



Enquiries Concerning the Human Understanding / Concerning the Principles of Morals

David Hume , Peter Harold Nidditch (Editor) , Lewis Amherst Selby-Bigge (Editor)

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Reprinted from the posthumous edition of 1777 and edited with introduction, comparative tables of contents, and analytical index by L. A. Selby-Bigge. Third edition with text revised and notes by P. H. Nidditch.

Enquiries Concerning the Human Understanding / Concerning the Principles of Morals Details

Date : Published June 12th 1975 by Oxford University Press, USA (first published 1751)

ISBN : 9780198245360

Author : David Hume , Peter Harold Nidditch (Editor) , Lewis Amherst Selby-Bigge (Editor)

Format : Paperback 458 pages

Genre : Philosophy, Nonfiction, Classics, Psychology



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johanna asterisk says

reading again, it's been perhaps three years since i first read this .. and i'll have to say that the content matures within you. revisiting any of hume's texts is a very good idea ... you often see how the concepts connect and apply to the progression of your life experience and perception .. but that's speakig broadly ... what do you think?

Menashe Israel says

If you only read a small portion of Hume, I recommend his essays 'On Liberty and Necessity', and 'On Miracles',—also, his first book in The Treatise on Human Nature. Reading more won't hurt, but those are the immediately useful writings where he made a unique and lasting contribution to the questions we continue to ponder on God and causality.

John says

One of the most concise and easily understood complete works ever conceived. The British Empiricist mind is well structured and seeks at all times to include arguments that are persuasive and logical. A new favorite

says

An amazingly clear thinker. Added the reality concept of probability to philosophy and destroyed it forever.

S.D. says

Empiricism in its purest distillation may be anathema to human nature, but the questions Hume raises regarding our ability to understand – and our claim to have knowledge of – absolute certainties, nevertheless form a basis why we seek to understand, and ultimately why we choose to believe we understand. Hume's Dilemma has no answer, but its inherent contradiction does suggest the shortcomings of everything we claim to know – and in that sense, represents the most basic thing we may most accurately claim to know: Nothing. The Buddha had already addressed this quandary to the East, and later in the West, Existentialism, like Buddhism, sought a solution. Hume offers none, which makes his work difficult to accept... but crucial to comprehend.

Andrew Corrie says

Hume is a deceptively profound thinker. He writes with grace and ease, and even has a waspish sense of humour to boot.

Manny says

Reviewed in two halves:

Enquiry Concerning the Human Understanding

Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals

I thought this edition was quite nice, and if you appreciate footnotes in Latin and Greek you will no doubt like it even more than I did.

Rickard Godzkill says

I am skeptical about this

Mj says

Hume is very easy to read, at least for me, and that made him one of the easiest philosophers for me to discuss in class. Whether I agree with him or not (I still have issues with his reliance on what is popular), I always enjoy picking him up and reading his views.

J.W.D. Nicollello says

Note: pick up this edition soon.

Craig Bolton says

Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and Concerning the Principles of Morals by David Hume (1975)

Travis Lambert says

This would be a great book were it not for the small but fatal fact that Hume's philosophy is entirely false.

Matthew says

I find Hume to be one of the easiest philosophers to read and comprehend. This does, however, make him one of the easiest for me to find slight problems with; this does not, however, make him one of the most incorrect philosophers that I have read.

I think that Hume's problem is his adherence to Pyrrhonian skepticism. Crash course in one sentence: Pyrrhonian skeptics hold that we are to be in a state of perpetual inquiry toward the truth, and that we will likely never actually finish our quest. Hume takes this, but adds that we should focus on what is most useful and what is most popular. But what is most useful? What is popular. What is popular? What is most useful. I smell a circular argument brewing.

Other than that, there is a lot of good that Hume's philosophy brings about, and for that reason he is very important to read. If only he wasn't a Pyrrhonian ...

Sara says

The key work to understanding philosophical skepticism.

Jessica says

A really good read! There were moments where Hume would repeat himself a tad too much and he might have had some faulty logic with some of his ideas, but he's definitely entertaining (in that nerdy philosopher sort of way). If I could do an entire paper on this book without struggling, I know he must have done something right.
