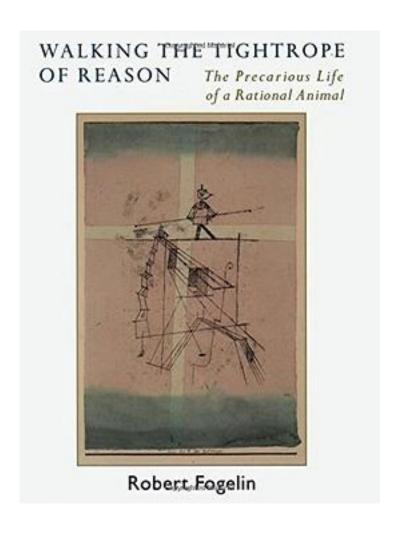
# Walking the Tightrope of Reason



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Human beings are both supremely rational and deeply superstitious, capable of believing just about anything and of questioning just about everything. Indeed, just as our reason demands that we know the truth, our skepticism leads to doubts we can

ever really do so. In Walking the Tightrope of Reason, Robert J. Fogelin guides readers through a contradiction that lies at the very heart of philosophical inquiry. Fogelin argues that our rational faculties insist on a purely rational account of the universe, yet at the same time, the inherent limitations of these faculties ensure that we will never fully satisfy that demand. As a result of being driven to this point of paradox, we either comfort ourselves with what Kant called "metaphysical illusions" or adopt a stance of radical skepticism. No middle ground seems possible and, as Fogelin shows, skepticism, even though a healthy dose of it is essential for living a rational life, "has an inherent tendency to become unlimited in its scope, with the result that the edifice of rationality is destroyed." In much Postmodernist thought, for example, skepticism takes the extreme form of absolute relativism, denying the basis for any value distinctions and treating all truth-claims as equally groundless. How reason avoids disgracing itself, walking a fine line between dogmatic belief and self-defeating doubt, is the question Fogelin seeks to answer. Reflecting upon the ancient Greek skeptics as well as such thinkers as Hume, Kant, Wittgenstein, Nietzsche, and Whitman, this book takes readers into--and through--some of philosophy's most troubling paradoxes.

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#### 陈蓉霞

1961年生。1983年毕业于华东师范大学生物学系,获理学士学位。1986年毕业于华东师范大学自然辩证法研究所,获哲学硕士学位。现任教于上海师范大学法政学院。著有《进化的阶梯》,《破译生命的密码》等。译著有《起源之战》、《适应与自然选择》,《隐匿中的奇才》,《树梢上的人生》等。

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哲学

评论

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## 书评

[只是一篇书摘]

"必须坦率地承认,我们所拥有的,原则上来自于希腊的智慧,那类似于知识的童年期,具有童年的特征:能说会道,但不结果实;富有争议,但缺乏成品……还请注意,如果这类科学本身有任何活力,那就决不能能出现这样一种情形,在经过血多待的传承之后,他们几乎仍…

这本书虽然读得磕磕绊绊,从南京的高铁读到西藏,再读回广州,却算作是一个很好的对怀疑论、认识论的入门了,对理解休谟、维特根斯坦、康德以至于皮浪的思想都有很大的帮助。

今年非常糟糕的三月里,偶尔读一本书时读到了皮浪主义,当时便对这种怀疑论有一种 "不知道从哪里来"…

理性是根据和结合的一种本性,有了这种性质就有了根据和结合的能力,因此结合和根据就是理性的根本,根据就是具有基础的命题,而结合就是具有合作的意向,因此理性就是具有基础的推测和推理,也就是有根据的思考和思索。这就是理性的来源,因此没有这种理性就没有了具体的思考...

之前一直在关注说谎者悖论的东西,读了此书,有豁然开阔之意! 以往总是停留在语言内部,从语义学的角度,看了塔斯基、克里普克、伯奇等人对悖论 的解决,虽然自成一家,但也各有纰漏,总不能令人信服。 这本书里的第二章"两难困境和悖论"中对维特根斯坦语言游戏说的引入,让...

我不能不在半夜又蹦起来说一句: 这本书 is so fucking good! 为什么世间总是存在这么美好的东西,使我总是不能离开。 二律背反,理性的幻觉,存在的悖论…… NND,你们让我夜不能寐。 我的这本书少印了4面(185-188)。。。。 "我们注定要么陷入幻觉,要么永不满足。" 哲... \_\_\_\_\_

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