

Apologetic for Reason

We use reason everyday to understand facts that are not immediately apparent to the senses. Can we believe what reason tells us about facts or truths that may not be apparent to us? or do our personal experiences and cultural influences overwhelm our reason so as to render it untrustworthy? Some claim our reason is really a humanly contrived, and faith-dependent philosophy that we have been conditioned to *think* is objective.

Dependability

- We cannot think rationally unless we assume that reason is dependable. If we are uncertain of the reliability of reason then we will be uncertain about our capacity to know any truth at all. This is because it is impossible to prove reason.
- Reason requires absolutes for assurance. It is impossible to prove the dependability of reason because we must use reason to prove it. Reason only has itself for a validating authority.
- Rational thinking - The universe cannot produce something greater than the sum total of all that exists within it. It is reasonable to believe reason existed at the outset of the universe. It does not seem reasonable to believe reason somehow developed into existence in the course of the universe's development. Irrational causes cannot be trusted to produce rational results.
- All truth is rational, but reason cannot encompass all truth.

Experience

- Reason conforms to the reality we experience.
- Abstract reasoning (in our minds) and experiential reality (in our lives) seem to coincide.
- The thinking of a lunatic seems rational to him. He interprets reality through the filter of his delusion. That is, his experience of external reality conforms to his internal thinking.

Collective Experience

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Applied Reason

= General Shape of Truth

(This gives us a fair idea of the bigger picture — though not always in sharp focus.)

Faith

- It is rational to believe claims that go beyond our understanding as long as the claims do not contradict reason.
- Contradictory claims cannot both be true.
- Reason provides a platform for faith to stand on.

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