death-worshiping, death-dealing, anything-goes misfits. Nevertheless, whenever threats to our survival are not immediately present or threatening to soon arrive:

- *Rational Persuasion is always Weapon One! Weapon One!*

**INCISIVE COMMON SENSE:** Sadly, present populations, to the degrees crippled by knowledge deficits, willful evasions, and/or evil-force-actions, demand from and grant sanctions to their governments’ ever-various, ever-contradictory, force-backed, rights-abrogating, judgments, laws, and edicts. Consequently, material values, ethical values, and lives become sadly sacrificed. Our earthly conceptual garden has been well-seeded with rationality:

- “but we must cultivate our garden.” (Voltaire. *Candide*. Final phrase.)

**INCISIVE COMMON SENSE:** No form or manner of *Smoke and Mirrors* thought, discussion, or argument will *ever, ever* incisively define the vital solutions that are necessary for the *vibrant* survival, prosperity, and happiness of the human race.

- It is only by our punctuated rational work that we will ever become able to consistently accelerate our incisive pursuits of happiness.

**INCISIVE COMMON SENSE:** Philosophies do constitute the frameworks for all concepts. To think conceptually is the mental act that undergirds all physical acts. And one’s philosophy does exist, and it is not an intellectual bauble. If that philosophy is not incisively rooted in rationally observable, non-contradictory reality, then its subsequent physical acts can never be so rooted. Conceptual contradictions do skew pursuits of happiness.

- *Hark! Hark! Hark! Your Greatest Ever Possible Adventure beckons!*

SECTION 3: THE RATIONAL DREAM: YOUR VERY OWN NOBLE PRIZE—IF YOU SHOULD CHOOSE TO EARN IT

In his parting shot, Huckleberry Finn vibrantly elocuted: “But I reckon I got to light out for the territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she’s going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can’t stand it. I been there before.” (Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Final sentences.)

Huckleberry Smith, also reared up yonder in Northeast Missouri, vibrantly concurs: “Yep and Yahoo! Jackrabbit as fer, fer beyont sivilization as yoo kin passable git!”

**5, 6, 1:** The individual human mind is the fundamental artistic canvas of human life.

From that, the rational question simply reduces to this: “Who? should be the artist?” ... *Who? ... Who? ...* The rational answer is: “You! should be the artist!”

Nothing can be rationally known to exist that is more magnificent, more important, or more glorious than one’s own conceptual mind. And we now know that it is only by reason, not emotions, that we can *vibrantly live!* its magnificence, its importance, and its glory. We also now know that a progressive mastery of reason does require punctuated rational work: to honestly validate, and subconsciously automate, for pursuits of happiness, its essential facts and principles.

**MOST MAGNIFICENTLY:** We can each choose to turbo-charge our own conceptual minds: *To Thereby Accelerate Our Own Pursuits of Happiness*.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY:** We are able to do what we can with what we have. We can each begin with our own simple, easy, ongoing attentions to observations, reason, and knowledge. Then, within extraordinarily enormous, spherical, natural limits, our conceptual minds allow us to easily rearrange them in any fashion that we might choose. However, if we do not choose for ourselves, then it is a foregone conclusion that others, by direct education and/or indirect influence, will choose or have already chosen for us. And whatever this case may be, by the necessary and inevitable consequences of these choices, we will live or die: *bit by tiny bit*.

**MOST GLORIOUSLY:** We are each, always, every day, able to make this one most simple, most fundamental choice: to willfully evade reason or to willfully embrace reason. To embrace reason is *The American Dream*. And it is *The Proper Dream* for each able individual, on Earth. Together, we can work to enrich rationality, within all cultures and civilizations, all around the Earth. Thereby, together, we will become Able Leaders of The Great Persuasion. Details follow in Supplement 1.

- Whereas primeval humans emerged circa 2.6 million years ago, historic rational work emerged circa 2600 years ago: evolving for only the most recent 0.1%.
- Whereas *Primeval Anything-Goes Emotionalist Children* Decrepitly Wobble, *Modern Rational Adults* Vibrantly Sprint!
- Whereas the past consequences of conclusions cannot be revised, conclusions can be.

• • • SECTION 4: AND THANK YOU FOR REASONING • • •

I trust that your conceptual mind has hereby been well-vibrated in a rational manner. Thank you for reasoning, along with me, through these eight-parts.

Finite mind, is where brow did chew.  
Finite pages, thousands brow did hew.  
True ‘cepts, brow honed for me and you.  
True sweats, our brows have yet to do.

**A Brain is Free. A Mind is Earned.  
Neither Ghost nor Zombie Be!**

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The Great Persuasion is a participatory project to enrich rationality, within all cultures and civilizations, all around the Earth.

I have come to the absolute conclusion that it is in my rational self-interest to live, upon the Earth, within and amongst cultures and civilizations that are becoming gloriously enriched by other rational individuals. Therefore, I have composed *The Page of Reason* and have initiated The Great Persuasion.

If, within any degree, you do share my rational self-interest conclusion, then know that I have arranged resource-light, incisive methods by which you can participate as an Able Leader of The Great Persuasion. By exploring the website's pages, you can discover various Able Leadership opportunities:

- From the [Reprint](#) page: Discover how *The Page of Reason* can be immediately and economically reprinted and distributed, by any Able Leader, at any time.
- From the [Reports](#) sub-menu, [Core Activities](#) page, discover:
  - The [Direct Propagations](#) tables: Examples of how The Great Persuasion Core Team distributes reprints and invites individuals to the website.
  - The [Zips Serviced](#) and [Partners](#) tables: How, together, Able Leaders introduce Objectivist Principles to many homes within the United States of America.
- From the [Contribute](#) page: Discover several methods by which Able Leaders can make small to large financial contributions for The Great Persuasion Project.
- Furthermore, from the [Reports](#) sub-menu, [Effects](#) pages: Discover substantial evidence that The Great Persuasion is effectively propagating Objectivist Principles.

By whatever methods that you may choose, I urge you to participate in The Great Persuasion Project. You can thereby be justifiably proud to self-identify yourself as an Able Leader of The Great Persuasion. This Able Leadership status is defined as a personal, self-identified status: no such official status exists. It is only by our own independent, voluntary and honest, *bit by tiny bit*, rational work, that we can earn, live, and enjoy this glorious status: as independent, trading individuals.

• • • Together: We be takin' it to the street! • • •

## SECTION 2: THE OUTLINE OVERVIEW

- SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION
- SECTION 3: APOCALYPTIC CONCLUSIONS
- SECTION 4: CONTEXT KEEPING, CAPITALISM, AND RATIONAL PRINCIPLES
- SECTION 5: SQUAWKING WITH PARROTS 1: A JEREMIAH FOR JUSTICE
- SECTION 6: SQUAWKING WITH PARROTS 2: THE GREAT PARROT HIGH-BROW CREED
- SECTION 7: SQUAWKING WITH PARROTS 3: OUR INDIVIDUALIST MIDDLE-BROW RESPONSE
- SECTION 8: SATURDAY NIGHT KNOCKDOWN! ABLE REASON VS. KILLER CAIN! — ROUND XXX<sup>999</sup>
- SECTION 9: FURTHER CONTEXT: OUR BIG COSMOS CAUSE-AND-EFFECT REALITY
- SECTION 10: THE POTENTIAL MEGA-LEGIONS OF MIDDLE-BROW GOLDSMITHS
- SECTION 11: PROPAGATION: OUR ZIP CODE MASTER PROJECT
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## SECTION 3: APOCALYPTIC CONCLUSIONS

Some individuals who are substantially wise to the full context of our present conceptual reality have concluded that it is already too late to defy a coming cultural apocalypse. Unfortunately, they do have substantial reasons for their conclusions. And sadly, their conclusions just might soon become our reality.

We do not embrace those apocalyptic conclusions. And further along, we will define just how such an apocalypse can most probably become prevented from soon becoming our reality. However, let's first engage in some further causal explanations concerning our present, sordid, state-of-affairs.

It is extraordinary just how many of our influential cultural, intellectual, and political leaders are unwilling or unable to defend us against such an oncoming apocalypse. It is their willfully chosen obligation to do just this. Unfortunately, it is a fact that many of those "leaders" are just fiddling away: *while Our Rome burns!*

## SECTION 4: CONTEXT KEEPING, CAPITALISM, AND RATIONAL PRINCIPLES

**CONTEXT KEEPING:** Never, never drop context! This is a fundamentally important, reality integrated, rational principle that deserves careful consideration.

Context dropping is probably the most common conceptual error, examples of which can be frequently observed. When context is dropped, most often it is due to a memory lapse or to simple carelessness. However, when it is dropped in support of strongly advocated irrationalism, then it can always be back-traced to primeval emotionalism. Once primeval emotionalism slithers its way into thought, then the conceptual context of rational definitions becomes dropped, and thereby rational virtues become corrupted. A brief discussion of our present political context can easily clarify the nature of this subject.

It is an irrefutable fact that our present international political context is deeply imbued with multitudes of evil-force-actions of multifarious kinds. Consequently, amongst nations within this context, incisively honest, end-to-end, evil-force-free trades and relationships become virtually impossible to achieve.

Therefore, within this context, for a nation that values rational, non-contradictory, individual rights amongst its first principles: the rational work of its government to control inbound migrations, external trade, relationships with foreign nations, entities, individuals, etc. becomes rationally correct, morally justified, and absolutely necessary. Fundamentally, this is about the survival of that nation's legitimate inhabitants—and for the flourishing of their lives and cultures. And as a further consequence in such a case: ballyhoos in favor of wide-open borders become entirely devoid of rational virtue.

This discussion incisively identifies why it is of crucial importance that we work to enrich rationality, within all cultures and civilizations, all around the Earth. Until such time that we have made sufficient progress towards this goal, then, unfortunately, many doors must be locked.

**CAPITALISM:** The fundamental, essential nature of Capitalism is: rational, non-contradictory, individual rights. It is nothing more, and it is nothing less.

Capitalism is most definitely a root integrated aspect of fundamental rational principles. However, along with those principles, Capitalism has never been practiced in a pure, broad-scale form. By dropping rational definitions, virtually all presently existing definitions of Capitalism have become entangled with variously correlated facts—which bear no cause-and-effect relationship to it. Thereby, all ballyhoos that denigrate Capitalism have become entirely devoid of rational virtue.

**5.4.2:** Then, within our present contexts, we chew our hierarchies, in well-judged degrees from-root-to-leaf, for judgment and action guidance.

To the degree that a political context is irrational, context keeping within it might require that practical implementations of reality integrated, rational principles become carefully enacted: *bit by tiny bit*. However, this is *never, never* an excuse for compromising one's own individual, reality integrated, rational principles.

**5.3.4:** A mind, all-inclusive, exists in isolation. (This statement is an excellent example of carving nature at its conceptual joints.)

Therefore, it is important to remember that: within an individual conceptual context, only prodigiously weaker barriers to rationality exist. To the degrees that we are able to acquire and harbor reality integrated, rational principles, we will be able to effectively project our principles into political contexts.

## SECTION 5: SQUAWKING WITH PARROTS 1: A JEREMIAH FOR JUSTICE

It is virtually impossible to prejudge just which individuals might become receptive to volitional rationality. Nevertheless, one might reasonably presume that the influential cultural, intellectual, and political leaders of our present cultures and civilizations should become receptive. However, it is an unfortunate fact that for 170 years, copious cadres of Marxists and others, by countless, conscious collusions, have conspired to systematically corrupt this class of leaders—earthwide.

*Marxism (Communism, Socialism, and their various evil spawns) is a very dangerous, hateful, hodgepodge collection of misfit ideas that ultimately seek destitution, destruction, and death. And it is exceedingly unfortunate that many individuals have become inadvertently duped by Marxist ideas, without ever acquiring any knowledge of their actual sources, factual meanings, or ultimate consequences. Likewise, for Altruism, and for a veritable parade of other hodgepodge collections.*

**"Inadvertently Duped?"**

*"Weuns Great Parrots jus luvit! luvit! luvit! Jus caint git nuf a dem inadvertently duped liddle parrots! Scrupulus! Squawk!"*

*Marxism, Altruism, and other such hodgepodge collections of misfit ideas form the wobbly foundations of what today is commonly referred to as "politically correct". In fact, these sorts of "politically correct", unkind condemnations are seldom philosophically correct. In actual effect, by dropping rational definitions, they become character assassinations by murders of parrots. Most correctly understood, they are emotionally stupid! Altogether, most often, these sorts of condemnations comprise just one example of childish emotionalists seeking to stomp down honest efforts at adult reason.*

**"Adult Reason?"**

*"We aint got none so you caint have none neither! Squawk! Squawk!"*

# THE PAGE OF REASON

SUPPLEMENT 1

THE GREAT PERSUASION

PAGE 11 OF 15

*It is a fact that: without rational principles, without their life-supporting fruits, no individual can survive for much more than a few days, as a human. But the dirty dastards think that they can just willy-nilly pick and choose just any-old-ideas, and then just willy-nilly corrupt them according to just any-old-whims. Most stupidly, most emotionally, they pick and choose rational principles, and then work arduously to corrupt them. Concurrently, in ubiquitous, stark contradictions, they work very, very hard to live by reason's commonplace rational principles (everyday common sense).*

## "Rational Principles?"

*"We aint got none so you caint have none neither! Squawk! Squaawk!"*

*These last efforts, their self-contradicting attempts to apply everyday common sense to their very own daily lives, they cannot avoid. Otherwise, they would soon die! However, at the very same time, by attacking rational principles, they are absolutely attacking their very own essentially distinctive human attribute, their very own principal moral virtue, and their very own fundamental talent. This is the contradiction that cripples their own rational pursuits of happiness. But for them, crippling their own rational pursuits of happiness is just not sufficient. They "feel" the need to give us each a "loving", "helpful" hand.*

## "Rational Pursuits of Happiness?"

*"We aint got none so you caint have none neither! Squawk! Squaawk!"*

*They tell us that government is: "Our Father who art on Earth". They then seek to subjugate this necessary tool for our survival. And then further, by rights abrogating judgments, laws, and edicts; by over the top, legally obligatory, socialist, communist, collectivist pogroms; by lies, deceits, and frauds; by threats, mob incitements, assaults, assassinations, and genocides: they seek to collectivize us, to subject us each to the will of their group, to just any little tyrant's whimsical, arbitrary decision, to anything, just anything, just so long as it is not to our own individuality, to our own rational self-interest.*

## "Rational Self-Interest?"

*"We aint got none so you caint have none neither! Squawk! Squaawk!"*

*They seek to deep freeze our hearts into dead lumps of solid blue ice, starved of life-sustaining oxygen. They seek to drag us into heretofore seldom ever known, disintegrated, tiny, heartless cultures of all against all, wherein each individual seeks unremitting, cold-hearted advantages over each other one. They seek to drag, drag, drag us into becoming their fellow travelers, to slump right along with their very own little, sad, lonely, contradicted selves.*

*But by what means, and to where, do they seek to finally drag us? By evil-force-actions, whether government sanctioned or otherwise, they seek, seek, seek to finally drag, drag, drag us into perdition, into hell, into stinking swamps of destitution, destruction, and death!*

## "Destitution, Destruction, and Death?"

*"Hay! Weuns Great Parrots gots grate gobs a dem dere drecks! We gonna hang em round yer nekes! Squawk! Squaawk! Squaaawk!"*

Such are their willful corruptions of ideas, their inglorious means of confusing the confused, and thereby inciting destructive mobs of zombie slaves.

It has been said: "They know not what they do." But we say to them all: "You do know now!" Therefore, no longer do any of their lazy, time worn, moldy excuses, for their anything-goes, misfit ideas heft any weight, whatsoever: not even the weight of one tiny "angel" standing on the point of an itsy-bitsy needle.

Rationality is our one fundamental talent! It is! It is! But with it, what shall we do? Shall we persuade? Or shall we just bury our heads?

But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Matthew 25:14. *The Holy Bible, New International Version.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. Page 961. Print.

Not everything that humans have written is wise. However, by rational work, much wisdom can become detected.

**6.3.3:** Within rational work, it is necessary that one incisively argue with acquired ideas within a careful effort to extract value from them.

## SECTION 6: SQUAWKING WITH PARROTS 2: THE GREAT PARROT HIGH-BROW CREED

- Knowledge of reality, of truth, is utterly beyond the ability of any human to ever know, to ever understand.
- We are Omniscient Mystical Ghosts, and we are the duly appointed representatives of reality, of knowledge, of truth, on Earth.
- That which we do not explicitly allow, is forbidden:
  - Not explicitly allowed; therefore, *forbidden, forbidden, forbidden*: individual rationality!
    - It is obligatory that all individuals parrot all others in thoughts, words, and deeds.
    - Thereby, a buzzing confusion of ignorance is perpetrated upon which we Great Parrots dearly love to engorge. *Squawk! Squaawk!*
  - Not explicitly allowed; therefore, *forbidden, forbidden, forbidden*: the fruits of one's own work!
    - The hard-earned fruits of anyone's work, by mystical right, are ours, just for the taking.
    - And your hard-earned fruits are graciously filched for us by our Low-Brow, Servile Minions.
- By the very fact of your birth, by the very fact of your existence, you have an unchosen obligation, an irrevocable duty, to OBEY US!! *Squawk! Squaawk!*

## SECTION 7: SQUAWKING WITH PARROTS 3: OUR INDIVIDUALIST MIDDLE-BROW RESPONSE

- Those Great Parrot High-Brows do! sorely beg a BIG, BIG question: OBEY US??
  - **Says who? Says what?**
    - Upside Down, Low-Brow, Servile Minions?
    - *Wobbling, Low-Bow, Several Minimums?*
    - Turbulent clouds of *smoke and fog?*
  - **Who? What?**
- There exist no such things as "Omniscient Mystical Ghosts".
- There exist no duly appointed representatives, *anywhere*, of reality, of knowledge, of truth, on Earth:
  - Knowledge of reality and truth can become progressively acquired, by any able individual, by their own rational work.
- There exist no such things as unchosen obligations, irrevocable duties:
  - Only chosen obligations exist.
  - If evil-force-actions become chosen, then their just cause-and-effect consequences (just force retaliations) also become chosen.
- That which is not explicitly forbidden, is allowed:
  - Not forbidden; therefore, allowed: individual rationality:
    - In fact, rationality is our essentially distinctive human attribute, our principal moral virtue, and our fundamental talent.
    - Forbid reality? Not possible!
  - Not forbidden; therefore, allowed: the fruits of one's own evil-force-free trades:
    - Each able individual possesses an absolute sovereign right to the fruits of their own evil-force-free trades, and to all evil-force-free gifts received.
    - Each one also possesses an absolute sovereign right to dispose of their rightful possessions, in any evil-force-free manner that they might choose.
- **Great Parrots?**
  - It is known that Great Parrots array themselves in magnificent garments of glorious colors. *It is known! It is known!*
  - However, beneath it all, a Great Parrot is just another parrot. *Another parrot! Parrot! Parrot! Parrot! Squawk! Squaawk! Squaaawk!*

## SECTION 8: SATURDAY NIGHT KNOCKDOWN!

### ABLE REASON VS. KILLER CAIN! — ROUND XXX<sup>999</sup>

- Throughout the ages, Killer Cain has most certainly been launching assault, after assault, after assault against Able Reason!
- It is now *high time, high time* for Able Reason to launch a major, decisive, counter-assault against Killer Cain! *High time! High time!*

• • • **Go Able! Go Able! Go! Go! Go!** • • •

## SECTION 9: FURTHER CONTEXT: OUR BIG COSMOS CAUSE-AND-EFFECT REALITY

Time, after time, after time, rational investigations have discovered that reality is, in fact, cause-and-effect integrated. Therefore, by experience and logic, it follows that human free-will (choice), our uniquely human method of cause-and-effect, is an integrated fact of our reality. Therefore, all forms of our valid concepts, invalid concepts, human-generated tragedies, etc. are also integrated facts of the Big Cosmos Cause-and-Effect Reality that we inhabit. Absolutely.

Nevertheless, any possible assertion notwithstanding, it is absolutely not possible for any entity to exist outside of existence in order to cause existence. An incisive explication of this "Existence Exists" corollary resides within Dr. Leonard Peikoff's *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand*, Chapter 1: Reality.

- We are what we are, and that's all that we can be. Most importantly, we are minds. We are minds that possess turbulent clouds of *smoke and fog*—turbulent clouds that profess knowledge of many possible and many impossible things.

# THE PAGE OF REASON

## Big Cosmos

Big Cosmos is fat, round, wide, and tall.  
Space, time, and orbs be its major all.  
Some think us folks be so very small.  
Yet, when peer within, we venture all,  
Big Cosmos, to us, seems tiny small.  
And Big Cosmos sees us, not at all.

Humanly understandable reality and knowledge do constitute an inextricably intertwined pair. Consequently, the production of our present valid knowledge of reality has been a “bootstrap” operation. And it has been a “bootstrap” operation that has been “engineered” over a very long period of time—for at least 2600 years. Prior to that, its antecedents evolved over an extraordinarily long period of time and at an excruciatingly slow pace.

Thus, each of us have come into possession our own unique, conceptual context. Within our ever-evolving conceptual contexts, our views of reality, knowledge, and values have become infused with various shades of conceptual gray. Nevertheless, just as reason is employed to extract pure gold from its antecedent, variously mixed, gray, earthly ores, we can each employ reason to extract pure gold from our antecedent, variously mixed, gray, conceptual ores.

## Middle-Brow Goldsmiths

As miners, we dig.  
As goldsmiths, we smelt.  
That reason may jig.  
That hearts may soon melt.

Individuals make choices. And each one of our cultural ideas, social institutions, material products, etc. are direct consequences of individual choices. In fact, each of our own conceptual contexts do! derive from an utterly unfathomable, barely imaginable, precisely detailed web that has been composed from myriad choices that have been made, by others, within our prodigiously long human history—and *by ourselves, from all of our yesterdays, right through to this very moment.*

Nevertheless, though this precisely detailed, conceptual web is utterly unfathomable in detail, it can most certainly become profitably fathomed by principles. And without principles that embody at least some minimum modicum of rational virtue, a human cannot survive: *for long.*

Principles are a special class of conceptual ideas. Principles are derived from incisive integrations of the widest possible range of presently available facts within any given subject of inquiry. Thereby, principles seek to define “universal” truths. However, as new facts become progressively discovered, it then becomes progressively necessary for these “universal” truths to become progressively redefined. Definitions evolve.

Within our own times, we are prodigiously fortunate that, so far, Objectivism has fathomed and defined the most incisive fundamental rational principles of our human conceptual reality. Most importantly, Objectivism does not advocate “ineffable mystical truths” that are to become emotionally adopted, lazily borrowed from others, and that become entangled with emotionally hodgepoded destructions of rational knowledge. To the contrary, Objectivism advocates rational principles that can be easily validated, by any able individual, by their own personal observations—but *only if one chooses to observe.*

These principles are not proven; they are validated. Proof requires evidence that must first be validated by direct, or by rationally trusted indirect, non-contradictory observations. Thus, validation is the precursor of proof. And then, by rational work, valid conceptual knowledge can become formulated and communicated.

And as any able individual can easily discern, Objectivist Principles provide us with the most incisive principles, to date, for the *vibrant* survival, prosperity, and happiness of the entire human race.

The only durable manner by which to nourish changes within human institutions is to nourish changes within individual minds. Enduring changes cannot be enacted by nourishing branches and leaves. Such changes can only be enacted by nourishing roots. Individual minds constitute the roots of our institutions: from private to public, from families to governments, etc. Human institutions are defined, and their definitions can evolve. And for better or for worse, the gray conceptual mixtures of rational and irrational ideas that dominate within a population do! ultimately define that population’s institutions.

And whenever threats to our survival are not immediately present or threatening to soon arrive: *Rational Persuasion is always Weapon One! Weapon One! Our conceptual contexts allow each of us an enormous range of possibilities for rational persuasion work, but such possibilities can engender value—only if we choose to engage in such work.* The utter sadness of all presently known alternatives has already been very well-demonstrated and very well-documented.

It will most certainly not be possible to entirely eliminate all future human-generated tragedies. However, by rational persuasion work, it will most certainly be possible to cause, cause, cause human-generated tragedies to become the nearly inconsequential occurrences that they most certainly should become.

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### SECTION 10: THE POTENTIAL MEGA-LEGIONS OF MIDDLE-BROW GOLDSMITHS

Regardless of the many unrelenting, hateful attempts to undermine rationality, there most certainly do exist many able individuals who have succeeded in substantially acquiring and maintaining their own intellectual and moral integrity. To tweeze out substantial understanding, from within the irrational dreck that has been so widely perpetrated, is a heroic feat. And it is a heroic feat that, ultimately, can only become accomplished, for one, by one’s own self: *bit by tiny bit.*

Most unfortunately, the irrational attacks against rationality have most certainly been very, very substantial, and far, far too damaging. Therefore, much rational persuasion work remains to become accomplished.

Presently, the great race for fundamental rationality is being vibrantly sprinted by the able individuals of The Ayn Rand Institute, and by many other able objectivist educators. Nevertheless, the work to communicate with the mega-legions of middle-brow minds has been a long, arduous, and resource intensive task.

Many middle-brow individuals do exist, who do greatly value life, on Earth, but who have not yet acquired their own personal opportunity to evaluate and judge fundamental rational knowledge. If we could discover and implement a method, by which substantially greater numbers of such individuals could acquire such an important opportunity, then work of great importance would be accomplished. And it just may be that these so far uninformed, middle-brow individuals do, in fact, constitute the potential mega-legions of middle-brow goldsmiths.

I do think that it is most probable that these so far uninformed, middle-brow individuals do constitute those potential mega-legions. In support of my conclusion, directly from my own personal experience, I will just make mention of three simple facts:

- Subsequent to numerous, *bit by tiny bit* struggles with anything-goes, misfit ideas, it was only in my 59th year that I finally encountered Ayn Rand’s Objectivism.
- Then, my “foolish, little, hobgoblin, mind” chose to give the faint glow of reason an incisively honest investigation.
- And then further, I composed this text to precisely communicate fundamental rational knowledge to each able individual, on Earth.

And though it will be impossible to directly communicate with each potential middle-brow goldsmith, on Earth, there does exist a cost-effective method by which we can come much, much closer to achieving that communication goal than has ever been previously achieved.

Because the USA has always been my home, and because I am most familiar with its opportunities, the new, cost-effective method that I have defined is directed towards Great Persuasion work within the United States of America. Similar, highly effective, non-US methods may become discovered. Meanwhile, let’s not neglect any reasonable opportunity to communicate this rational knowledge to each able individual, on Earth.

We will now define Our Zip Code Project: how a cultural apocalypse can most probably become prevented from soon becoming our reality.

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### SECTION 11: PROPAGATION: OUR ZIP CODE MASTER PROJECT

Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) of the United States Postal Service (USPS) offers economical bulk mailing services to all residential addresses within US Zip Codes. Presently, EDDM provisions the most cost-effective method to directly deliver physical, printed messages to US homes. According to the US Census Bureau, about 118 million US households (2.64 persons) presently exist. And according to the USPS, over 42,000 Zip Codes presently exist. (Reference the website’s Links page.)

Our heroic plan is to mail specially produced *Page of Reason* sub-essay reprints to each residential address within The United States of America. The sub-essay reprints have been attractively produced, and they embody valuable content. Therefore, we expect that many of these reprints will not become immediately discarded. And we further expect that some of them should become potent introductions to fundamental rational knowledge.

*By the end of my long writing project, the sub-essay reprints had finally become produced for just this sort of work.*

*And do understand that this is a long-tail endeavor of strategic-reason. Substantial, broadly observable outcomes will take time to develop.*

*We each begin our own conscious life within a mind that is entirely devoid of both rational skills and conceptual knowledge. We then proceed by plucking and chewing the low hanging fruit while employing various guidance: various time worn, often raggedy, somewhat rational, somewhat irrational maps. By these methods, we work to climb the gigantic mountain of knowledge for the purpose of rationally enriching our own pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness.*

*But what if we possessed an incisively rational map? What outcomes might arise from that?*

# THE PAGE OF REASON

SUPPLEMENT 1

## THE GREAT PERSUASION

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*Just as they have done, so very frequently, throughout the ages, anything-goes, misfit ideas would naturally fade away into fable, fantasy, legend, and myth. However, this time, instead of becoming supplanted by more of the same, it is possible that rationality could come to dominate.*

*We are gardeners planting seeds that will take time to germinate, to mature, to flourish.*

*And I am absolutely certain that mega-legions of middle-brow minds are utterly starving for fundamental rational knowledge.*

• • • Welcome to Our Heroic Zip Code Project! • • •

### SECTION 12: PROPAGATION: OUR ZIP CODE SUB-PROJECTS

In partnerships, Able Leaders of The Great Persuasion implement Zip Code Sub-Projects. For further specifics about our sub-projects:

- Go to the website:
  - From the [Reports](#) sub-menu, read the [Mailer](#) pages.
  - From the [Reports](#) sub-menu, read the [Core Activities](#) page:
    - The [Zips Serviced](#) table displays completed sub-project information: actual home counts, per-home costs, and total sub-project costs.
  - Read the [Contribute](#) page, [Partners](#) sections.

On the website's [Reprint](#) page, *The Page of Reason's* definitive reproduction authorization statements explicitly disallow: (1) any reprint modifications, whatsoever, and (2) employments of these reprints within any other EDDM project. For its most cost-effective implementation and for valuable cause-and-effect reporting, it is necessary that Our Zip Code Project becomes carefully coordinated and efficiently executed.

We contract with specialist organizations (agents) to implement Our Zip Code Sub-Projects. And when handled by our agents, inclusive of all printing, postage, and mailing services, the costs of these sub-project mailings can be stated in cost-per-residential-address.

According to my preliminary investigations, I estimate that our cost-per-residential-address will be substantially less than the present \$0.50 cost of a content-free, US first class postage stamp. For this project to become completed, possibly \$100 million will eventually become required. Nevertheless, each and every Alexander Hamilton (\$10.00) contribution will become important and valuable.

• • • We will enact Our Heroic Zip Code Project: *bit by tiny bit.* • • •

### SECTION 13: PROPAGATION: THE USPS EVERY DOOR DIRECT MAIL PAGE

Should you care to independently acquire current Zip Code residential address counts, then:

- Go to the website's [Links](#) page:
  - Follow the USPS [Look Up a Zip Code](#) link to acquire a Zip Code.
  - Then, follow the USPS [Every Door Direct Mail](#) link:
    - Perform a Zip Code search. Switch to [Show Table](#) and [Select all](#) (routes).
  - Make these drop-down menu selections:
    - [Route](#): Select City and/or Rural/HWY. Do not select PO Box.
    - [Residential](#): Select Residential Only. Do not select Business & Residential.
    - I judge these selection choices to be in best keeping with our communications objective.
  - The EDDM order summary:
    - Will show the total address count, which is the point of this exercise.
    - Will show only the retail postage cost, not the total sub-project cost.
    - Will most usually indicate, in red color, that the selections have exceeded 5000 addresses.
      - (a) That 5000 address, per Zip Code, per day, limit only applies to retail account mailings.
      - (b) We will be mailing through our agents' business accounts, so that limit does not apply to our work.

• • • Great Able Leaders can choose to sponsor a Zip Code Sub-Project. • • •

### SECTION 14: OUR PROGRESSIVE CONQUESTS OF EVIL

In practice, fundamental irrational ideas have often promised some form of perfection, some form of utopia: here, there, *or somewhere else*. However, in the human reality that we can know, no such things exist.

In the human reality that we can know, rationality is our essentially distinctive human attribute, our principal moral virtue, and our fundamental talent. And for each individual human, the most fundamental choice is to willfully evade reason or to willfully embrace reason. To embrace reason is work. It is work for survival, prosperity, and happiness. It is the only kind of work by which human goals can become humanly achieved. In practice, it is work that does! work!

- As rationality becomes progressively dominant, many human-generated evils will become progressively diminished:
  - Human-generated simple ignorance, abject poverty, substance dependencies, mental instabilities, domestic violence;
  - Human-generated childhood tragedies, juvenile delinquencies, rampant criminality, mass assaults, evil terrorisms;
  - Human-generated primeval tribalisms, primitive racisms, ethnic conflicts, religious wars, ideological wars;
  - Human-generated destitution, destruction, and death!

**8, 1:** Without radical rearrangements within mega-legions of "foolish, little, hobgoblin minds", further multitudes will certainly wallow, slowly rot, and then die within those same old stinking ghost and zombie swamps.

• • • This is Our Fundamental Life or Death Race! • • •

### SECTION 15: THE SEASONS THAT DO! WAX AND WANE

Throughout the ages, in various times and places, cultures and civilizations have gone into demise, and valuable knowledge has thereby been lost. And then later, only sometimes and only in parts, some of that earlier, valuable knowledge has been rediscovered and revived.

I absolutely intend that it does not become necessary for *The Page of Reason* to become dredged up, out of some future, ancient ruin, to become freshly rediscovered and revived by future humans. We humans who presently exist should be able to evolve and apply our own fundamental rational knowledge, and to bequeath this essential, life-enriching knowledge to our descendants—for it to become further bequeathed, for many ages to come.

Furthermore, it is an irrefutable fact that just as the seasons cycle through springs, summers, autumns, and winters, cultures and civilizations emerge and merge, wax and wane, rise and fall. It is also a fact that we have no ability to know in which seasons our cultures and civilizations are presently living.

Nevertheless, together, today, we choose to work for springs, to work for rationality, to work for:

**An Earthwide Golden Tiara Becoming Gloriously Encrusted with Glimmering Pearls and Gems.**

To accomplish such work will require much work, much work by many, much work by a great many Able Leaders: *bit by tiny bit.*

**The Age of Persuasion Is Upon Us.  
Our Talent Resides Within Us.**

• • • Shall We Persuade? Or Shall We Just Bury Our Heads? • • •

### SECTION 16: I REST MY CASE

**THE DECLARATION OF INTENT:** From all of my experience, from all knowledge that I have ever acquired from a magnificent array of knowledge predecessors, I assert that Objectivist Principles are the only possible principles, for incisive pursuits of happiness, for all humans, all around the Earth. Within *The Page of Reason*, I will make my case.

I now rest my case: *within your mind.* Thank you for reasoning along with me.

**Orrin Smith**  
Philosopher of Reason  
Ally of Objectivism  
Monday, November 19, 2018

• • • It has been my delightful pleasure to reason along with you! • • •

## RATIONAL SELF-INTEREST FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

I urge you to make rational self-interest financial contributions for The Great Persuasion Project.

- Go to the website's [Contribute](#) page:
  - The [Private Partners](#) section: The minimum contribution is one Alexander Hamilton (\$10.00).
  - The [Honored Partners](#) section: Modestly substantial contributions earn an option for honorable public recognition.
  - The [Zip Partners](#) section: A most honorable, most important option is available to sponsor an entire Zip Code Sub-Project.

Mega-legions of able individuals are depending upon your Able Leadership contribution—for our mutually beneficial pursuits of happiness.

Nevertheless, read on, but please [do!](#) contribute.

## AYN RAND: OBJECTIVISM'S FOUNDING PHILOSOPHER

In February of 1905, in St. Petersburg, Russia, during the waning decades of the increasingly decrepit Romanoff Dynasty, Alisa Zinovyevna Rosenbaum became a very small individual. In January of 1926, late in her 21st year, and during the first decade of the totalitarian dictatorship of Soviet Russia, Alisa wisely migrated to The United States of America. In America, Alisa changed her name to Ayn Rand. Then, in March of 1931, she became a naturalized Citizen of The United States.

In America, Ayn Rand began her novelistic writing career. That career culminated in 1957 with her spectacularly successful publication of *Atlas Shrugged*. It was within *Atlas Shrugged* that she firmly established her philosophy, to which she had given the name Objectivism. Subsequent to that publication, Ayn Rand became a prolific writer of non-fiction works, of various kinds, by which she further elucidated her philosophy.

In March of 1982, at her home in New York City, Ayn Rand died. It is a certainty that, for many ages to come, multitudes of able individuals will come to dearly treasure her work. Slowly but surely, by what she has so generously bequeathed to us, we are all becoming her intellectual descendants.

## DR. LEONARD PEIKOFF: AYN RAND'S CHOSEN HEIR

In late July of 2017, I paid a visit to Peikoff.com, and discovered that Dr. Leonard Peikoff had recently discontinued his weekly podcast participations. To the best of my knowledge, these weekly podcasts were Dr. Peikoff's last forums of live public engagement. By what he has also so generously bequeathed to us, for as long as ideas are reasoned, Dr. Peikoff's work will also become dearly treasured, by multitudes of able individuals, for many ages to come.

## THE PAGE OF REASON: THREE IMPORTANT SEEDS OF ITS INCEPTION

**ONE: THE 9/11 EXPERIENCE:** On Tuesday, September 11th of 2001, I departed from my home in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and headed towards my place of work at 215 Broadway in Manhattan. I drove east on I-35, towards Jersey City, where I would park, and then board the PATH subway. My eventual departure from the PATH would have been in the basement of the World Trade Center North Tower.

However, as I approached the turnpike toll booths, near the Newark International Airport, I witnessed a turbulent column of smoke emanating from that North Tower. *It was a terrifying, ominous vision that I beheld! There ... there ... therefore, I reasoned quickly, u-turned, and headed back to the safety of home!*

During those times, I was explicitly aware of reason's important role in my life accomplishments. And during the weeks and months subsequent to that 9/11 terrorist attack, I often thought that: "Maybe now, we will all begin to focus much more on the important role of reason within our work, within our lives."

**TWO: THE PROPAGATION IDEA:** Beginning in early 2012, I participated in 162 weekly meetings of The Austin Objectivism Meetup Group. During the course of that time, we engaged in many pleasant and productive conversations. I remember once saying something to this effect: "I am reasonably certain that I will never originate a fundamental idea. However, I do think that I could do something to propagate Objectivist Principles."

**THREE: THE REASON EXPERIMENT:** And within the periods of my intensive objectivist readings, I engaged in a brief reason experiment. I worked out a rough answer to the following question: "What would it take to place a copy of Dr. Peikoff's book, *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand*, into each of the 8-million households within my present home state of Texas?"

**THE INCEPTION:** That 9/11 experience, that propagation idea, and that reason experiment were three important seeds for my conception of *The Page of Reason*, and for my subsequent invention of The Great Persuasion.

## POSTSCRIPTS

**ABET:** *Webster's Third New International Dictionary (TNID)*, 1986. Page 3. To incite, instigate, encourage, or countenance. ... (Abetments: P5, S5, p1).

**ABROGATE:** *Webster's TNID*. Page 6. (2) To put an end to, do away with, set aside. NULLIFY.

**ACTION:** As it ever has been and ever will be, it is just not possible to consider all things. But often, after much consideration, times to act arrive. Reason without action razors almost nothing. And action without reason razors almost nothing. However, to grasp an important opportunity to act with reason is an important grasp of life. *Grasp life!* To the degrees that we develop our rational knowledge and skills, we will possess obsidian-sharp razors by which to cultivate our goals.

**AD HOMINEM:** *Webster's TNID*. Page 26. (1) Directed at or appealing to one's hearer's or reader's personal feelings or prejudices rather than his intellect and reason. (2) Marked by attack on an opponent's character rather than by answer to his contentions. ... Ad hominem arguments are dominated by either positive or negative emotions with little or no regard for rationality. They can indicate a corresponding ignorance within the mind of the individual who wields them.

**ANCHORS:** Anchors hold things in place. They establish stability. Without them, nothing can exist. Within our conceptual minds, conceptual anchors are necessary maintain mental stabilities. However, just as great ships must weigh anchors in order to adventure towards new destinations, so must our great conceptual minds. (*The Page of Reason* was produced by three years' worth of punctuated, *bit by tiny bit*, processes of weighing and setting, weighing and setting, conceptual anchors.)

**ARCHIMEDES:** "Give me a place to stand on, and I will move the Earth." If Archimedes, the Syracusan polymath (d. 212 BCE), had possessed a solid place upon which he could reliably stand, a long and strong lever, and a gigantic mountain to employ as his fulcrum, then he could have moved the Earth. Today, if we desire to move the Earth, then know that: non-contradictory reality is the solid place upon which we can reliably stand, reason is our long and strong lever, and Objectivist Principles constitute the gigantic mountain for us to employ as our fulcrum. *Let's venture forth and move the Earth!*

**AUTODIDACT:** The word "autodidact" refers to a substantially self-educated individual. It is a fact that the present "great" educational institutions of our times have become prodigious perpetrators of irrational ideas. Therefore, one's wise choice might be to become *substantially* self-educated, to become an autodidact.

**BONUS BENEFITS:** As we engage our minds with rational knowledge, to the degrees that our thoughts, memories, worries, etc. are unimportant, they naturally fade away into our minds' dusty attics, or they dissolve entirely. Otherwise, to the degrees that they are important, they venture forth to become honed and polished. Furthermore, our everyday language skills, mental acuties, visionary ranges, vocabularies, etc. all naturally acquire their very own Little Big Bangs!

**CANDIDES AND HUCKLEBERRYS:** Voltaire's *Candide* and Mark Twain's *Huckleberry* represent two aspects of our lives. Humanity, past and present, is replete with both *Candides* and *Huckleberrys*. In various manners, we each remain at home to cultivate our garden and/or light out for the territory ahead of the rest. In most cases, we engage in quests for life enrichments. Therefore, within various degrees, we are each both a *Candide* and a *Huckleberry*—says *Huckleberry Smith*.

**COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE:** The sum total of our conceptual knowledge that has been progressively defined within the prodigiously long duration of our human history.

**COLLECTIVISM:** The abrogation of individual rights in favor of falsely alleged group rights: a race towards the bottom, towards destitution, destruction, and death. If one believes that friends, neighbors, and strangers should be forced to fulfill their "wants", then one might choose any falsely alleged right; otherwise, not!

**CONCEPTS 1: EVOLUTION:** Percepts are the evolutionary precursors of concepts. Higher-animals acquire percepts, rearrange them, employ memory processes, experience emotions, etc. The evolutionary precursors of higher-animal faculties are the sensory-and-chemical faculties-and-processes of lower-animals, bacteria, etc. Our human integrated-body-and-consciousness systems have likewise evolved. Furthermore, just as each other life form must employ its own most powerful methods to survive and flourish, so must we humans. And we now most certainly know that our most powerful method is our rationality, our fundamental talent.

**CONCEPTS 2: WORDS: PICTURES:** Someone, who's mind did not much understand the nature and importance of concepts, said: "A picture paints a thousand words." Ayn Rand, who's mind well-understood the nature and importance of concepts, said: "A word paints a thousand pictures."

**CONCEPTS 3: WORDS: POWER:** It is the enormous unit reduction, acceleration power of words (concept names, knowledge symbols) that has enabled humans to become so dominant over all other higher-animals (and other living species). The essential difference between percept power and concept power can be usefully represented by an analogy based upon the processing and storage requirements of digital computers. In this analogy, whereas percepts are represented by the enormous requirements of images, audio, video, etc., concepts are represented by the extraordinarily simpler requirements of words: short byte strings.

**CORRUPTION:** The root cause of all voluntary human corruption is irrationality. Only by our rational persuasion work can corruption become substantially defeated.

# THE PAGE OF REASON

SUPPLEMENT 2

THE AFTERWORD AND POSTSCRIPTS

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**EGOTISM VS. EGOISM:** Egotism: irrational selfishness, hate, ill-will, etc.? Or egoism: rational self-interest, generosity, goodwill, etc.? There exists no greater generosity and goodwill than that which can result from the proper practice of egoism. Excellent examples of egoism include: *The Page of Reason* and *The Great Persuasion*.

**EQUALITY:** As it ever has been and ever will be: (1) The only fact of non-contradictory reality by which we humans are most nearly equal, is the fact that each individual possesses the fundamental talent of rationality. (2) Attempts to supersede this fact of non-contradictory reality by evil-force-actions are evil attempts to destroy human life. (3) Subject to self-abrogated rights, each individual possesses an absolutely sovereign, equal right to each and every aspect of their own physical body.

**FIRE-AND-FORGET:** I do not engage in conversational attempts to fully explain Objectivism. It is impossible to do so without dropping enormous amounts of important context. A few light remarks suffice to smooth conversations. If and when an opportunity arises, I recommend that others read *The Page of Reason*. Otherwise, I generously employ the fire-and-forget method of freely distributing reprints, without much, if any, conversational engagement.

**FRAUDS:** If individuals pay attention, become informed, and practice reason, then fraudulent offers of products, services, ideas, etc. will naturally fade. In all respects, able individuals are ultimately responsible for their own rationality. Those who neglect their own rationality, must learn: possibly the hard way.

**GRAY KNOWLEDGE:** Valid knowledge that has become polluted with anything-goes, misfit ideas is gray knowledge. To live vibrantly, it is necessary for us to extract the blacks and the whites from within the grays. And such extractions are amongst our most important and most difficult challenges. Moreover, to incisively extract the blacks and the whites from within the grays, it is necessary that we possess obsidian-sharp razors by which to extract them. The only possible such razor is incisive reason, combined with rational knowledge.

**HISTORIC:** *Webster's TNID*. Page 1073 (within historical). (1) Historical (a) Of, relating to, or having the character of history esp. as distinguished from myth or legend. (2) Historic (a) Important, famous, or decisive in history. (b) Having considerable importance, significance, or consequence.

**HUMANS VS. NATURE:** In commonplace terms, humans and nature are separate things. In philosophical terms, all aspects of humans are aspects of natural reality.

**INCISIVE:** *Webster's TNID*. Page 1142. (2) Marked by sharpness and penetration esp. in keen clear unmistakable resolution of matter at issue or in pointed decisive effectiveness of presentation. ... Stringent implies squeaking along. Incisive defines a sharp cut. One should incisively understand the incisive definition of incisive. One might also incisively judge Orrin's Big Razor—his incisive attempt to formulate an utterly essential, one-page definition of Objectivism.

**INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE:** Legitimate intellectual discourse is absolutely within the exclusive purview of individual rights. A government has no legitimate place in any such discourse. A government is absolutely restricted from retaliating against the likes of either a Galileo or a Kant—just so long as they do not wield a violent fist, or significantly incite others to do so. For a government to engage intellectual discourse is for it to abrogate individual rights.

**INVALID CONNOTATIONS:** Within *The Page of Reason*, there exist no invalid connotations of terms such as belief, fair, free, mercy, etc. As so often commonly employed, these sorts of terms become childish, emotionalist, parrot terms. What is mercy but, too often, the abrogation of justice? What is free if it consumes your time, attention, and work? What is fair towards those who choose to work hard for their own boundless, evil-force-free pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness—*within a world wherein many choose to mooch and loot*? And what, I ask you, is belief but *The Wobbling Primeval Ancestor of Knowledge*?

**OBJECTIVIST 1: PERSONAL:** Whereas the word "Objectivism" names a rationally integrated, stable philosophy, an individual human mind incorporates a uniquely complex, developing philosophy. Therefore, though a generally acceptable, commonplace practice, the identification of oneself as an "Objectivist" becomes replete with errors and omissions. Therefore, the identification of oneself as a Student of Objectivism, a Friend of Objectivism, an Ally of Objectivism, etc. are more philosophically correct practices. Otherwise, one can safely embrace, learn, love, practice, rationally borrow, rationally trust, etc. Objectivist Principles.

**OBJECTIVIST 2: POLITICAL:** Just as for #1, the words "Objectivism", "Objectivist", etc. should never be employed within the naming of politically oriented organizations.

**OBJECTS:** Well into my technology career, I finally came to explicitly understand that items of information (concepts, percepts, emotions, forces, ideas, numbers, etc.) can be approached as observable, rearrangeable objects. I acquired this understanding from Object-Orientation studies. Object-Orientation is an exquisite example of hierarchical concept-formation, and its practice resides at the very roots of our digital revolution. Thereby, OO provides eloquent evidence of reason's power.

**OBSESSION VS. PURPOSE:** Whereas obsession is dominated by emotion, purpose is dominated by reason. Thereby, a rational purpose can become a very beautiful virtue. And though an obsession might sometimes become a precursor to purpose, most often it remains bereft of beauty.

**PARROTS 1: DEFINITIONS:** A word names a concept, and a concept must be defined. If an individual employs a word to communicate an important concept, then that individual becomes responsible for that concept's definition—should one become necessary. If an individual insistently adventures far afield from rationality, then we might choose to ignore them, which is often our best method of conserving our time, our rational focus, etc. However, if we just want to enjoy some argumentative entertainment, then we might just counter-insist that the insistently adventuresome individual rationally define their concepts. Good luck with that!

**PARROTS 2: MASKS:** Sometimes, sometimes, but not always, individuals will mask their statements as questions: "Don't you think this or that? Don't you believe this or that?" Why do they do that? Often, this is a subtle, thoughtless manifestation of the Great Parrots' requirement that all individuals parrot all others in thoughts, words, and deeds. In such cases, the individual may be seeking vague confirmations of their own vague ideas: "We are little parrot buddies, aren't we?" Or: "You possess a very beautiful, well-tuned, squawking voice. Won't you squawk my song for me?" Or it could just be Great Parrots squawking their sacrificial trades.

**PERPETRATE:** *Webster's TNID*. Page 1684. (1a) To be guilty of (as a crime, an offense). (1b) To carry through (a deception). (2) To produce, perform, or execute badly or in a manner held to be execrable or shocking.

**POLITICS 1: HAPPINESS:** No human ever has been or ever will be omniscient or omnipotent. Therefore, no individual will ever be able to do all of the necessary work for human life, on Earth. This is especially true in that realm of politics known as Tragedies of the Commons. Furthermore, if mega-legions of "foolish, little, hobgoblin minds" do not willfully embrace reason, wherein mental stability resides, wherein conceptual leaves do not flutter in the wind, wherein "true magic" is known to be invalid, wherein reason dominates emotion, then incisive pursuits of happiness within earthwide politics will never become possible.

**POLITICS 2: IDEOLOGY:** Conservative? Well, that depends upon what is being conserved. Liberal? Well, that depends upon what is being liberalized. Etc.

**PRIMEVAL 1:** *Webster's TNID*. Page 1801. Of or relating to the earliest ages of the world or human history. ABORIGINAL, PRIMITIVE. ... Knowledgeable specialists vigorously debate their estimated times for the emergence of both primeval humans and primeval languages. And they will continue to do so.

**PRIMEVAL 2: HUMANS:** My usage of 2.6 million years for the emergence of primeval humans (*Australopithecines*, etc.) is well within the range of specialists' current estimates. And just as we commonly recognize in all higher-animals, we can be reasonably certain that all forms of primeval humans did experience emotions.

**PRIMEVAL 3: LANGUAGES:** Most estimates for the emergence of primeval "word" languages, fall within the range of 30 to 100 thousand years ago. And it is reasonable to infer that primeval "sign" languages (facial expressions, gestures, crude rituals, etc.) must have existed long before and concurrent with primeval "word" languages (and all still do). In this text, it is primeval "word" languages to which I primarily, but not exclusively, refer.

**RATIONAL YOUTH EDUCATION:** Our most magnificent social accomplishment would most probably be to provide youths with rational head-starts. Whereas Dr. Leonard Peikoff's *Teaching Johnny to Think* is not about teaching Johnny and Mary what to think, it is about teaching Johnny and Mary how! to think.

**TOOLS AND MACHINES:** Tools, machines, etc. are simply external manifestations of individual human rationality. They will never become able to supersede the intelligence of their creators, and in no respect will they ever become able to manifest their own independent rationality. Moreover, how they become employed will always remain a matter of individual human choices. And without a commonly held, diamond-hard foundation of values, such choices will continue to be erratic.

**VIBRANT:** *Webster's TNID*. Page 2548. 1a (2) Pulsating with life, vigor, or activity. ALIVE, VITAL.

**WEALTH 1: MATERIAL:** Marxist influence is clearly evidenced by our excessive use of material wealth as measurements of individual value (middle-class, equality, etc.). Material values are of great importance. But each individual's necessary quantity differs. And one's necessary quantity must become acquired by rational methods.

**WEALTH 2: RATIONAL:** Within variously mixed degrees, our minds are imbued with the following "brow" characteristics: (1) High-brow: *Castles in the Air* devoid of rational foundations; (2) Middle-brow: principles that possesses substantial rational foundations. (3) Low-brow: not much thought. ... Moreover, whereas these characteristics do not refer to one's quantity of knowledge, they do! refer to how one employs one's own mind. The individual human mind is the root of wealth.

**SMOKE AND FOG:** Very briefly: irrational philosophies are founded upon variously mixed, hodgepodge ideas: (1) that emotion dominates all; (2) that body dominates all; (3) that consciousness dominates all. In extreme cases, these veer towards: (4) proclaiming the invalidity of reason altogether (pure skepticism); (5) proclaiming the independent validity of the body alone (pure materialism); or (6) proclaiming the independent validity of consciousness alone (pure idealism). It is impossible for a human to entirely evade reason. Therefore, in such cases, reason becomes irrationally subjugated in support of ever-contradictory, ever-evasive, anything-goes *smoke and fog*. Throughout the ages, the philosopher's job has been: to clear away *the smoke and fog*. **THARS BEENA WHOLE LOTA WOBBLIN GOIN ON!**