Hume An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding

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a landmark of enlightenment though hume s an enquiry concerning human understanding is accompanied here by two shorter works that shed light on it a letter from a gentlemen to his friend in edinburgh hume s response to those accusing him of atheism of advocating extreme scepticism and of undermining the foundations of morality and his abstract of a treatise of human nature which anticipates discussions developed in the enquiry in his concise introduction eric steinberg explores the conditions that led to write the enquiry and the work s important relationship to book 1 of hume s a treatise of human nature

the scm briefly series is made up of short accessible volumes which summarize books by philosophers and theologians books that are commonly used on theology and philosophy a level school leaving and level one undergraduate courses each briefly volume includes line by line analysis and short quotes to give students a feel for the original text in addition each book begins with a contextualizing introduction about the writer and his writings and a glossary of terms follows the summary to help students with definitions of philosophical terms

enquiry first published under title philosophical essays concerning human understanding includes index bibliography 16th 17th prelim pages

part of the longman library of primary sources in philosophy this edition of hume senquiry concerning human understanding is framed by a pedagogical structure designed to make this important work of philosophy more accessible and meaningful for readers a general introduction includes the work s historical context a discussion of historical influences and biographical information on david hume annotations and notes from the editor clarify difficult passages for greater understanding and a bibliography gives the reader additional resources for further study

an enquiry concerning human understanding is the thesis of a thinker who was a scientist psychologist metaphysician and skeptic who continues to fascinate contemporary minds the product of both youthful fire and mature consideration the enquiry contain s everything of consequence relating to the understanding in the face of skepticism the enquiry offered progress based on experience in a time of dogmatism the enquiry dissected the basis of religious faith and delivered a still powerful critique it endeavors to be nothing less than the construction of an anatomy of human nature

david hume s 1748 enquiry concerning human understanding is a modern philosophical classic that helped reshape epistemology the philosophy of knowledge it is also a classic of the critical thinking skills of analysis and reasoning analysis is all about understanding how arguments work and fit together having strong analytical skills helps to break down arguments pull out the evidence on which they rely and understand the kinds of implicit

assumptions and reasons on which they work reasoning meanwhile means building and presenting arguments forming well structured evidenced and organised cases for a particular point of view hume applied his analytical skills to arguments about how humans know and understand the world and how our minds work at base he was trying to analyse human reason itself to show the workings and limitations of the human mind and show the origins of our beliefs hume went on to apply his reasoning skills creating an enduring argument about the nature of human knowledge the result was one of the most striking and famous works in the history of philosophy

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an enquiry concerning human understanding is a book by the scottish empiricist philosopher david hume this book has proven highly influential both in the years that would immediately follow and today immanuel kant points to it as the book which woke him from his self described dogmatic slumber the argument of the enquiry proceeds by a series of incremental steps separated into chapters which logically succeed one another after expounding his epistemology hume explains how to apply his principles to specific topics i of the different species of philosophy ii of the origin of ideas iii of the association of ideas iv sceptical doubts concerning the operations of the understanding v sceptical solution of these doubts vi of probability vii of the idea of necessary connexion viii of liberty and necessity ix of the reason of animals x of miracles xi of a particular providence and of a future state xii of the academical or sceptical philosophy

over a series of elegantly written engaging essays the enquiry examines the experiential and psychological sources of meaning and knowledge the foundations of reasoning about matters that lie beyond the scope of our sensory experience and memory the nature of belief and the limitations of our knowledge the positions hume takes on these topics have been described as paradigmatically empiricist sceptical and naturalist and have been widely influential and even more widely decried the introduction to this edition discusses the enquiry s origin evolution and critical reception while appendices provide examples of contemporary responses to hume

an enquiry concerning human understanding large print by david hume besides this advantage of rejecting after deliberate enquiry the most uncertain and disagreeable part of learning there are many positive advantages which result from an accurate scrutiny into the powers and faculties of human nature it is remarkable concerning the operations of the mind that though most intimately present to us yet whenever they become the object of reflexion they seem involved in obscurity we are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive classic library collection many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades and therefore have not been accessible to the general public the aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature and our view is that this is a significant literary work which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades the contents of the vast majority of titles in the classic library have been scanned from the original works to ensure a high quality product each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work we hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work and that for you it becomes an enriching experience

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provides introductions to classic works of philosophy this book guides the reader to an understanding of the text as a whole exploring the reception and influence of this philosophical work

an enquiry concerning human understanding is a book by the scottish empiricist philosopher david hume published in english in 1748 it was a revision of an earlier effort hume s a treatise of human nature published anonymously in london in 1739 40 the argument of the enquiry proceeds by a series of incremental steps separated into chapters which logically succeed one another after expounding his epistemology hume explains how to apply his principles to specific topics

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after his three volume treatise of human nature dropped like a rock to the bottom of the pool of british philosophic writing hume set out to write a briefer more accessible version the enquiry concerning human understanding one of the early points it makes is that most endeavors to write about the nature of thought are hopeless and nearly impossible to understand with that disclaimer hume sets out to contradict himself by writing lucidly about while candidly acknowledging the severe limits of this topic he uses logic to show that most human understanding falls into two categories a very small group of innate truths deducible by logic like every triangle has three sides and a much larger group nearly everything we know which is based on reality based observation this latter group always has at a fundamental level an element of probabilistic assumption things customarily happened this way before so they probably will again thus almost everything we think we know about the world is based on empirical experience not pure logic a must read for anyone with even a passing interest in philosophy or modern thought an enquiry concerning human understanding is primarily concerned with the psychological question of the origin of our concepts about the answer to this question the empiricists were all agreed our concepts are furnished by experience which includes both sensory experience and introspection i e the experience of our own mental states

an enquiry concerning human understanding classic philosophical literature by david hume an enquiry concerning human understanding is a book by the scottish empiricist philosopher david hume published in 1748 it was a revision of an earlier effort hume s a treatise of human nature published anonymously in london in 1739 40 hume was disappointed with the reception of the treatise which fell dead born from the press as he put it and so tried again to disseminate his more developed ideas to the public by writing a shorter and more polemical work the end product of his labours was the enquiry the enquiry dispensed with much of the material from the treatise in favor of clarifying and emphasizing its most important aspects for example hume s views on personal identity do not appear however more vital propositions such as hume s argument for the role of habit in a theory of knowledge are retained this book has proven highly influential both in the years that would immediately follow and today immanuel kant points to it as the book which woke him from his self described dogmatic slumber the enquiry is widely regarded as a classic in modern philosophical literature

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