

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.
Earn Your Very Own Noble Prize!**

Orrin Smith

The rational response to 9/11, and to all forms of irrationality.
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.*

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 judge that the Objectivist Principles that are embedded throughout *The Page of Reason* represent the only possible, valid principles, for *vibrant* human life, on Earth. Within *The Page of Reason*, I will make my case.

THE GREAT PERSUASION

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

PREFACE: THE FUNDAMENTALS

Since the advent of primeval languages, our human minds have been assaulted by ever more, ever various, ever conflicting, irrational ideas. And, throughout the ages, fundamental irrational ideas, employed to their final, social, conclusions, have necessarily caused vast destitution, destruction, and death ("vast" is contextual: from individual lives, to foraging band conflicts, to ethnic cleansings, to world wars, etc.).

Our primeval natures will always be with us. However, fundamental irrational ideas are conceptual errors that are based upon the falsely alleged principle that: Anything-Goes! We are able, with great effect, to counter-assault anything-goes ideas by carefully employing our reasoning skills. And, it is only by such rational counter-assaults that we will *ever* become able to consistently accelerate our incisive pursuits of happiness.

It is a fact that rationality is our essentially distinctive human attribute, our principal virtue, and our fundamental talent. Nevertheless, it has only been within the most recent 2600 years that we humans have 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 and polish our reasoning skills.

Why has this work only just recently begun, and so very slowly progressed? It is because: (1) Reason's importance must first be recognized, and then its work chosen. (2) Reason is a set of voluntary skills that can only become progressively mastered by punctuated, focused work. And, (3) Substantial knowledge transmittals have always depended upon progressive developments of literary and delivery technologies.

It is only within individual human minds that reasoning skills and conceptual knowledge can exist and develop. However, our minds were born entirely devoid of such content. Yet, since their 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, I engaged in 10 years of purposeful work. First: I worked hard to acquire and reasonably assimilate a very broad knowledge context. Second: Once I came to understand its utterly essential 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 progressively hone, polish, and apply those skills. Fourth: My final purpose, for producing *The Page of Reason*, 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, human life, on Earth, is our 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*.

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

THE PAGE OF REASON

Ten 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 under 2000 words (Part 5, *The Page*).

SECTION 2: REALITY INTEGRATED OBJECTIVIST PRINCIPLES: ...

The Absolutely Sublime, Rationally Observable, Conceptual Framework That Is 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

Reason is a set of 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. And, 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

Human conceptual contradictions are the only contradictions that are known to exist within reality. And, ideas, of any nature, do cause consequences. At minimum, they simply consume precious time. However, at worst, fundamental contradictions, employed to their final, social conclusions, have necessarily caused vast destitution, destruction, and death. It is the ever conflicting, ever evasive, anything-goes nature of irrational ideas 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 be 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, S5). Therefore, this is a composition of well-informed, prodigiously careful, incisive reason. However, I must here confess that my mind is a common, 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 need to tailor a BIG memory, full of BIG ideas, into a fashionable hat of a size and form that would fit my "foolish, little, hobgoblin" mind.

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—somewhere, 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 well-developed hodgepodge 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 thoroughly accurate and understandable. 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 & 5 with you, I then concurrently composed the additional parts and supplements.

Your first read should proceed in sequential order. Your subsequent reads can be either full or partial and proceed in any order. Once the proper context has been established, each part, and supplement, becomes substantially independent, most especially Part 5. The Website is also supplemental to this text.

THE EMOTIONS: Though I am most definitely not an emotionalist, I have seldom been able to read through this work without engaging in a few, emotional pauses. I can therefore honestly testify that one's consistent, rational engagement with reason, reality, and knowledge is not a cold, dry, remote process.

When well-integrated, knowledge consistently causes generous, stable, meaningful, well-nuanced, and well-judged emotions. Value judgments are a consequential sub-set of knowledge. It is value judgments, whether consistent or contradictory, that, for better or for worse, cause all emotions (P5, S3, p10).

Should you choose to read the entire text, then it will be the essential principles of non-contradictory rational knowledge that I will be working very hard to convey to you, directly to your individual mind, with all of the rational and emotional power that my common, hobgoblin, middle-brow mind can possibly muster.

THE CORE SUBJECT: Part 5 presents a stable definition of Objectivism that can evolve with subsequent discoveries of its progressively knowable facts (P6, S1, p5). Individuals who possess significant pre-knowledge of Objectivism should find Part 5 to be extraordinarily accurate. Within each reasoned read, each individual will progressively evolve their own stable hierarchical concept of Objectivism: its essential facts and principles. But, know 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 human lives become swamped by treacherous human acts, of multifarious kinds, and 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 reason's unrivaled importance, amongst all possible earthly endeavors, I 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

All rights are reserved. Neither this nor any other content on ThePageOfReason.com (The Website) may be reproduced or distributed, in whole or in part, in any form or manner, without prior written authorization from Orrin Smith. The definitive authorization statements reside on The Website's Reprint page. Briefly:

- **Free Website Reading:** Free reading for anyone from The Website: Original.pdf, LargeFont.pdf, or MobileFont.pdf (~~\$\$\$~~, Logins, Advertisements).
- **Paid Print Reproductions:** Reproduce this text only from The Website's Reprint page. A small royalty payment will be required.
 - o **Part 1 Flyer:** Unlimited, prepaid, reader published reprints. Gift these to present highly effective introductions to *The Page of Reason*: \$5.00 for 100.
 - o **The Entire Text:** Unlimited, prepaid, reader published reprints, for one's self, or as gifts: \$3.00 for one; \$1.00–\$0.25 each, for 10–500.
 - o At the Reprint page, you will discover the pdf files for printing on A4, legal, or letter size papers, in either small or large fonts.

Nothing can be Rationally Known to exist that is More Magnificent, More Important, or More Glorious than One's Own Conceptual Mind.

- **PART 1: THE PRELIMINARY INTRODUCTION**
 - SECTION 1: THE PRINCIPAL THEMES
 - SECTION 2: REALITY INTEGRATED OBJECTIVIST PRINCIPLES
 - SECTION 3: REASON, INTEGRATION, AND PURSUITS OF HAPPINESS
 - SECTION 4: CONTRADICTIONS, CONSEQUENCES, AND REMEDIATION
 - SECTION 5: UNDERSTANDING THE PAGE OF REASON
 - SECTION 6: INTERREGNUM: READING AND REPRODUCTION RIGHTS
- **PART 3: ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE PAGE OF REASON: NOT! APRIL FOOLS**
 - SECTION 1: EARLY PERSONAL HISTORY: SELF-RESPECT AND RESPECT FOR END-TO-END FORCE-FREE TRADE
 - SECTION 2: EARLY EDUCATION: VERY MODERATE ACHIEVEMENTS
 - SECTION 3: BROADLY STATED INTELLECTUAL STATUS: JUST ANOTHER GUY (WITH A LIGHT!)
 - SECTION 4: A BRIEF PROFESSIONAL HISTORY: ADEPT, PRODUCTIVE, AND RESPECTED: SHARPLY TERMINATED
 - SECTION 5: APRIL FOOLS' DAY OF 2008: THE SECRET PLAN: BREW TASTY LEMONADE!
 - SECTION 6: THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: YES! YES! AND A STEADY VIBRANT SPRINT!
 - SECTION 7: APRIL FOOLS' DAY OF 2018: SHOW TIME! SUPERBLY TASTY LEMONADE!
- **PART 4: THE CRITICAL INTRODUCTION: A DISCOVERY OF OBJECTIVISM**
 - SECTION 1: THE PARTS, SUPPLEMENTS, AND WEBSITE
 - SECTION 2: OBJECTIVISM AND THE PAGE OF REASON
 - SECTION 3: MASTERING ANY SUBJECT AND/OR SKILL
 - SECTION 4: MASTERING THE SUBJECT AND SKILLS OF RATIONAL PHILOSOPHY
 - SECTION 5: THE WORK OF MY MIND: THE BIG TEN-YEAR CHEW: 2008–2018
 - SECTION 6: TABLE OF OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE (with brief comments)
 - SECTION 7: FURTHER COMMENTS ON OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE
- **PART 5: ORRIN'S BIG RAZOR: HIS ONE PAGE DEFINITION OF OBJECTIVISM**
 - **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?" **Esthetics:** "What is beautiful, worthy of admiration, worthy of emulation?"
 - **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:** A certainly valid concept is also a fact.
 - **Objectivism's Three Axiomatic Concepts:** The humanly observable, mutually integrated, and rationally irrefutable, reality perspectives.
 - **Existence:** The human universal, spherical reality perspective.
 - **Identity 1:** The human differentiating reality perspective.
 - **Identity 2:** The human cause-and-effect reality perspective.
 - **Consciousness:** The human identification reality perspective. **Plus:** Objectivism's Primacy of Existence Corollary.
 - **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:** Reason is a prodigiously powerful tool 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. Memory:** Due to their quality and speed variations, memory processes subtly fuel alleged forms of "just knowing."
 - **6. Language:** Language is primarily a tool of reason, only secondarily of communication.
 - **7. Knowledge:** A brief integration of the preceding principles with important rational progressions.
 - **8. Validity:** The roots of valid concepts reside exclusively in non-contradictory, observable reality.
 - **9. Emotions 1:** Their three purposes: attachment, reporting, and motivation.
 - **10. Emotions 2:** Their one cause: observations matched with pre-formed value judgments.
 - **Section 4: (Trunk): Rational Ethics: "What is moral conduct within oneself?"**
 - **1. Irrationality:** Irrationality is the root cause of all human generated tragedies.
 - **2. Value Hierarchy:** An integrated structure: (root) individual human life; (trunk) virtues; (branches & leaves) morals, laws, rules, & 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 force-free, life-supporting actions. **Plus:** Delegated, restricted, group rights.
 - **Section 5: (Branch): Rational Politics: "What is moral conduct within social contexts?"**
 - **1. Force Initiation:** Force initiation, of any kind, by any means, by anyone, against any individual right, of any other, is strictly forbidden.
 - **2. Government:** Its exclusive source, purpose, and obligation: individual rights.
 - **Section 6: (Branch): Rational Esthetics: "What is beautiful, worthy of admiration, worthy of emulation?"**
 - **Artistic Purpose:** Weaving affirmation, inspiration, and/or motivation for boundless, force-free pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness.
 - **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, rationally observable, conceptual framework for survival, prosperity, and happiness.
 - **Objectivism:** The only known indestructible map to rational human life.
- **PART 6: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS: OBJECTIVISM IN CONTEXT**
 - SECTION 1: OBJECTIVISM IN CONCEPTUAL CONTEXT: THE WORD OBJECTIVISM NAMES A VALID HIERARCHICAL CONCEPT
 - SECTION 2: OBJECTIVISM IN HISTORIC CONTEXT: OUR GREAT AND EVER EVOLVING RACE OF FUNDAMENTAL AXIOMATIC CONCEPTS
 - SECTION 3: OBJECTIVISM IN LEARNING CONTEXT: RATIONALLY COGNIZING THE VALID CONCEPT OBJECTIVISM
- **PART 7: LEARNING RESOURCES**
 - SECTION 1: TIME AND CHOICE
 - SECTION 2: OBJECTIVISM: OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE FROM PART 4
 - SECTION 3: OBJECTIVISM: AYN RAND AND THE AYN RAND INSTITUTE
 - SECTION 4: OBJECTIVISM: DR. LEONARD PEIKOFF: AYN RAND'S CHOSEN HEIR
 - SECTION 5: OBJECTIVISM: CRAIG BIDDLE AND THE OBJECTIVE STANDARD: REASON, EGOISM, AND CAPITALISM
 - SECTION 6: OBJECTIVISM: THE PAGE OF REASON
 - SECTION 7: THE GREAT COURSES: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DEEP WELL-CHEWED NEWS
 - SECTION 8: THE GREAT COURSES: A VIBRANT FOUNDATIONAL ENRICHMENT
 - SECTION 9: THE GREAT COURSES: A BROAD KNOWLEDGE CONTEXT
 - SECTION 10: THE GREAT COURSES: A VAST CONCEPTUAL HIERARCHY OF HISTORY IN JUST 48 LECTURES
 - SECTION 11: A BRIEF NOMINATION OF ADDITIONAL VIRTUES
- **PART 8: IN AGREEMENT: JOHN GALT, GOD, JESUS, AND THE HUCKLEBERRYS**
 - SECTION 1: THE IRRATIONAL NIGHTMARE: GHOSTS AND ZOMBIES GALORE!
 - SECTION 2: INTERREGNUM: BETWIXT THE NIGHTMARE AND THE DREAM
 - SECTION 3: THE RATIONAL DREAM: YOUR VERY OWN NOBLE PRIZE—IF YOU SHOULD CHOOSE TO EARN IT
 - SECTION 4: AND THANK YOU FOR READING
- **SUPPLEMENT: THE GREAT PERSUASION**
- **SUPPLEMENT: THE AFTERWORD AND POSTSCRIPTS**

THE PAGE OF REASON

SECTION 1: EARLY PERSONAL HISTORY: SELF-RESPECT AND RESPECT FOR END-TO-END 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 founded Missouri Oxygen Company (MO-OX). Over the subsequent forty years, they reasoned very carefully, worked very hard, and built their business into a highly 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 employment in various aspects of that business.

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

SECTION 2: EARLY EDUCATION: VERY MODERATE ACHIEVEMENTS

I acquired a standard, mostly public, early education. And then, through intermittent 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 form of catch-all, to finally escape, degree title.

That education, along with the broader context of my early life experience, presented to me a wide range of inconsistent understandings of reason, reality, and knowledge. And, during those times, my educational achievements were, overall, graded as very moderate (averaged: 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 important and useful (rational in parts). I imbibed what I could, and I acquired an abiding interest in knowledge, which has continued to evolve throughout my life. But, until just ten years ago, my rational knowledge only evolved in fits and starts, often in just dribs and drabs.

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 individuals.

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.

During the course of my life, I experienced many of the same twists and turns common to other individuals of my times, culture, and background. And, from those various experiences, my mind originally imbibed its basic ideas, judgments, and attitudes, which eventually turned out to be an inconsistent, self-contradicting collection that seemed impossible to integrate. My conceptual mind was a hodgepodge (a heterogeneous mixture, a jumble, of unrelated ideas or parts).

Other than in various realms of highly specific rational ideas (common work, technologies, sciences, etc.), determining the ultimate sources and meanings of complex, abstract ideas, and their truths, falsehoods, and consequences was most often a very difficult and chancy proposition. Therefore, non-willful evasions (truncated evaluations) of fundamental ideas often became necessary. I now know, for certain, that such evasions are no longer necessary: *for anyone, 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 initial conclusion was, and remains, accurate. I am just another guy. But, I am just another guy who has come to understand that I do possess an absolute sovereign right to my own mind, and I have chosen to perform the necessary work that is required to earn its integration.

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

SECTION 4: A BRIEF 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, multi-cultural teams to build, enhance, and repair, large and complex, financial, data processing systems.

Then, on March 31st of 2008, at four o'clock p.m., my hard earned, highly productive, and *sharply honed* career became *sharply terminated*.

Over 21 years, from 1987 to 2008, I intermittently acquired additional professional knowledge, and I progressively developed my reasoning skills. Within my work, I became progressively able to simultaneously exhibit the virtues of quality, speed, and focused purpose. Thereby, I became ever more adept, productive, and respected in my work, and 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 been given three months of advance notice. During the ensuing three months, several continued employment options were offered to me. However, each option was offered under terms that I judged unacceptable.

Sharp termination day sprouted a *sharply clear*, warm, spring afternoon. I said goodbye to good friends, many of whom I might never see again. But, 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, and I just could not stand it anymore. I had 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 TASTY LEMONADE!

I was then 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. 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 often been said: "When handed lemons, make lemonade!" So, on April Fools' Day of 2008, I resolved to *bootstrap* my mind, to *start all over again*, to begin an aggressive exploration of knowledge. I *secretly reasoned* that someday, *just possibly*, I might become able brew an original 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 STEADY VIBRANT SPRINT!

GOAL #1: HIGH EXPECTATIONS GREATLY EXCEEDED: By 2015, I had viewed 330, plus 48 repeats, of *The Great Courses*. I viewed most courses on DVDs, which usually contained 6 30-minute lectures each. That comprised a convenient viewing unit, so on many days, I viewed 6 or 12 lectures, and on some days, I viewed 18.

As I did not know where my work would eventually lead, I employed that rather extravagant approach. If someone has sufficient desire and time, a version of that same sort of 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. (*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, in conjunction with Part 4, was primarily composed, as a potent tool, to rationally integrate the full context of my own conceptual mind.

Subsequent to achieving substantial progress towards Goal #2, I re-conceived, retrieved from memory, a third knowledge goal.

- Knowledge Goal #3: To propagate Objectivist Principles to all able individuals.

GOAL #3: A STEADY VIBRANT SPRINT: Parts 4 & 5, and all supplements, were secondarily composed, as potent tools, for any able individual who might choose to pursue their own progressive mastery of rational knowledge. For valid evidence of Goal #3's vibrant sprint-in-progress, I refer you to The Website's full content.

SECTION 7: APRIL FOOLS' DAY OF 2018: SHOW TIME! SUPERBLY TASTY LEMONADE!

The Page of Reason was first published at eight o'clock a.m. on April Fools' Day of 2016—exactly eight years from the beginning of my *bootstrap, starting all over again*, aggressive exploration. That first edition was a batch of fair lemonade. However, due to much brewing experience, this third one is superbly tasty!

I remain just another, common, hobgoblin, middle-brow guy who, once upon a time, chose to give the faint glow of reason an incisively honest investigation.

Now, having done my utter best to produce an utterly magnificent work, I am magnificently proud to be sharing *The Page of Reason* with you. Not! April Fools.

THE PAGE OF REASON

SECTION 1: THE PARTS, SUPPLEMENTS, AND WEBSITE

- Part 4 presents the critical introduction: principal knowledge sources, fundamental reason processes, work chronology, and brief literature reviews.
- Part 5 presents the principal content: a precisely composed text on a crucially important subject: Objectivism: The Philosophy of Reality Integrated Reason.
- The additional parts, supplements, and website were concurrently composed to present further, important and valuable, information, context, and tools.

SECTION 2: OBJECTIVISM AND THE PAGE OF REASON

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.

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 honing my own concept definitions and word choices as I composed, I strove to objectify an utterly essential, one-page definition of Objectivism.

SECTION 3: MASTERING ANY SUBJECT AND/OR SKILL

If the mastery of any subject and/or skill is sincerely desired, then first it must become chosen, and then it must become earned by individual conscious work.

Rationality is our essentially distinctive human attribute: a fact identified Aristotle of Athens (384–322 BCE) over 2300 years ago. *Rationality is our Talent!* It is our innate ability to employ reasoning skills. And, it is our principal human virtue. Rationality arms us with our essential tool for survival, prosperity, and happiness. Thus, rationality is the essential key to every form of our subject and/or skill mastery. Within any endeavor, its careful employment can increase virtuosity.

Our integrated body and consciousness incorporates a spectacularly prodigious abundance of automatic processes. Of these processes, it is only perception functions that deliver to us all of the original raw data (percepts, raw information) that we process within our individual consciousness. However, reason (logical reason!) is not an automatic process. It is a set of voluntary skills that only we humans can develop to abstract concepts (knowledge) from that raw data.

By engaging our perception functions and reasoning skills with the 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 repeated employments of variously mixed learning skills (observing, listening, reading, reasoning, writing, practicing, etc.), within our previously acquired contexts, we can progressively master any subject and/or skill.

SECTION 4: MASTERING THE SUBJECT AND SKILLS OF RATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

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?" That ever has been, and ever will be, the quintessential human attempt to get a rational grip on this earthly life. However, many long ago learned and now implicit (sub-consciously automated) ideas may have become incorporated and entangled with various irrational and befuddling errors. If so, then pursuits to get that rational grip might have become arduous, or nearly hopeless, to wholly conclude. As a direct consequence, happiness suffers.

- By my life experience and persistent investigations, I have discovered that: Objectivism is The Philosophy of Reality Integrated Reason.

A mastery of any subject requires that its contents be thoroughly chewed, digested, understood, and practiced through a root-to-branch re-construction of its rational ideas. Within one's own mind, one's own judgment always is the final arbiter of truth and value. One does independently incorporate one's own conclusions into one's own mind. And then, for better or for worse, one must endure their necessary and inevitable consequences: *whatever they may become*.

- However, whereas the past consequences of conclusions cannot be revised, conclusions can be.

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. Through patience, persistence, and punctuated-work, one's confident understandings of fundamental rational knowledge will *soon, soon, soon* accumulate and stabilize. It is only by incisive reason that such outcomes can substantially occur. For the accomplishment of such heroic feats, exquisite models have been well-provided.

SECTION 5: THE WORK OF MY MIND: THE BIG TEN-YEAR CHEW: 2008–2018

April 1, 2008: With no knowledge of where it would eventually lead, I began an earnestly aggressive re-education of my mind with *The Great Courses* from The Teaching Company. These courses present university level lectures in audio/video formats. By the end of 2014, I had viewed 330 of them, plus 48 repeats. They were delivered by 203 diverse and highly distinguished professors, over 5,487 hours, in 10,810 lectures. By employing these professors, I infused my mind with a reasonably assimilated, very broad knowledge context. This work over met my Knowledge Goal #1. My viewing record is linked to The Website's GCourses menu.

Oct. 28, 2011: I initially discovered Goal #2's method, a discovery that I had judged to be virtually impossible. However, it was with a well-prepared mind that, once I had befriended Howard Roark, I promptly identified, in undeveloped, fuzzy terms, that Reason is The Essential Tool for Integrating All Knowledge. It seemed to me that underlying Mr. Roark's noble character was an important secret. And, I felt purposefully compelled to uncover 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 wrote *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 34 months, 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 long history, by careful reasoning, against insurmountable odds, meticulously produced them: *bit by tiny bit*.

August 1, 2018: Thus, I have earned a wealth of knowledge. And, Part 5 represents the quintessential value of that entire, *bit by tiny bit*, historical chew.

SECTION 6: TABLE OF OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE

TITLE	AUTHOR/EDITOR	PH. GENRE	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 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 some. But, what is it?	2
<i>The Ominous Parallels</i> *	Leonard Peikoff	Philosophy	1982	Roots of Human Generated Tragedies	3
<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 (OPAR)</i> *	Leonard Peikoff	Philosophy	1991/1993	Definitive Statement of Objectivism	10
<i>Understanding Objectivism</i>	Leonard Peikoff	Philosophy	2012/1983	Very Important Learning Guide	2
<i>The Objective Standard: Reason, Egoism, ...</i>	Craig Biddle, Ed.	Journal	2013–2015	Rational Quarterly Journal (2006 ...)	10
<i>Teaching Johnny to Think</i>	Leonard Peikoff	Philosophy	2014/1985	Rational Youth Education (adults too!)	2

SECTION 7: FURTHER COMMENTS ON OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE

Ayn Rand's rational fiction works are chock full of rational 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. Also, Ayn Rand identified the speech in *Atlas Shrugged*, "This is John Galt Speaking", as the "briefest summary" of Objectivism.

What is the intellectual foundation 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. In *Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology*, Ayn Rand eloquently, 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 present the essential keys to mastering concepts. From them, all of Objectivism *logically* follows.

The Ominous Parallels, thoroughly imbued with rationality, brilliantly illuminates the incendiary role played by irrational ideas as the root cause of all 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 a comprehensive, thoroughly lucid and logical, cause-and-effect understanding of Objectivism, this work is a must read. Dr. Peikoff: *superlative again!*

The essays, *The Ayn Rand Lexicon* (Rand excerpted and indexed), and *The Objective Standard* all present excellent, readily accessible examples of reasoning.

Most individuals first encounter Objectivism in 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. He *gripped* my curiosity and inspired me to initiate my objectivist explorations.

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 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?" Reality and Knowledge constitute an inseparable pair.
- **The Trunk:** **ETHICS:** "What is moral conduct within oneself?" Ethics must evolve its consequent corollaries 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?" Both Politics and Esthetics must each evolve their own consequent corollaries exclusively from the root principles, via 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, if we so choose, we can each easily, immediately, directly observe them. Existence exists. Identity is incorporated within each existent. Consciousness identifies existents. Discover that it is not possible to rationally refute these three mutually integrated axiomatic concepts. Rationally evaluate these correlated facts:

- **EXISTENCE:** Only Existence (Reality) does exist; non-existence does not. Reality is all-inclusive, fully integrated, persistent, and progressively knowable.
- **IDENTITY 1:** **IDENTITY IS EXISTENCE** but viewed from a differentiating perspective. Each existent incorporates a unique nature that differentiates it from each other existent: from existence and non-existence are distinctly different to any two experiences, of a human individual, 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 existents can cause the cohering of this universe to only individual rational humans can cause conceptual knowledge.
- **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 mind and body, it can cause rearrangements of existents: but is unable to *ever* create them. Also, within natural limits, and when rationally applied, consciousness functions only to support the organism's life. Thus, consciousness is incorporated within and is subordinate to existence. Therefore, consciousness is secondary to existence. These 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 automatic perception functions. Emotions, localized-sensations (pains to pleasures), and diffuse-sensations (hunger to satiety, lethargy to vitality, agitation to tranquility, etc.) are also automatically identified, and presented to consciousness, by perception functions, for observations and evaluations. 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 pre-formed 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 solely 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 every 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, reasoning 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. For humans, perceptible sound and gesture languages are the dominant, immediate forms of communication. Written languages can deploy communications across space and time. Other technologies can deploy additional forms. Crucially, an individual human mind can be profitably turbo-charged from civilizations' rich intellectual legacies of knowledge communications.

5. MEMORY: With quality and speed *variations*, memory processes rearrange representations of percepts and concepts into memory structures. Then, memory processes *variably* retrieve, rearrange, and re-present them. Thereby, memory *subtly fuels* alleged forms of "just knowing" (instincts, intuitions, revelations, etc.).

6. 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 an individual percept, a word is only a proper name.

7. KNOWLEDGE: We develop our knowledge through 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 reasoning skills. Both processes are naturally limited, consciously selected, 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. Our observations might be direct, or, if rationally trusted, they might be indirect, which is a crucial learning tool. Our pre-formed concepts constitute our present conceptual contexts. Crucially, we can each choose to progressively enrich our rational knowledge.

8. 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, held as true, and honest validation is evaded, then it just constitutes Arbitrary Parrot Talk (often manifested in batches of incoherent squawks).

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 an elemental, primeval, animal attribute: raw, immediate fEElinGs. And, if carelessly allowed, they can become Cains: Killers of Able Reason.

10. EMOTIONS 2: Our minds, vigorously, subconsciously, at lightning fast speeds, match (limited) observations with (hodgepodge?) pre-formed value judgments, and thereby cause our emotions. Our observations might be fresh, drawn from memory, or rationally trusted. Our value judgments, a sub-set of our knowledge, can likewise become enriched. Emotions are caused by observations/judgments, can be subjected to observation and rational evaluation, are vital to the functions of reason and life, but are unable to ever function as rational tools. Emotions are not tools of cognition. Reason is the essential tool for all that we do.

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

1. IRRATIONALITY: Primacy of Consciousness Axioms are fundamental knowledge errors. Simple ignorance is not a moral error but can be dangerous. 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. VALUE HIERARCHY: By incisive observations, Individual Human Life emerges as the root standard of moral value. Virtues are primary moral principles that identify important, life-supporting, and integrated aspects of that root. Virtues constitute the trunk of our individual value hierarchies. As we conceptualize them, additional moral values, laws, rules, and options constitute 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: Our valid virtues emerge as: Rationality (our fundamental talent), Honesty, Independence, Integrity, Justice, Pride, Productiveness, 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 action 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 observations, valid rights emerge as 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 collective proportions, one self-alienates rights by abrogating others' rights.

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

1. FORCE INITIATION: Force initiation is any identifiable, direct or indirect, physical act that abrogates any individual right (assault, conspiracy, credible-threat, extortion, fraud, incitement, murder, sedition, theft, trespass, etc.). Force is the only power capable of abrogating rights. Force is unable to abrogate reality (1+0=1), only rights. Either force or rights might be indirectly enacted through agents (individuals, organizations, societies, governments, etc.). Force initiation, of any kind, by any means, by anyone, against any individual right, of any other, is strictly forbidden. Each perpetrator becomes subject to just retaliation(s).

2. GOVERNMENT: A government enforces individual rights over a specific territory. It is constituted exclusively from adjudication and retaliatory force delegations by each individual present. Choose (for yourself and dependents): delegate, depart, or suffer. Individuals do retain the right of just defense against otherwise unprotected initiated force. A government's exclusive purpose and obligation is just enforcement of all individual rights by means of civil adjudications and/or force retaliations. It must enact just retaliation(s) against each identified initiated force perpetrator. And, perpetrations do become the causes of any collateral enforcement damage(s). A government's only legitimate means are institutions of civil adjudication, criminal justice, and external defense—exclusive of force initiations. A government is a voluntary delegation of individual rights that is restricted in both purpose and means. 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, 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 invites death.
- **REALITY INTEGRATED OBJECTIVIST PRINCIPLES** identify the valid conceptual roots of REALITY, KNOWLEDGE, ETHICS, POLITICS, and ESTHETICS. Their purpose is human life: boundless, force-free pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness. They are beautiful, incisive, integrated, noble, stable, valid, and are observable by each able individual. Within all of human knowledge, no other such framework exists. For all of these reasons together, 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 hoe!* All quotes are from Parts 4 & 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 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 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 an 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*.
- Furthermore: To be employable, concept definitions must first reside within one's own mind. And then, by one's definitions, one lives or dies: *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 fully grasp a complex, valid, hierarchical concept in just one, or two, or three cognitions, etc. A substantial grasp of such concepts requires repeated step-by-step processes of rational concept-formation. That 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, necessarily many of, those intermingled sub-specialties.

If that rational concept-formation process becomes integrated into epistemology, then epistemology absolutely becomes a highly 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 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 conflicting forms.)

An axiom is a premise, a foundation, a root upon which concepts are then 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 "concept 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 concept-formation. Choose Existence Axioms. Why? Answers, more cometh ...

5,3,10: Emotions are not tools of cognition. Reason is the essential tool for all that we do. (Consciousness Axioms = Anything Goes! which leads to Emotionalism.)

From the advent of primeval languages, and well into modern times, anything-goes ideas, in multitudes of forms, have dominated human minds. Those ideas promise! automatic, effortless, "concept reception". Knowledge is "acquired" by various, ineffable means 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 force initiations that set up a mind to choose anything-goes ideas. And, on countless occasions, in regards to issues from small to great, willfully chosen anything-goes ideas have caused vast destitution, destruction, and death: witness present and historic reality.

Due to the thoroughly demonstrated, well-known fact that rational work is our only valid method of concept-formation, rational philosophy strides along in *A Steady Vibrant Sprint!* within the midst of its *Numerous Wobbling Emotionalist Opponents* But, why does this axiomatic race continue? For two primary reasons:

- Whereas emotions occur implicitly (rapidly automatic and essentially effortless), reason is a set of voluntary skills that require explicit rational work.
- Whereas primeval humans emerged circa 2.6 million years ago, historic reason 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 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 Königsberg (d. 1804 CE) are the primary perpetrators of death seeking, anything-goes ideas; (long lost) Aristotle of Athens (d. 322 BCE), (revised 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 (earthwide). We inherit these ideas. And, it is a fact, of which we are often unaware, that such ideas have descended from influential philosophers, and, through them, from both their literate and preliterate precursors. Those ideas then became elucidated/obfuscated, elaborated/attenuated, glorified/scorned, etc., by subsequent philosophers, and then by copious cadres of various other intellectuals*. Thereby, fundamental ideas have trickled down to the rest of us, in numerous, variously mixed, *Hodgepodge Collections*.

* *Artists, Authors, Bureaucrats, Commentators, Mullahs; Politicians, Preachers, Professors, Prophets; Scientists, Shamans, Teachers; Witch Doctors; etc.*

And, for better or for worse, those philosophers who have produced the most fundamental, most broadly abstract, and most widely published ideas have always been the long-term pacers in This Fundamental Life or Death Race. Do you yet understand the root cause of all human generated tragedies? We continue ...

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

Today, most individuals, on Earth, in various 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 progressively eroding states-of-decay. Without a worthy clarification of fundamental philosophical principles, these processes will continue, unabated!

Objectivism, The Thoroughly Clarified Rational Philosophy, presently encompasses 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 tells us that valid knowledge of reality is impossible. He says to us: "Because you are not omniscient, *Give up! Be a zombie!! Obey!!!*" Karl Marx (d. 1883 CE) is Kant's deservedly dead, evil spawn (intellectual descendent). Reviling reason, he foments force. His evil spawns, Communism, by direct force, and Socialism, by indirect force, in ubiquitous, concurrent 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 conflicting, death seeking, misfit ideas.

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

4,4,3: Within one's own mind, one's own judgment always is the final arbiter of truth and value. One does independently incorporate one's own conclusions into one's own mind. And then, for better or for worse, one must endure their necessary and inevitable consequences: *whatever they may become*.

Objectivism does not present a dogma, a catechism, a creed that is to be emotionally adopted, lazily borrowed from others, and then followed by cessation of any further thought. That too would be a corruption, a destruction, an invalidation of the valid concept Objectivism. Valid knowledge can only be acquired by one's own live, progressive employments of incisive reason. And, a valid concept is a whole thing that cannot be willfully sundered, *without consequences*.

5,4,3: Our valid virtues emerge as: Rationality (our fundamental talent).

Within rational evaluation work, it is necessary that one argue with, that one think critically about, that one strive to extract value from, acquired ideas. And, throughout this entire, progressive, concept-formation process, one can only reason within one's own mind: no two minds *ever* reason within one mind.

4,4,2: Objectivism is The Philosophy of Reality Integrated Reason. (Today, by any rationally comprehensive definition, it is the only one.)

Most individuals harbor and employ, in variously mixed, explicit and implicit forms, at least a few, fundamental, anything-goes, emotionalist ideas. Such individuals might feel that some facts that are subsumed under the valid concept Objectivism are untenable, unacceptable, contrary to their presently chosen beliefs. If so, they might be tempted to willfully disintegrate, to willfully evade, these facts, while favoring other ideas that they might presently feel to be more attractive.

There is a valid rational solution to this apparent dilemma. It is a well-known and crucially effective rational technique that has proven itself, *over, and over, and over again*, in the historic conceptualizations of our valid knowledge. That solution 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. This is somewhat akin to the partial suspensions of belief that are properly employed while consuming works of fiction. Objectivism is not a work of fiction.

THE PAGE OF REASON

SECTION 1: TIME AND CHOICE

We each do possess an integrated body and consciousness. Thus, we have been endowed with an irrevocable nature that exists as a pre-condition to our knowledge, our values, our judgments, and our actions. And thus, it is also an irrevocable pre-condition to each one of our pursuits of happiness. Therefore, for incisive pursuits of happiness, as best we can, we must strive to understand, and to then fruitfully employ, our knowledge of our distinctive 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 structures, while simultaneously working towards two purposes and performing two actions. Thus, time is a fundamental key resource of our conscious reason. It then becomes the voluntary choices of focused observations and rational engagement that can engender valid knowledge.

From earliest childhood, many choices (and *Various* guidance) are provided to unable dependents by *Various* care givers. Then, as they 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: OBJECTIVIST LITERATURE FROM PART 4

All literature tabled in Part 4 can be purchased from 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 published and reading order: *We the Living*, *Anthem*, *The Fountainhead*, *Atlas Shrugged*, *Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology*, *The Ominous Parallels*, and *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand*.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVISM: AYN RAND AND THE AYN RAND INSTITUTE

ARI is the official Ayn Rand Organization. At the ARI websites, you will 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. Yet, Editor Craig Biddle and his team of TOS Contributors perform diligent, intelligent work to vibrantly integrate rational principles and opinions within various degrees of our current cultural debates. One 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. 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 composition is the product of several years' worth of progressive enrichments and refinements. By this work, I have attempted to produce an easy to read and understand, extraordinarily accurate, and utterly essential work of rational knowledge. Therefore, I recommend re-reads of *The Page of Reason*. Most especially, I recommend punctuated-work #1: 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, they 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 age 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 higher education, and regardless of your age, The Great Professors can greatly inform your mind.

Professors, teachers, educators, intellectuals, and 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 (according to the best of our accumulated 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. Therefore, regardless of stated subject, important knowledge is very frequently 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 fully understand, nor to always agree with, each idea as we acquire it. We only need to maintain focused attention, engage our reasoning skills, and keep on moving, 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 employ, and, by these methods, your knowledge and understandings can easily multiply and mature. Knowing is good.

A concentrated study approach, with supplemental readings, can also be a choice. I do, from time to time, read from original sources, and I do find that activity to be very informative and very enjoyable. However, I also find that extensive reading seriously slows my total learning progress. And, the "live" professors do employ that generously engaging "live" method. 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 my associated readings, and rely upon The Great Professors to generously inform my mind.

- Links to *The Great Course's* websites reside on The Website's GCourses and Links pages.
- In order to vibrantly exercise one's voluntary reasoning 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, *one by one*.

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. These courses can serve to vibrantly enrich your rational foundations. A reasonable sampling of these courses can engender substantial knowledge.

- 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 reasoning skills, from our exceedingly brief history of historic rational understanding.
- 13 courses pertaining to Words and Language: Words name concepts and language is primarily a tool of reason.
- The Page's [Short Course List](#) is linked to The Website's GCourses menu. (*Go there to discover a most excellent learning opportunity.*)

SECTION 9: THE GREAT COURSES: A BROAD KNOWLEDGE CONTEXT

Should you choose to *Perch upon the Catbird Seat of Knowledge*, to acquire a broad knowledge context, then I recommend that you first direct your focus 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, when available, in contexts that are meaningful, chronological approaches to knowledge can be valuable.

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 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 menu. (*Go there 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, it 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.

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: Patience, Persistence, Punctuated-Work, Careful-Selectivity, Experimental-Reason, and Strategic-Reason.

If the conceptual reality that we were born into, and that has dominated 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 human conceptual reality to that sufficient degree.

THE PAGE OF REASON

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

7,1,1: We each do possess an 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 believing that their mind, that their life, on Earth, is utterly worthless: that it is an evil to be defeated—that they have no ability, no right, whatsoever, to engage reason with reality within any pursuit of happiness. And, it is utterly, abjectly worse than even that, 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 middle-brow humans as their very own zombie slaves.

But, but, but: because their minds lacked solid grounding in fundamental rational principles, the purposes of those anything-goes misfits could never become finally concluded by rational persuasion. Therefore, initiations of force became the only means by which they could finally conclude their ghoulish goals. Consequently, by means of both direct and indirect force, they have willfully herded multitudes of humans into stinking swamps of destitution, destruction, and death.

Furthermore: All of the fancy feasts that they have engorged, the posh pastimes that they have partaken of, the fantastic fashions and frippery that they have flagrantly flaunted, the exorbitant edifices that they have erected, the profane weapons that they have paraded and wielded, and all other such that the misfit dastards have so devilishly devoured, were factually the fruits of reason: forcibly extracted as slavish tributes from the common work of others.

What an utterly grotesque nightmare! Are those anything-goes misfits our exemplars of civilization? For a thoroughly lucid, root-to-branch explanation 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? who?* are the misfits' recruits for tomorrows havoc? *Not us! Not us! Not us!* But, know this: Without radical rearrangements, within mega-legions of common, hobgoblin, middle-brow minds, further multitudes will certainly wallow, slowly rot, and then die in those same old stinking ghost and zombie swamps.

SECTION 2: INTERREGNUM: BETWIXT THE NIGHTMARE AND THE DREAM

4,4,1: However, many long ago learned and now implicit (sub-consciously automated) ideas may have been incorporated and entangled with various irrational and befuddling errors.

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 historically able individual has known, from their very own direct experiences, in conclusions either explicit or (mostly) implicit, that reason was their essential tool.

To wit: "In the beginning," these sorts of rational ideas were orally passed down, through the ages, by many prehistoric (preliterate) humans:

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.

Ten 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*.

6,2: Whereas primeval humans emerged circa 2.6 million years ago, historic reason emerged circa 2600 years ago: evolving for only the most recent 0.1%.

Whereas *Primeval Emotionalist Children* Decrepitly Wobble, Modern Rational Adults Vibrantly Sprint! Chew this corresponding wisdom statement:

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.

I reason like an adult. *But why? oh why? did it take so very long?* Early on, I imbibed from copious cadres of *Anything Goes Decrepitly Wobbling Misfits!*

5,5,1: Each perpetrator becomes subject to just retaliation(s).

Force initiation is never the chosen means of rational adults. Rational persuasion is always their freely chosen means of human interactions. All force is shunned, not fundamentally desired, not actively sought by them. However, just retaliations against initiations of force are an absolute requirement of reason. Just retaliations finally become the only means of justly maintaining the valid force-free living rights of rational humans who become forcibly engaged with anything-goes, death worshiping, death dealing misfits. But, whenever our survival is not immediately at stake: *Rational Persuasion is always Weapon One!* Weapon One!

Sadly, present populations, to the degrees crippled by irrationality and knowledge deficits, demand from, and grant sanctions to, their governments' ever various, ever conflicting, 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.)

Furthermore: No form or manner of *Smoke and Mirrors* thought, discussion, or argument in regards to any of the multitudinous misfit-isms, will *ever, ever* incisively define the vital solutions that are necessary for the *vibrant* survival, prosperity, and happiness of the human race.

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 pursuit of happiness. *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! 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 repeated punctuated work to honestly validate, and sub-consciously 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, we will live with the necessary and inevitable consequences: *whatever they may become.*

Most Gloriously: We are each, always, everyday able to make this one most simple, most fundamental choice: to willfully evade reason, or to willfully embrace reason. To willfully 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.

SECTION 4: AND THANK YOU FOR READING

I trust that your conceptual mind has been *vibrated* in a rational manner. Thank You! for taking your very valuable time to read Parts 1 through 8.

Finite mind, is where brow did chew.

Flat white sheets, 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: THE 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 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 anyone, at any time.
- From the Reports menu, Author Tables page, discover examples of how I distribute reprints and invite individuals to The Website.
- From the Reports menu, EDDM Tables page, discover how, in partnership, we distribute reprints to homes within the United States of America.

By employing these methods, we directly communicate rational knowledge to many able individuals. However, it is most improbable that we will soon directly communicate to those who are close to you, or to many others who you do, or do not, presently know. However, in various manners, you are able to individually employ, or to jointly partnership in, these methods. Thereby, you can be justifiably proud to self-identify yourself as an Able Leader of The Great Persuasion.

- From the Reports menu, Effects pages, discover substantial evidence that, via The Great Persuasion, we are effectively communicating rational knowledge.

SECTION 2: THE OUTLINE OVERVIEW

- SECTION 1: THE INTRODUCTION
- SECTION 3: APOCALYPTIC CONCLUSIONS
- SECTION 4: CONTEXT KEEPING, CAPITALISM, AND RATIONAL PRINCIPLES
- SECTION 5: DANCING WITH GREAT PARROTS: A JEREMIAD FOR JUSTICE
- SECTION 6: THE GREAT PARROT HIGH-BROW CREED
- SECTION 7: OUR INDIVIDUALIST MIDDLE-BROW RESPONSE
- SECTION 8: SATURDAY NIGHT KNOCKDOWN! ABLE REASON VS. KILLER CAIN! ROUND X9@#!
- SECTION 9: FURTHER CONTEXT: OUR BIG COSMOS CAUSE AND EFFECT REALITY
- SECTION 10: THE POTENTIAL MEGA-LEGIONS OF MIDDLE-BROW GOLDSMITHS
- SECTION 11: OUR EDDM PROJECT
- SECTION 12: OUR EDDM PARTNERSHIPS
- SECTION 13: THE EDDM SELECT ROUTES PAGE
- SECTION 14: OUR PROGRESSIVE CONQUESTS OF EVIL
- SECTION 15: THE SEASONS THAT DO! WAX AND WANE
- SECTION 16: I REST MY CASE

SECTION 3: APOCALYPTIC CONCLUSIONS

There are some individuals who, in principle, are substantially wise to the full context of our present conceptual reality, and who say that it is already too late to defy a coming cultural apocalypse. They do have some very good reasons for their apocalyptic conclusions. Sadly, their conclusions just might become our reality.

I, for one, do not embrace those apocalyptic conclusions. 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 a few, further, causal explanations concerning our present, sordid state-of-affairs.

It is extraordinary just how many of our present 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. However, it is a fact that many of our "erstwhile" leaders are just fiddling away: *while Our Rome burns!*

SECTION 4: CONTEXT KEEPING, CAPITALISM, AND RATIONAL PRINCIPLES

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

Context dropping is the most commonly employed, conceptual error. Examples of context dropping 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 a strongly held, irrational principle, then it can always be back-traced to primeval emotionalism. An actual example, derived from our present political discourse, can easily clarify the nature of this error.

It is a fact that the political context that we presently inhabit, earthwide, is not thoroughly rational. To the contrary, it is deeply imbued with irrational behaviors: both direct and indirect initiations of force. Consequently, end-to-end, force-free trade becomes very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

If, within a nation, genuine work is proceeding to create cultures imbued with rational, non-contradictory, individual rights, then the rational work of that nation's government to control its physical borders, inbound migrations, external trade, relationships with foreign individuals, external entities, other nations, etc. becomes rationally correct, morally justified, and absolutely necessary. Fundamentally, this is about the survival of that nation's legitimate inhabitants.

Once primeval emotionalisms slither their way into thought, then the conceptual context of rational definitions becomes dropped, and rational virtues become corrupted. Thereby: Ballyhoos in favor of wide open borders become thoroughly devoid of rational virtue.

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

It is a fact that Capitalism is a root integrated aspect of fundamental rational principles. However, right along with those principles, Capitalism has never been practiced in its pure form. By impure conceptual entanglements, attempts to define Capitalism, by time correlated facts, which bear no cause-and-effect relationship to it, become egregious instances of context dropping. Thereby: Ballyhoos that denigrate Capitalism become thoroughly 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.

Within an irrational political context, context keeping may sometimes require that practical implementations of reality integrated, rational principles be carefully enacted: *bit by tiny bit*. However, this is never, 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 hold reality integrated, rational principles, we will be able to effectively project our principles into political contexts.

SECTION 5: DANCING WITH GREAT PARROTS:

A JEREMIAD FOR JUSTICE

It is virtually impossible to pre-judge just which individuals might become receptive to rationality. Yet, it might be fairly presumed that those individuals who constitute the class of our cultures' influential intellectual and political leaders 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 influential 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. Also, it is exceedingly unfortunate that many individuals have become inadvertently duped by Marxist ideas, without ever acquiring much, if any, understanding of their true meanings and ultimate consequences. Likewise, for Altruism (willful self-sacrifice: another big loser).

"Inadvertently Duped?"

"Weuns Great Parrots jus luvit! luvit! luvit! Jus caint git nuf a dem inadvertently duped little parrots! Scrupius! 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 imprecations and condemnations are seldom philosophically correct. In actual effect, by dropping context, 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 expressions 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!"

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 misfit 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 everyday commonplace principles (common sense).

"Common Sense?"

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

These last efforts, their self-contradicting attempts at the common-sense applications of reason 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 virtue, and their very own fundamental talent. This is the contradiction that cripples their own pursuits of happiness. But for them, crippling their own 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!"

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, through rights abrogating judgments, laws, and edicts; through over the top, legally obligatory, socialist, communist, collectivist pogroms; through lies, deceits, and frauds; through 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!"

They seek to deep freeze our hearts into dead lumps of solid blue ice, starved of life giving 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 for us to become their fellow travelers, to slump along with their very own sad, lonely, contradicted selves. By what means do they seek to accomplish their shameful, disgraceful, ignominious feats? And, just where is it that they seek to finally drag us? By initiations of force, whether government sanctioned or otherwise, they seek, seek, seek to finally drag us each into perdition, into hell, into stinking swamps of destitution, destruction, and death!

"Destitution, Destruction, and Death?"

"Squawk! Squawk! Squawk! Weuns Great Parrots gots bocups a dem dere drecks! We gonna hang em round yer nekes!"

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, irrational 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 Talent! It is! It is! But, with it, what shall we do? And, with very little rational thought, you do understand that of which I speak.

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 evaluation work, much wisdom can become detected.

6.3: Within rational evaluation work, it is necessary that one argue with, that one think critically about, that one strive to extract value from, acquired ideas.

SECTION 6: 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: 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! Squawk!*
 - Not explicitly allowed, therefore 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! Squawk!*

SECTION 7: OUR INDIVIDUALIST MIDDLE-BROW RESPONSE

- Those Great Parrot High-Brows do! sorely beg a BIG, BIG question: OBEY US??
 - **Says who?**
 - Upside Down, Low-Brow, Servile Minions?
 - *Wobbling, Low-Bow, Several Minimums?*
 - **Who?**
 - 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 through any able individual's rational work.
 - There exist no such things as unchosen obligations, irrevocable duties.
 - Only chosen obligations exist.
 - If either direct or indirect initiations of force become chosen, then their just 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 virtue, and our fundamental talent.
 - Forbid reality? Not possible!
 - Not forbidden, therefore allowed: the fruits of one's own force-free trade.
 - Each able individual possesses an absolute sovereign right to the fruits of their own force-free trade, and to all force-free gifts received.
 - Each one also possesses an absolute sovereign right to dispose of their rightful possessions, in any 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! Squawk! Squawk!*

SECTION 8: SATURDAY NIGHT KNOCKDOWN!

ABLE REASON VS. KILLER CAIN!

ROUND X9@#!

- Throughout the ages, Killer Cain has most certainly been launching assault, after assault, after assault against Able Reason!
- Today, isn't it high time for Able Reason to launch a major, decisive, counter assault against Killer Cain? *High time! High time!*

SECTION 9: FURTHER CONTEXT:

OUR BIG COSMOS CAUSE AND EFFECT REALITY

Cause-and-effect is an absolute, all-encompassing fact of the Big Cosmos Reality that we inhabit. Furthermore: Human free-will is our uniquely human method of cause, and it is, absolutely, an integrated aspect of our cause-and-effect reality. Therefore, all forms of our valid concepts, invalid concepts, irrationality, human generated tragedies, etc. are also absolutely integrated aspects of our Big Cosmos Cause and Effect Reality.

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 inseparable pair. Historically, the production of our present valid knowledge of reality 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, individual, conceptual context. Within our ever evolving, conceptual contexts, our views of reality, knowledge, and values have become infused with various shades of conceptual gray. However, 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, every one of our cultural ideas, social institutions, material products, etc. are direct consequences of individual choices. In fact, each of our own personal, 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, throughout our long history—and by ourselves, from all of our yesterdays, right through to this very moment.

Yet, 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 value, a human cannot survive, for long.

Principles are a special class of conceptual ideas. Principles are derived from close observations and rational 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 present time, we are prodigiously fortunate that, so far, Objectivism has fathomed and defined the most accurate, fundamental principles of our human conceptual reality. Most importantly, Objectivist Principles are not presented as ineffable, “mystical” truths that are to be emotionally adopted, lazily borrowed from others, and then followed by cessation of any further thought. To the contrary, Objectivist Principles are easily validated by any able individual, through 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 employing reason, valid conceptual knowledge can be acquired and communicated.

And, as any observant individual can rationally discern, Objectivist Principles provide us with the very best principles, to date, for the *vibrant* survival, prosperity, and happiness of the entire human race.

The only durable, meaningful manner by which to enact changes within human institutions is to enact changes within individual minds. Enduring, meaningful 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 morally, whenever context allows, whenever our survival is not immediately at stake: *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 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.

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

Regardless of the many unrelenting, hateful attempts to utterly undermine rationality, there most certainly do exist many able individuals who have succeeded in substantially acquiring their own personal, intellectual and moral integrity. To tweeze out substantial understanding, from 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*.

Such heroes, most probably yourself included, possess generous degrees of their own self-pride, self-esteem, etc. On the other hand, the irrational attacks against rationality have most certainly been very, very substantial, and far, far too damaging. Therefore, much rational persuasion work remains to be 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 have such an important opportunity, then work of great importance would be accomplished. And, it just may be that these other, 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, I will just make mention of three simple facts:

- It was only in my 59th year that, *as just another guy*, I finally chanced upon a copy of Ayn Rand’s book, *The Fountainhead*.
- I subsequently chose to give the faint glow of reason an incisively honest investigation.
- I then composed this text, for us.

And, though it might be virtually impossible to directly communicate with every potential middle-brow goldsmith, on Earth, there does exist a cost-effective method by which we can come much, much closer to achieving that 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. Highly effective, non-US methods will most probably become discovered. Meanwhile, within any independent, able leadership work, in which we might choose to voluntarily engage, let’s not neglect our non-US friends.

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

SECTION 11: OUR EDDM PROJECT

EDDM (Every Door Direct Mail) of the USPS (United States Postal Service) 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 presently exist. And, according to the USPS, over 42,000 ZIP Codes presently exist.

Our heroic intent is to mail specially produced *Preface* reprints to each residential address within The United States of America. The *Preface* mailer has become attractively produced, and it embodies 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 invitations to rational knowledge.

By the end of my long writing project, The Preface 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 reasoning 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 means, we work to climb the gigantic mountain of knowledge for the purpose of rationally enriching our pursuits of survival, prosperity, and happiness.

But, what if we possessed a thoroughly rational map? What outcomes might arise from that?

THE PAGE OF REASON

SUPPLEMENT

THE GREAT PERSUASION

PAGE 13 OF 15

Just as they have done, so very frequently, throughout the ages, anything-goes, irrational ideas would easily, 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 EDDM Project!

SECTION 12: OUR EDDM PARTNERSHIPS

In partnerships, Able Leaders of The Great Persuasion implement EDDM sub-projects. To understand further specifics about Our EDDM Project:

- View a sample of the *Preface* mailer. It is linked to The Website's Reports menu.
- From The Website's Reports menu, read the EDDM Tables page
 - Completed sub-projects, inclusive of actual costs and counts, will become recorded in the ZIP Codes table.
 - Contributors can acquire the option to have their contributions recorded in the Contributors table.
- From The Website, read the Contribute page, EDDM Contributions section.
- Preview the EDDM Select Routes page by employing the detailed procedures that follow in the next section.

The Page of Reason's definitive reproduction authorization statements reside on The Website's Reprint page. Those authorizations explicitly disallow both reprint modifications and EDDM project implementations. For its most cost-effective implementation, and for valuable cause-and-effect reporting, it is necessary that our EDDM project be carefully coordinated and efficiently executed. This EDDM work is delegated, exclusively, to The Great Persuasion EDDM Project Team.

We contract with specialist organizations (agents) to implement our EDDM sub-projects. And, when handled by our agents, inclusive of all printing, postage, and mailing services, the costs of these mailings are stated in cost-per-residential-address. However, do note that The Great Persuasion's production and overhead costs are not incorporated within in these calculations.

According to my preliminary investigations, I estimate that the final 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 Abraham Lincoln (\$5.00) contribution will become valuable and important. We will enact Our Heroic Great Persuasion Project: *bit by tiny bit*.

SECTION 13: THE EDDM SELECT ROUTES PAGE

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

- From The Website's Links page, follow the [Look Up a Zip Code](#) link to acquire a ZIP Code.
- Then, follow the [EDDM Select Routes](#) 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 final, full service, agent contracted, sub-project cost.
 - Will most usually indicate, in red color, that the selections have exceeded 5000 addresses.
 - That 5000 address, per ZIP Code, per day, limit only applies to retail account mailings.
 - We will be mailing through our agents' business accounts, so that limit does not apply to our work.

SECTION 14: OUR PROGRESSIVE CONQUESTS OF EVIL

In actual practice, fundamental irrational ideas have, most 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. And, for a human, the 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 tribalism, primitive racism, ethnic conflicts, religious wars, ideological wars;
 - Human generated destitution, destruction, and death!

8.1: Without radical rearrangements, within mega-legions of common, hobgoblin, middle-brow minds, further multitudes will certainly wallow, slowly rot, and then die in 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 then become chewed over by some new, future race of odd-ball baboons.

And, it is a fact, *without exception*, 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, today, I 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 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 judge that the Objectivist Principles that are embedded throughout *The Page of Reason* represent the only possible, valid principles, for *vibrant* human life, on Earth. Within *The Page of Reason*, I will make my case.

I now rest my case. Thank you for reading.

Orrin Smith
Philosopher of Reason
Ally of Objectivism
Wednesday, August 1, 2018

RATIONAL SELF-INTEREST FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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

- Go to ThePageOfReason.com's Contribute page.
 - One Abraham Lincoln (\$5.00) is the minimum contribution.
 - An option is available to become publicly recognized for larger contributions.
 - A most important option is available to sponsor an entire ZIP Code.

Because you have read through to this point, then you know that you have acquired substantial value from my diligent work. Therefore, should you now choose to judge your own values, then I trust that you will discover your own immediate need to holdup one side of this voluntary, force-free trade.

Not a bandit style holdup, please!

Neither Moocher, nor Looter, nor Bandit Be!

THE PRODIGIOUS RATIONAL WORK OF TWO GREAT ABLE LEADERS

In late July of 2017, I paid a visit to Peikoff.com. I 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 public engagement.

For as long as ideas are reasoned, Dr. Peikoff's work will be dearly treasured.

Likewise, most especially, for the work of Ayn Rand.

THIS WORK: 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 billowing column of smoke emanating from that North Tower. Reasoning quickly, I 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, during the time of my intensive objectivist readings, I performed a brief reason experiment. For myself, I asked and answered the 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: FIRST POINTS

REARRANGEMENTS: Within *The Page of Reason*, I have not originated any fundamental ideas, but have merely rearranged ideas that I have acquired from others.

FIRE AND FORGET: I virtually never engage in conversational attempts to fully explain reason and/or Objectivism. It is virtually impossible to do so without dropping enormous amounts of important context. A few light remarks often suffice to smooth a conversation. Otherwise, in some reasonable, light fashion, I will usually recommend that others read *The Page of Reason* text. I may present them with a Part 1 Flyer, a copy of the entire text, or refer them to The Website.

TEXTUAL INTEGRITY: I have attempted to comprehensively integrate all aspects of this text. For examples, I have attempted: (1) To clearly define important ideas in a meaningful order. (2) To everywhere employ the same words to express the same ideas. (3) To answer important questions that arise from within the text, near to where they arise. (4) To repeat ideas within a variety of different, but important and meaningful, contexts. (5) To evoke the reader's own experience(s). Etc.

Professors often unpack textual meanings for their students. I intend that each reader unpack this text's meanings for themselves. However, my diligent attempts to comprehensively integrate all aspects of this text, have necessarily been imperfect. Therefore, to grasp this text's substantial conceptual integration, one will need to read through the entire text at least several times. An excellent dictionary is offered at The Website's Bookstore page.

POSTSCRIPTS: ALPHABETICAL POINTS

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 progress towards new destinations, so must our great conceptual minds.

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, is human life, on Earth, our treasured value? If so, then know that reason is our long and strong lever, Objectivist Principles form the gigantic mountain for us to employ as our fulcrum, and non-contradictory reality is the solid place upon which we can reliably stand.

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 mind's dusty attics, or dissolve entirely. Otherwise, to the degree that they are important, they venture forth to become honed and polished. And, the spherical ranges of our common, everyday consciousness, reasoning skills, vocabularies, etc. 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 fashions, we each light out for the territory ahead of the rest and/or remain at home to cultivate our gardens. 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 LEARNING: Our ever evolving, life enriching, concept redefinitions that produce the sum total of our collective rational knowledge.

COLLECTIVISM: The abnegation of individual rights in favor of falsely alleged group rights—a race towards the bottom, towards destitution, destruction, and death.

CONCEPT POWER VS. PERCEPT 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., words are represented by the extraordinarily simpler requirements of short byte strings.

CONCEPTUAL EVOLUTION: Percepts are the evolutionary precursors of concepts. Higher-animals acquire percepts, rearrange them, employ memory processes, experience emotions, etc. Likewise, the evolutionary precursors of higher-animals are the sensory/chemical faculties/processes of lower-animals, plants, bacteria, etc. And, we humans continue to embody many/most of those same precursors. However, just as each other life form must employ its own most powerful means to survive and flourish, so must we humans. And, we now most certainly know that our most powerful means is our rationality, our fundamental talent.

CONTEXT CONVEYANCE: In effective humor, context is clearly conveyed by context. Otherwise, one finds oneself explaining a joke. And, how many incredible laughs we do have when we find ourselves explaining a joke! Likewise, in various manners, for works of art, works of fiction, works of opinion, etc.

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

EGOTISM VS. EGOISM: Egotism, hate, ill will, and irrational selfishness? Or, egoism, generosity, goodwill, and love? There exists no greater generosity, goodwill, and love than that which is readily available, but which must also become honestly earned, through a proper understanding of rational self-interest (egoism). Excellent examples of rational self-interest generosity, goodwill, and love include, but are not limited to: Objectivism, *The Page of Reason*, and The Great Persuasion.

FATHER'S QUOTE: My father said to me: "You can be a jack-of-all-trades and then accomplish many things well enough, or you can focus primarily on one thing and then accomplish that one thing exceptionally well." What might be one's most important, focal choice? Might it be the rational integration of one's own mind?

THE PAGE OF REASON

SUPPLEMENT

THE AFTERWORD AND POSTSCRIPTS

PAGE 15 OF 15

HISTORIC VS. HISTORICAL: Historic refers to important things of the past that have been recorded, usually in some symbolic literary or artistic form. Sometimes, such important things are represented by various types of archeological artifacts. Historical refers to all things of the past, of any type or kind, known or unknown.

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

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 irrational, childish, emotionalist, parrot terms. What is mercy but, too often, the abnegation of justice? What is free if it requires your time, attention, and work? What is fair towards those who choose to work hard for their own boundless, 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 *Primeval Ancestor of Knowledge*?

INTELLECTUAL OPPONENTS: If, due to either emotions or reasons, you find that trusting Objectivist Principles becomes a challenge, then you might try considering just what types of minds that you would prefer to have as your intellectual opponents.

JUMBO'S BARK: Jumbo, my dog, barks that higher-animals do exercise *something* akin to free-will, and I do hear his bark! Does he diverge from Objectivism?

OBJECTIVISM VS. OBJECTIVIST: 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 one's self as an "Objectivist" becomes replete with errors and omissions. Therefore, the identification of one's self 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.

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

OMNISCIENCE AND OMNIPOTENCE: 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 middle-brow 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 pursuit of happiness, within earthwide politics, will never become possible.

PARROTS' MASKS: Sometimes, sometimes, but not always, people 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 person 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, singing voice. Won't you sing my song for me?" Or, it could be Great Parrots squawking their sacrificial trade. An effective, rational response is to make simple requests that the parrot define their question's underlying concepts. If they make such an attempt, then we might further ask: "What is the rational foundation of your ideas? What is your fundamental view of reality and knowledge upon which you formulate and define your ideas?"

PRIMEVAL: The word primeval refers to the earliest ages: things that existed in the far, far distant past. Knowledgeable specialists vigorously debate their estimated, emergent times for both primeval humans and primeval languages. And, they will continue to vigorously debate their various estimates.

PRIMEVAL 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, I am certain that all forms of primeval humans did experience emotions.

PRIMEVAL LANGUAGES: Also, well within the range of specialists' current estimates, primeval "word" languages probably emerged somewhere between 30,000 and 100,000 years ago. Also, it is reasonable to infer that primeval "sign" languages (gestures, facial expressions, *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 ARGUMENT: The proper form of rational argument is the honest consideration of ideas. The widely employed tactic of attacking an individual's inconsequential characteristics, history, etc., usually lacks intellectual integrity. Most often, such arguments are emotion dominated, drop context by eschewing important ideas, and thereby become forms of irrational, indirect, parrot force. This form of argument is termed Ad Hominem: direct attacks against individuals, not against their ideas, and it is generally considered to be an invalid form of argument. In a case where the argument possesses a rational foundation, such as where the targeted individual possesses a clearly corrupt character, or has initiated parrot attacks, an Ad Hominem argument might be a form of rational self-interest, just retaliation. In any case, Ad Hominem arguments should be evaluated and employed with rational caution. *Does the argument possess a rational foundation?*

RATIONAL BALANCE: While awake, we are always thinking. And, thinking is work. Therefore, while awake, we are always working. However, thinking work can range from periods of extreme relaxation, to pleasant recreation, to light reasoning, to intense reasoning, etc. These are all important modes of thinking work. It is only by maintaining a healthy balance amongst all of these modes that our pursuits of happiness can become properly enriched.

RATIONAL EDUCATION: Our most magnificent accomplishment would probably be to provide youths with a rational head-start. *Teaching Johnny to Think* is an easily understood, 74-page book. And, it is not about teaching Johnny and Mary what to think. It is about teaching Johnny and Mary how to think!

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 progress 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, *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!**
