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MY FAREWELL TO LOGIC**

1. For most of my life, I was losing my head to logic. A long time ago, however, I lost . . . my faith in it.

2. In 1983, Klemens Szaniawski – a student of Maria Ossowska and thus a member of the Lvov-Warsaw School – published the paper “Rationality as a Value.” He wrote:

Since . . . we are talking about relating the rationality of thinking [and – let us add – actions] to other values, it should be remembered that practicing it requires such character traits that are generally considered valuable. It requires courage, especially civil courage, which is necessary to insist on beliefs that are either unorthodox in the face of existing dogmas or unpopular in our own environment. It requires the renunciation of illusions, and this is generally very difficult. It is said: “face the truth.” Apparently, this facing can be unpleasant.

Rationality promotes responsibility for the word, both when it demands a strict articulation of what is claimed and when it demands that it be justified. Due to its openness to criticism, the rationality of beliefs is . . . , in this sense, . . . democratic. This is particularly evident in the case of science, in which everyone is equally empowered to scrutinize justifications.

Practicing rationality in thinking is also a matter of character because this activity is generally unattractive in the sense that it requires the restraint of judgments, while the extreme is more impressive and emotionally satisfying.

I submit that irrationality cannot be eradicated or even limited by rational means because irrational behavior belongs to the emotional sphere, and knowledge – including logical knowledge – is powerless against emotions.

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3. One can try to formulate laws such that, if they are in force in a certain population, we have the right to recognize this population as a population of irrationalists.

Here are some examples of the laws of my invention.

- (1) **THE LAW OF FANATICISM:**
The stronger the arguments for rejecting the conviction that p are presented to person A , the stronger A 's conviction that p is.
- (2) **THE LAW OF AGGRESSION:**
Suppose that A is convinced that p and that B presents to A arguments for rejecting the conviction that p . Then: the stronger B 's arguments are, the more aggressively A attacks B .
- (3) **THE LAW OF WISHFUL THINKING:**
The more strongly A is convinced that p , the more A wishes that ' p ' is true.
- (4) **THE LAW OF ABOMINATION:**
The more person A hates anyone being convinced that p , the more emphatically A rejects the claim that p .
- (5) **THE LAW OF INERTIA:**
The longer person A is convinced that p , the harder it becomes to persuade person A to reject the claim that p .
- (6) **THE LAW OF SECTARIANISM:**
If the conviction that p prevails in group X , then the more strongly person A identifies with group X , the more strongly A is convinced that p .

Since the source of irrational attitudes lies not so much in stupidity or ignorance as in the area of feelings, fighting them requires not so much LOGICAL training as PSYCHOLOGICAL training (not questioning, of course, the rules of logic).

4. In the quoted paper, Szaniawski made the following diagnosis:

Life for rationality is not easy today. Firstly because the reality that surrounds us today – . . . the one we have an influence on, i.e., the social reality – abuses the requirements of rationality.

The "TODAY" for Szaniawski was 1983. And what is the situation forty years later?

I do not know if a good reinforcement for "to abuse the requirements" is "to trample these requirements," but if so, I would say that the social reality that surrounds us today is simply trampling the requirements of rationality.

Worse still, the population of irrationalists, if we take the validity of the laws I invented as a criterion, expands like (supposedly) the Universe – and includes an increasing number of intellectuals, journalists, politicians, educators, clergy, and recently even medics.

In the scientific community, a TESTIMONY to this violation of anti-irrationalism and the spread of irrationalism, as well as their favorable factors, are: parameterization (evaluating the output based on where it is published and how many times it is cited), paid-pollomania (evaluating scientists by those who are only preparing for the profession of a scientist), and anonymous assessment (evaluating each scientific text – before its publication – by people recognized by someone as authorities but unknown to the authors of the text).

5. For most of my life, I believed that it was enough to raise a society's logical culture – or at least its leadership layers – and irrational behavior would disappear. I found this to be a delusion: logic tends to lose out to emotions.

Post scriptum (after February 24, 2022)

What is happening in connection with the Russian invasion of Ukraine has irrefutably confirmed my conclusion.