

Limits to rationality

This is a topic with unlimited scope. As rationality is not just confined to the human mind alone, the spectrum of discussion can be expanded into many interesting angles.



Rationality is mandatory

- From a biological point of view, without rationality, in fact great amount of rationality in the biological reactions, no organism, however tiny or gigantic can either form or evolve.
- From a molecular point of view, the rationality is imbedded in the molecular reactions which are so sequentially arranged both in respect to time and space so that the survival of the biological entity will occur for a fixed period of time.



Irrationality culminates into some rationality to continue the cycle



- Let us take big bang.
- Let us assume it happened.
- The chaos follows rational organization of particles with a set of physical laws and rules.



Biological systems have rational pattern for survival

- Example development of a butterfly, a frog to human has rationalized logical molecular events take place.



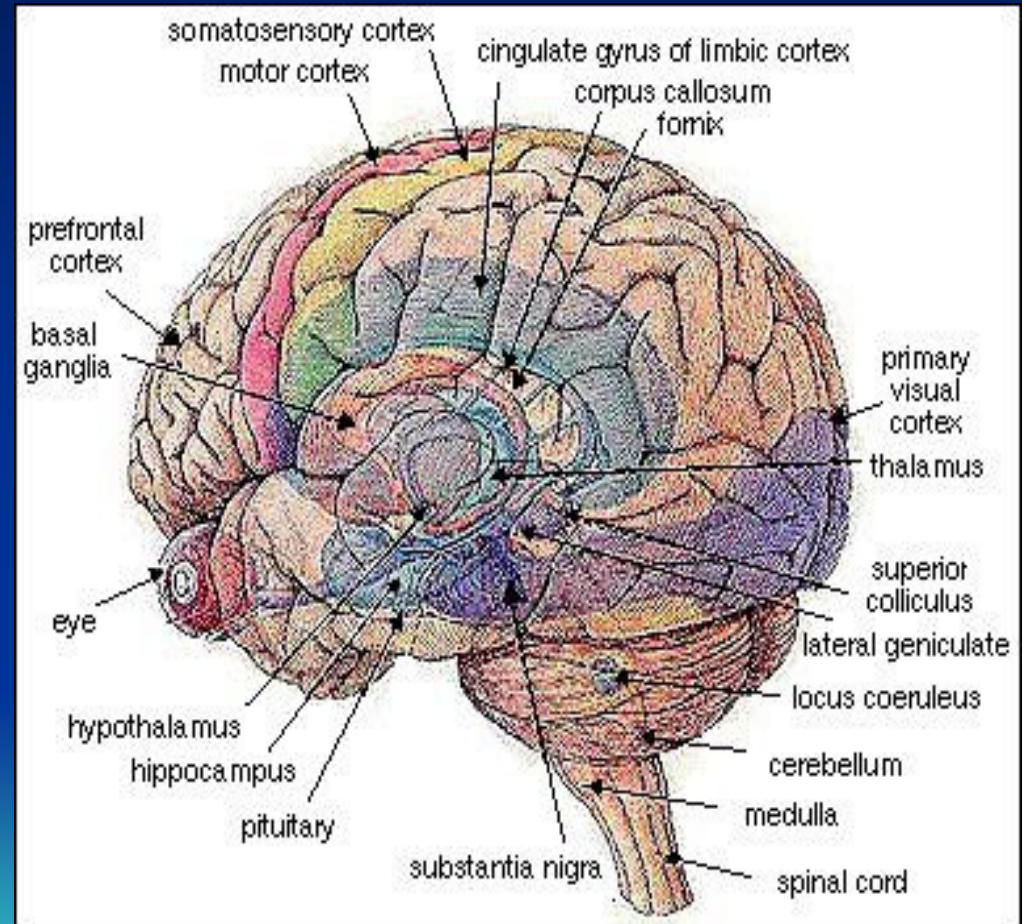
The irrationality is in the behavior of human actions & reactions

- Usually, when we say one is rational or irrational in one's actions, unknowingly we associate the actions to the human brain.
- We quickly find fault in ones actions as if one has the same mental setup to think and act in a fashion that is in conformity with our view.



Human brain is a complex set of organs

- Human brain responds to external and internal factors.
- So, it can be trained into an extremely logical thinking machine to an extremely unjust and illogical unit by a variety of means.
- This aspect is fascinating, particularly because the actions of any given biological entity can be manipulated at molecular, environmental or social level.



Human brain

- human brain is hailed as the most complex object in the universe. It comprises a trillion cells, 100 billion of them neurons linked in networks that give rise to intelligence, creativity, emotion, consciousness and memory.
- Lot of its actions are chemically controlled.
- These chemicals can be produced by environmental factors.



Religion

- When we enter a broader perspective of limits of rationality, where no other living being except humans are involved, we need to investigate the role of religion.
- Among the thought processes of the human mind that translate into actions, religion is the most irrational one.



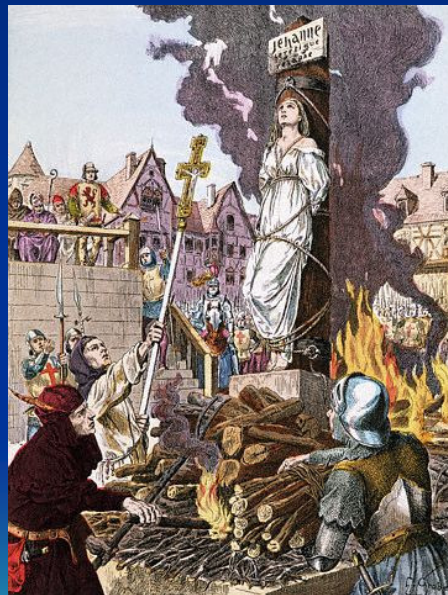
Religion contd....

- Even from most kindergarten commonsense, religion makes no sense, if it proclaims that there is some one hiding on a mountain or sitting in clouds and manipulating everything that is going on the planet earth, and for that matter every where in the universe.
- More irrational part of a religion is when it suggests such a person called GOD is sending out messenger(s) to implement His agenda.
- And yet, human mind and human mind alone caters to such notions and cherishes them with rabid passion.



Crimes in the name of religious irrationality

- Maximum number of crimes are committed in the name of religion than any other one.



Is anti religion answer?

- As religion breeds intolerance one way to reduce the human tragedy is the elimination of religion that connotes to God.
- Communism is in fact that, but that brings some other tragedies. Creativity will be suppressed. Blood on their hands is not less.
- Often those who criticize religion put themselves on a higher altar of hypocrisy etc.



Positive nature of religion

- Spirituality
- Great philosophies have origin in religion
- Creation of arts
- If we travel across India, you will notice awesome beauty in the temple architecture.
- Music, dance etc are derived from the religious convictions.
- A social structure is give by the religion.



Spirituality

- Spirituality is a necessary course of modern medicine-at least in USA.
- Spirituality is not meditation but a concept closely tied to religious belief and faith, a transcendent reality, or one or more deities. Spiritual matters are thus those matters regarding humankind's ultimate nature and purpose, not only as material biological organisms, but as beings with a unique relationship to that which is perceived to be beyond both time and the material world. Spirituality also implies the mind-body dichotomy, which indicates a separation between the body and soul



Arts have origins in religion



Dance

- Indian classical dances have their origins



Music

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Philosophies

- Great philosophies have relation to religion.
- If you take the India, the philosophical treatises such as Upanishads, Brahma sutras, Darsanas, Jain and Buddhist yogas have their connection to the religion



Irrationality in religion- may be is not that bad!

- While we have to accept that religion is irrational, the creation of a creator has not only subtle, but also visible positive impact too.
- How then we balance the forces of evil that accompany the concept with the good that comes out of such a thinking.
- Religion cannot provide the answer.
- Science, which has no power over it, because human mind is not one single organ.
- One can be super intelligent in one aspect, but totally be ignorant in the other.



India and its religions

- It appears that Hindus could balance it by calling it a Dharma rather than religion.
- It is co-incidental and ironic, that this is being discussed as a subject in such an esteemed committee on Indian soil. That is the land where religious views are not bound by any religious law but allowed the freedom of analysis to take the several concepts into philosophical views of superior intellect.
- Probably it is the only place where science and religion did not collide but got integrated into each other.



India and its religion

- While it is left to the individual to strongly or weakly believe in the existence of a super power in any form that comforts him, no impediments were ever created in ones freedom of questioning the existence of GOD or to the arguments that no such thing exists. No time in its history disbelief resulted in persecution. Instead that discussion became a part of their investigation. Such freedom resulted in the generation of philosophical texts.



Is then irrationality an asset for creativity?

- The creation of a super entity is irrational.
- But the faith and belief in this super entity results in creativity if that super entity is given the same freedom as we desire.
- If we take away that freedom from that entity, conflict and intolerance is inevitable.
- As no one can essentially remove the faith and belief, it is necessary to generate mechanisms for moderation.
- This moderation comes from faith itself, it is self regulating system. If the moderation has to come from outside, then conflicts cannot be eliminated.
- The fear of the faithful is the loss of his religion, if he opens it for discussion. While science grows by challenge, religion suffers if it allows a challenge.



Irrationality and rationality
appear to live together as
inseparable interdependent
friends

