

Feature

Grey Matter

by Thad Kreisher
Contributing Writer

"I think; therefore I am. There are hairs on my face; therefore I have. My wife and child have been critically injured in a car crash; therefore I pray. It's all logical, it's all sane. We live in the best of all possible worlds, so hand me a Kent for my left, a Bud for my right, turn on Starsky and Hutch, and listen to that soft, harmonious note that is the universe turning smoothly on its celestial gyros. Logic and sanity. Like Coca-Cola, it's the real thing." --Excerpt from the 'Bachman Books'

nsanity....
Now here's a concept. But, and I do stress BUT), how shall we define it? Will all the sane people in the room please raise their hands. Ah, good. Lemme see here now, it seems that all of you in the classroom but two raised your hands.

Now, would those of you who are under the impression that you are sane collaborate and decide what it is that you possess that those two poor souls lack?

What?!? Waddaya' mean, 'But what about those guys sitting back there who didn't raise their hands?!?'

Just do as you're told if you want a grade out of this class, my pretties. We'll get to the two ponies later. For now we're gonna talk about you people. You now, the "sane" ones.

So what'll it be then? What makes you sane? The ability to think rationally and to make rational decisions?

Insanity: a perfectly logical reaction

Good. We'll start there.
Now then, tell me, what's rational? Suppose I suddenly jump up and start laughing in the middle of our little lecture. There's going to be a lot of people wondering, but chances are no one's going to ask why, (that's because of something I like to call The Code of Social Rules and Reagulations, but we'll cover that another time). But let's just suppose that we're lucky enough to have at least one individual in our classroom today who is uninhibited enough to actually speak his/her mind. Sorry, I'm afraid that this time it's going to have to be someone other than the teacher, 'cause today I'm the prof., and, as you recall, I'm the one who just committed this

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seemingly irrational act.
"Uh, excuse me sir, something funny?"
"Of course not." is my reply.
"Then, if you don't mind my asking..."
"Please, ask away."
"Why for, then, did you laugh?" our inquiring mind wants to know.
"No reason."

Hopefully, most of you are quick enough to have caught that. However, allow me to elaborate for those of you who didn't. Would you all please open your handy dandy *Roget's College Thesaurus*' to page 451.

Hmmmmmm, let me see now. Ratify....ratio....ration....rational. Ah, here's what we're looking for; rational. Please, allow me to quote.

"Rational, adj. sound, sane, logical, sensible, (*Now here's the point, read this next one carefully*), reasonable. See REASONING, INTELLECT, SANITY."

Catch it this time?
I knew you would.
Oh no! So now I too am doomed to join the slobbering, incoherent ranks of the insane.

But wait! Someone jumps up and yells, "No! Not you teach!

We like you too much. I mean, hey, you're cool, you're hip to the scene. Any one can fuck up once. Come on guys, we will merely re-adjust our definition so that you too can be one of us."
Not that I have any desire to be one of you, per say, but I appreciate the gesture. Go ahead, give it a shot.

Huddle.
Alright, Mike, you sneak through and knock out that period. DuWayne and Rocky, I want youse guys to insert this here - *most of the time* - at the end. The rest of you clear a path through the adjectives so Magic Jimmy B. here can put a new period in. On Methuselah. Got it?

BREAK!
Hut 1, Hut 2, methane Opus, Chrysler....Methuselah!
Shuffle, shuffle, grunt, smash!
Touch down!

Fabulous. Fabulous play. The score stands with The New Definition: Sanity=the ability to think rationally and to make rational decisions "most of the time.", Professor Thad; still insane.

"What?!?" you say.
Sorry guys. First of all you've gotta tell me what rational is.

Then, once you've done that, let me pose this question to you.

"Why should I believe you?"
Who are you that I should accept *your* definition of rational as my own? Even if every one of you has the same definition of rational, but mine is different, does that make me wrong? Am I irrational merely because my definition of rational is opposed to that of the majority?

I think not.
Democracy may be a good method of government, (depending on who you are), but as a method of determining rationality and sanity, it's shit.

So where are we at then?
Waddaya' asking me for? I'm insane, remember?

Oh shit, it's ten till. Well, class is over for another week. Next time we'll continue to talk to our resident classroom crazies. Remember, the moral is, and it'll be the same one next week too: "Insanity is a perfectly logical reaction to an insane world."

Finally, our closing quote.
"The bliss of thought far exceeds that of any other pleasurable known to man."

From, "The Ramblings of Thad"

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