

# Carry the World

Moral Principles in the Freedom Writings of Ayn Rand  
with Christian & Latter-day Saint Analysis



Featuring analysis of *The Masterworks Atlas Shrugged And The Fountainhead*, Unlocked By Insights Of The Restoration

Topics Include: Righteous Industry, Economic Liberty, Resisting the Collectivist, Objectivist Philosophy, & More

R. Nathan Richardson

Updated 3.9.26



Updated 3.8.26

This work is placed in the public domain and may be shared for non-profit educational purposes with attribution (CC-BY-SA).

An at-cost paperback is available on Amazon.

A free PDF of this work is available at [RichardsonStudies.com](http://RichardsonStudies.com).

Nathan is the editor of [RichardsonStudies.com](http://RichardsonStudies.com) and is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



# Contents

## **INTRODUCTORY TOPICAL ESSAYS ON RAND'S TEACHINGS**

.....	5
Introducing Rand's Background & Excellent Teachings	5
Gospel Perspectives in the Language of Objectivism	7
Vanity of Waiting for Afterlife: Flee Evil Now!.....	9
Industry: The Engine of Society.....	12
Creating Out of Nothing Is Indeed Impossible ....	19
The Afterlife & Living for Joy.....	20
The Fight Isn't Rand vs Religion .....	21
Selfishness is Good Indeed – If Defined as Fair-Play & Doing What's Right.....	22
Grace and Works, But Yes, Works Really Do Matter	24
The Not-So-Sacrificial Act of Love .....	26
Exclusive Morals: What You Tolerate (And Don't Tolerate) Shows Your Character.....	30
Bodies, The Sexual System, & The Good / Godly Life: Sacraments of Meaning.....	31
Man is Glorious!.....	33
True Religion Is Not Impractical .....	35
Positive Outcomes of The Fall of Adam, & Mistaken Ideas about Original Sin.....	37
Responding to Specific Claims about the Fall of Adam in Atlas Shrugged.....	39
<b>ATLAS SHRUGGED</b> .....	44
Introducing Atlas Shrugged.....	44

Atlas Shrugged Highlights & Commentary..... 44

**THE FOUNTAINHEAD**..... 119

**Disclaimer:** These notes do not represent all of the authors perspectives, but represent what I found most important in the text. I do not endorse all philosophies suggested by the author. I include commentary on where our views and similar and different, including similarities and differences with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I find the work of Rand very useful so long as the reader can understand where to disagree. I do not generally recommend Rand as reading for children.

## INTRODUCTORY TOPICAL ESSAYS ON RAND'S TEACHINGS

### Introducing Rand's Background & Excellent Teachings



(English: Photo portrait credited to "Talbot" (though not on original dust jacket). Published by the Bobbs-Merrill Company., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

I have found, as with the apocrypha, lots of good in the writings of Rand, and some falsehoods to reject. If the reader can throw out the

bad and keep the good, discerning which is which by the spirit of God, there are things here which can **lead a soul to do good**, work hard, and be a person of integrity.

In particular, the love stories in her novels are often inappropriate. The characters find themselves in difficult situations, but they could have done better despite that. Naturally we don't expect everyone to understand the fullness of God's standards in these matters, but it is nice to find authors who do. Needless to say, I still present my notes on Rand's work as I do believe there are many good lessons to be learned.

Ayn Rand was from Russia and lived under the thumb of political dictators who used religion as just another tool of oppression. Russia under the USSR had no religion, but Rand learned to spot tyranny wherever it exists, and detected some issues in mainstream religions. Given her harsh upbringing, it's no surprise that she is a devout atheist. But don't let this fact scare you away – she has been guided toward many correct principles, even if she doesn't understand how those operate in a religious context. After all, she was not exposed to the fullness of the gospel.

Most of her criticisms of religion pertain to doctrines of modern Christianity that don't match doctrines found in the restored church of Jesus Christ. What I've found in *Atlas Shrugged* are treasures of wisdom. I believe Rand was a godly person, to whom the spirit of God revealed much truth.

President David O. McKay called the great writers of literature “minor prophets” since they taught moral lessons so effectively. I believe Rand would fit in that category.

In D&C 91:1-3, the Lord teaches that the apocrypha is useful if read by someone who has the spirit to discern which things are true and which are false. I feel the same about this text – you can gain great insight from it if you discern the truth from the error. I am awe struck about how much Rand got right, and I thank God that a friend directed me her work! She has more understanding of God’s laws than 90% of the religious preachers of our day, especially those not enlightened by the restored church doctrines found in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and even among them there is a sense of apathy caught from prevailing theories of our time. Rand’s message is a good wakeup call for all of us.

## Gospel Perspectives in the Language of Objectivism

The wonderful writings of Rand need to be approached with some safety rails in place. If we aren't careful we can be outright Korihor style anti-Christ with Rand’s philosophy of objectivism. The sad thing about Ayn Rand's writings is that someone who is uneducated in character and religion may read them and decide that the two don't belong together. For this reason I do not openly endorse Rand, but do point out many lessons from it to those who are aware of and capable of sorting through the truth from the error.

Objectivism is, as is typical of any philosophical theory, truth mingled with error. Here is an attempt to show the good and rid the bad in this fascinating theory. Teachings of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young often reflect the good points of Rand’s theory. Latter-day Saints can have a much better grasp on the truths of objectivism than

any other Christian group. If there is truth, it belongs to the Latter-day Saints. While I believe the restored gospel gives the best perspectives, many conservative thinkers from various faiths will recognize the value of Rand's writings.

Should we only use reason? No, but human nature includes and requires reason.

Is there no God, only what's observable? No, and besides, God is observable.

Are mankind are free? Yes, but God owns earth because he made it. He is the father and legal guardian of its inhabitants.

Did humankind arise from evolution of lower species? Nope. Higher Intelligence is the only reasonable explanation for life on Earth, & the miraculously perfect creation of the Earth itself. Many intellectuals are missing the mark on this important point.

Should you not serve others unless you love them? Sort of, but you can expand who you love, and have more joy in life as you do so.

Should we not sacrifice ourselves, only acting in selfish best interest? Ultimately service to others does build us up. We love God from what he does for us, so it's no sacrifice to serve others for God's sake. We are always in debt to God. Serving God is in our best self-interest.

When we work hard, do we keep all we earn? Yes, charitable giving must be strictly voluntarily. The Enlightenment even showed us how government itself must be contractual. Part of what I earn is my wise and voluntary happy choice to dedicate to the poor, whom I love in the name of God. But no government should take my money for these ends.

Do we love or help the undeserving? We can pay it forward, others helped you too (such as your parents). Use the right system of helping the poor, a covenant / conditional relationship. A relationship only

helping those who are also willing to help themselves. Sometimes this judgement cannot be made, and donating to a group/church is an appropriate and effective way to serve, just as how giving taxes to a small government for a police force can be appropriate and effective.

Ought we be strictly libertarian? Rand's theory isn't necessarily libertarian, but it is something similar. I believe conservatism with many libertarian principles to be correct. I recognize that having laws to keep corruption limited is important. Naturally Rand supports laws to keep out corruption as well, but those with a healthy religious perspective can recognize more readily some types of corruption which should have limits in addition to the basics of not stealing or killing.

Rand is good at teaching how to be strong and push forward. Some see her teachings as selfish, but an appropriate amount of self-respect is appropriate. We don't want more rights for others than for ourselves, for example.

None of Rand's heroes are parents, and Rand herself didn't have children, but we do see how her heroes interact constructively with their employees.

Rand doesn't respect God, but does respect liberty, and the scriptures say the spirit of freedom is the spirit of Christ (2 Cor. 3:17, James 1:25, Rom. 8:21, Alma 61:15, 3 Ne. 21:4).

We will dive into many specifics as we travel through Rand's stories!

[Vanity of Waiting for Afterlife: Flee Evil Now!](#)

Rand speaks of the **vanity of living in mere hope for a better afterlife**. The latter-day prophets have taught that we are to make a heaven out of this earth. Brigham Young said we're **not going to wait for Zion**, we're going to build it! We, like Rand, believe that if we're to enjoy anything, we're to build it! Brigham Young said that if the roads in heaven are paved in gold, it was the saints who paved them! The Latter-day Saint view of heaven is that it is a continuation of life on Earth. In fact, we believe the Earth itself will become a heaven, and will be an eternal inheritance for the righteous.

According to prophecy, we will indeed build a holy city here called the New Jerusalem, and ultimately, we will convert this world into a celestial kingdom of God, which will never fade away! When we speak of "the end of the world," we mean "the end of wickedness in the world." Joseph Smith received a revelation with that clarifier in it. The world itself will never end, but is destined to be an eternal residing place for the lovers of truth. Also remember the doctrine that our bodies will last forever, that death is temporary, that God himself is a person with a body, not to mention that his other half, his wife, is an essential part of his character. Elohim is the Biblical Hebrew word for God, which is a plural word, which suggests "Gods", meaning an exalted man and woman married to each other.

"God" is like John Galt – someone who figured it out and invites us to join him. Joseph Smith taught that God is a person like you and I – so much so that he even has a personal name, "Ahman", though we usually call him Heavenly Father, addressing him by his core chosen role. Twice in the D&C Jesus Christ refers to himself as "Son Ahman." There are other supporting evidences, but this suffices for now. The name of Heavenly Mother is withheld at present lest it be defiled. The the great mystery of the universe is resolved: God is a man and woman married to each other, having posterity, who have cracked the

codes, who have found the key to immortality, and have gained all knowledge. God invites us to join him in eternal blessed life, and His laws are wise advice of a loving parent to bring us more straightway to that end, and to protect us from very real dangers of very real enemies.

The industrialists (as in the honest laborers) in Atlas Shrugged retreat to a private city they build called Atlantis, where they stay until the corruption has passed enough to where they can go and build again in the open. This has a strong parallel to the doctrine of the city of the New Jerusalem as taught by the Latter-day Saints, and my mind was immediately drawn to it when I read the story. That was my favorite part of the book - when Dagny learned of Atlantis. It was like every hope coming true. I almost wept for joy, anticipating the New Jerusalem to be like that – finally, free from oppression. There is great joy when we learn that we are not alone in the freedom fight! There is a flourishing resistance to tyranny and evil!

Rand speaks of not trusting any middle man, but to only trust your mind. At first glance this suggests that we should not have faith in God. Rand doesn't profess faith in God, but I will show how both can exist. The modern prophets have long taught, from Joseph Smith onward, that we should **not just follow others' testimony, but that we should seek a testimony/witness of our own.** Brigham Young took 2 years of investigating The Book of Mormon before he was able to declare that he knew that it was the truth. Once he learned this, he joined the church, and gave his life for it, including serving many missions, and being mobbed out of several homes on account of his faith. Some people have the gift of gaining a witness of the Book of Mormon much quicker than that. The prophets teach that we should not take it at someone's word, but seek our own confirmation of truths being taught by the prophets. The Book of Mormon says in

Moroni chapter 10 that we should seek a witness that the book is true. Witnesses from the spirit are more enduring even than witness of the senses.

## Industry: The Engine of Society

Rand speaks of capitalism and industry as the engine of society. Long have the Latter-day Saints been known for their strong hand in industry, they even called their territory "the beehive state," representing hard work. The Lord Jesus Christ has taught in this dispensation that he gives no temporal commandments, but "all things are spiritual unto [him]": "34 Wherefore, verily I say unto you that all things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal; neither any man, nor the children of men; neither Adam, your father, whom I created." (D&C 29:34). He makes no differentiation between temporal and spiritual laws. In other words, the laws pertaining to finance etc. are ultimately spiritual laws, which we ought not to neglect. Several times Jesus taught of the importance of being wise as to things of the world, though he also called for voluntarily giving of one-self to serve the poor.

Rand speaks of it being immoral to consume more than you produce. Long have the prophets taught that we should get out of debt, live within our means, and save money. The Latter-day Saints do not condemn money. Christ taught "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33). In the Book of Mormon, we read from Jacob in early America, who taught "But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to

do good—to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted." (Jacob 2:18-19). The Christian will serve the poor, and will allow others to fairly keep what belongs to them, even if they don't have the same values about what to use money for.

Rand speaks much of the economic principle of the "invisible hand" as taught by Adam Smith, which is to say that as people consensually trade with one another, the best scenario will be born out of that trading. Instead of stealing from one another, we will have growth in wealth for all. Indeed, this is one of the great ideas of America – that we can generate wealth, not merely trade it around. As we grow in wealth, we will be better equipped to be self-sufficient, care for the poor, preach the gospel, and do the many joyful things the Lord has in store.

This doesn't mean to live with an obsession of money. We can attain sufficient for our needs, provide for our families, and discern from there what the Lord can help us do for the good of humanity. Usually what you feel in your heart to do will be something good, and something inspired, something which god will help us to bring to pass. For some that will be operating in business and generating sizable profits. The religious man understands that everything he has is from God, and that it is wise and good to seek the will of God in all things, including matters of money.

We must all beware being too attached to money and the corrupting influence that can have, but we also recognize that God wants us to be responsible and wise governors. In God's plan the saints will go on to become kings and queens, and that couldn't work if they weren't skilled, temperate, and wise in all things, including economics.

Rand shows that private organizations in the free market are much more effective than government. The Latter-day Saints have shown time and again the superiority of private organizations to government – when a natural disaster occurs, who is the first on site? Not the government, it’s the Latter-day Saints. Financial independence, thrift, and sacrifice in the realm of finance have been repeatedly taught for decades in the latter-day Kingdom of God on earth. Advancing in career, education, and performing quality work are worthwhile standards to which every saint ought to ascribe. True religion teaches a person to advance, not to sit around talking about grace all day. Grace is what puts a fire under us to get us into action.

The Lord taught that “the meek shall inherit the earth.” Meek means in control. Someone who can control themselves with precision. I heard a lesson on meekness once – it was a demonstration of a machine that crushes cars which was finely tuned, such that it could slam down, and stop precisely above where a delicate thing like a pocketwatch is placed, and not destroy the pocketwatch. Meekness isn’t weakness, it is strength harnessed into perfect control. Often the children of light would do well to take lessons from the people of the world when it comes to financial things. It is no mistake that true prophets teach us to be wise prudent and industrious in these matters. It’s not an obsession with money, it’s an obsession with freedom. We don’t want to be reliant on others lest they pull us into their sinful cultures, so we seek to have some amount of self-control and self-reliance. The Lord in the D&C says he sends his servants out to teach, not to be taught. Similarly, in economic things, we seek to help, not be helped (though we all need help sometimes, and in truth God is always helping us). The Bible teaches that God wants to bless his people to be lenders, not borrowers. Financial prosperity is within God’s good will to give, but it must be done according to principles of

justice, that one man should not take the fruits of another man's labor. Abraham Lincoln used this line of logic to battle the slavery question.

Christ taught in his parables that those who do well with the duties given them will be rewarded exponentially and trusted with greater tasks in the hereafter. He also taught that those who do poorly will have their privileges revoked as they are not capable of performing the duties related to them. Here is the parable from Luke 19 to help us understand:

"...He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. 20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. 22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: 23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? 24 And he

said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. 25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) 26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him." (Luke 19:12-26).

Alma taught a similar doctrine in the Book of Mormon:

"9 And now Alma began to expound these things unto him, saying: It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God; nevertheless they are laid under a strict command that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word which he doth grant unto the children of men, according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him. 10 And therefore, he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full. 11 And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; and then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction. Now this is what is meant by the chains of hell." (Alma 12:9-11).

Christ taught of our relationship to being responsible with money in Luke 16:

"And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least

is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" (Luke 16:8-12).

Joseph Smith taught that there is a good form of self-aggrandizement. This is what he said:

"Some people entirely denounce the principle of self-aggrandizement as wrong. But it is a correct principle, and may be indulged upon only one role or plan - and that is to elevate, benefit and bless others first. If you will elevate others, the very work itself will exalt you. Upon no other plan can a man justly and permanently aggrandize himself." (Joseph Smith, Young Woman's Journal, vol. 2, p. 3660)

The Lord also taught that "whoso shall lose his life shall save it." In a sense, **we are what Ayn Rand would have called "selfish" because we expect to be justly recompensed** for the faithful labors we do on this earth, and we are holding out for that reward, even if it takes until the next life to receive it. Even Christ did the atonement because of the joy that was set before him (Hebrews 12:2). **So confident are we in the life to come, that we are already making concrete investments in it.** And yes, we will have our bodies of flesh there and never die.

Prophets and wise men have taught that forced charity isn't charity at all, but is actually the definition of evil. We see "forced charity" when government sets limits on what a business can do, or seizes the property or power of a business, even when they claim that those actions are for the better good. The truth is that the end doesn't justify the means – we can't use evil methods to bring about good things. Tolkien taught this well in *The Lord of the Rings* – the ring wasn't

something a good person can use for good, no matter how good his intentions were.

The plan of Lucifer was that he wanted to ensure that not one soul would be lost, and he planned on doing this by ruling with the iron fist of brute and relentless force, compelling everyone to make correct choices whether they wished to or not. But such **compulsion doesn't lead to the human development** necessary to become like God, to become the best and happiest you can be. God is simply a happy man. The only way the human race can realize its destiny to become like God is in voluntarily electing to obey God's laws. After all, God's laws are merely a communication to us of divine eternal laws governing the universe. God is God because he upholds justice in the universe. If he ceased to do that, he would cease to be God.

When a government imposes high taxes, taxes the people unequally (graduated income tax), or seeks to diminish the work of its people by taking from the rich to give to the poor, they have become criminals. It is easily understood how the plan of forced redistribution damages an individual's sense of worth and diminishes their desire to work. When man was cursed to work, it was for his own sake. If a person voluntarily chooses to give the fruits of his labor to some cause, that is entirely different than being forced to do so.

The idea of being **owned by another person is abhorrent**. Latter-day prophet John Taylor said that he is slave to no one, not even God. He is independent from everything when it comes to his will. I think that quote is found in the Truman G Madsen book on the prophets. This theme is common in Rand's materials, that what we do, everything we do, should be based on our desires. This doesn't mean being an uncooperative brat, it doesn't mean refusing to cooperate with a boss, or that a child shouldn't obey its parents, but that a person should

take a general course in their life which aligns with the interests of their heart, the ration of their mind, and the calling of their conscience. Rand calls this “selfish” from how she sees the world molests the idea of freedom, but **what she calls selfish we could call agency-based values.**

A large theme in this book is that of joy for oneself rather than just living for the joy of others. The Latter-day Saints have this to say on that subject: “Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy.” (2 Ne. 2:25)

## Creating Out of Nothing Is Indeed Impossible

Rand says that belief in a God who creates everything out of nothing is impossible. The latter-day saints agree! Joseph Smith taught that God created things out of existing materials, not out of nothing! When Christ turned water into wine, he did so by re-arranging existing materials, the which he could command as being one with the authority of God, who made owns and controls all things he created. The Hebrew for create can mean organize, and indeed, likely does not imply something from nothing.

Christian creeds of our time do not understand this doctrine, thinking that because God is the first person and first thing, he made everything else. The answer to this mystery is that God isn't the first person or first thing. There have always existed materials and intelligent beings, there is no beginning, and there will be no end. Jesus Christ's father is our father, and our father has a father, and so on. For more evidence on this point including statements from Joseph Smith etc., see my article “Heavenly Father Has a Father” – it is a bold but plain teaching of the restored gospel, a special revelation for the

fullness of times when things are revealed which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Truth is shockingly simple, but is hidden until it is revealed. The most basic facts of life on Earth are the most basic facts of life in heaven – the structure and perpetuation of the family is the whole heart of the mystery of God. For thousands of years the simple celebration of life has been squandered by false doctrines seeking to demote life, bodies, families, and these simple wonders of life. But the truth in God is that these simple things of life are the sweetness and the eternal wonder not just of Earth, but of heaven as well.

## [The Afterlife & Living for Joy](#)

Rand claims that there is no after life. She says that we should not just live for some future happiness. The latter-day saints agree that happiness is indeed the object of life. “Men are that they might have joy” says the book of Mormon (2 Ne. 2:25). The doctrine of the gospel is that joy can come in this life, not just the life to come.

Yes, we live making investments into the next life and that longer-term perspective does make a difference.

Rand is concerned when people live sacrificing to some unknown God who will give people some unknown reward in some unknown existence following death. The latter-day saints have much information on **the nature of God**. For example, we know He is our Father and has a body and lives on his home planet and has come personally to show us his glory and instruct us repeatedly, including in recent times. We have much information about specifically what

**the reward** in the next life will be. For example, we will become God's like him and have an innumerable posterity, which will bring us joy because we love them and like to see them grow, and we enjoy doing things to help them become like us and have joy like us.

Rand makes a very good point about how one person is of no more worth than another, and thus since we are all of equal worth, we should all be allowed to seek **personal happiness** for ourselves. In the gospel we understand that the most joy a person could have is to become a God, or rather, to make the most of themselves, even as God has done. So making choices that lead to godhood bring a person the greatest joy. It just so happens that part of 'the good life' involves helping others.

## The Fight Isn't Rand vs Religion

Rand understands much of what I clarify in these essays well, and perhaps many of her differences with the religious community are overexaggerated, though we can still accept some intrinsic differences. If we aren't careful, we can label those with some differences as being 'the enemy.' It's okay for there to be an enemy (and there certainly are enemies), but we often mistakenly think that those who have similar goals as we do to be the enemy, when we really aren't. An important point to be made is that not all religious people are alike. You might say the philosophies of evil have sunk their teeth into secular and religious people alike (though I would suggest that a religious person has a better shot at avoiding evil in general, particularly when their religion isn't based on falsehoods).

Conservative atheists may have more in common with conservative Baptists than liberal Baptists have in common with conservative

Baptists. This morality divide appears to be increasing. The battle lines are becoming more and more clear in these, the winding-up scenes of the age of evil. Certainly we see this occurring within Christianity – people with with conservative moral views will find more in common with each other than people of ranging moral views who are of the same religion. The point of having a specific religion should be, at least in part, to find a group of people with similar moral values, but today there seems to be a widespread surge in bad ideas that are sinking in even to the religions which were formally known for conservative values.

Rand is critical of religion, and so are the latter-day Saints. Religion has indeed sometimes been used for very evil things historically, though not to the extent that atheists claim. (One cannot compare the Crusades for example with the 20<sup>th</sup> century atheistic wars and communist genocides of the USSR China Cambodia Korea and other places which incurred extremely high death tolls).

Nevertheless, Satan loves to mix philosophies of men with scripture, and it puts a bad taste in our mouths for bogus that is often branded as religion. But the restoration has occurred, and the good taste of pure doctrine has returned! Joseph Smith said he can taste good doctrine, that it is sweeter than honey.

## Selfishness is Good Indeed – If Defined as Fair-Play & Doing What’s Right

Rand often speaks of what many call selfishness to be actually a good thing. The ultimate answer to this is yes, we should all seek what brings us greatest joy. And when Rand speaks of selfishness as good that can only be the case if that selfishness is confined, at least, to fair

play. By this I mean that **if your selfishness extends beyond what is rightfully yours** and you think you can steal to make your happiness the top priority, you have **overstepped natural bounds**. Of course Rand realizes this, and one of the key themes of her books are that theft is wrong, even if it is voted upon and endorsed by the ruling government.

The answer to what brings us greatest joy is following the gospel of Jesus Christ of repenting of our sins. Christ and his Father are prototypical happy people. Indeed, Christ shows us how to reach God. The Father and the Son have maximum joy. If we follow the path they walked (and endless personality and individuality can exist on that path), we too will find maximum joy, and a curiously wonderful eternal increase of joy.

Sometimes it can be seen as selfish when we have high values, and we insist on following them, even though those values are for the greater good. For example, the choice to **insist on marrying in the temple might be seen as selfish**, but it is **the right thing** to do. Like Rand says, we **can't go pandering alms to others just because they ask for it when it is at the expense of our own** lasting happiness. And really, we will be in a better position to truly help uplift others to higher ways of life if we ourselves are so lifted. Let's carry this principle further – if a girl helps some unworthy whelp by marrying him when she knows he isn't worthy of her or worthy of God and the temple, that girl may temporarily bring companionship to the fellow, but not only will she have harmed herself (and her conscience won't let her forget that), she will also have harmed her posterity, who will now not have a strong father to lead them (if the whelp consents to producing any children at all). If she helps the whelp, it will be but a few decades, then they die, and the relationship is over, and what was gained? Someone was a bit less lonely. But if she marries in the

temple, that relationship lasts forever, and the endless seed which they will have will mean exponential blessings upon humanity. She and he become Gods, and in that position, are more empowered to help billions trillions quadrillions, even an endless number of people, to have better lives, to be less lonely, etc. So we thus see that what first appeared the selfish thing is really the selfless thing. You **cannot compromise your destiny without it having a major effect on the generations to come for the worse**. So Rand is completely right that doing the right thing can sometimes be seen as selfish, but ultimately, it is the least 'selfish' thing you can do.

Some have a twisted view of independence as selfish, but what it really is self-responsibility. The latter-day saints have been known for teaching people to work, not just giving them free meals. Though the occasional free meal may be warranted to someone who doesn't yet know how to work, but the real aim of the welfare program of the church is to give people education and training so they can lift themselves up and gain the confidence of providing for oneself.

## Grace and Works, But Yes, Works Really Do Matter

The classic debate between salvation by works and salvation by grace is one where Rand stands (to a great extent) with the saints, calling for works, not grace. The grace involved in salvation is when someone helps us learn to work, and then, and only then, if we work, the fullness of salvation comes. Grace for salvation is unattainable alone, but is available when one fully applies themselves. The Book of Mormon cannot be misunderstood on this point – it says “it is by grace we are saved after all we can do.” (2 Nephi 25:23) This view is different from what many folks have supported. It isn't hard to see how Rand can smell hypocrisy in the over-emphasis on grace for

salvation when it disables people from an understanding of their duties in life.

The prophets have made it clear that **notwithstanding the many gifts** God has strategically given us his children (including the gift of eternal bodies of flesh and bone in which to enjoy and make use of our spirits, and other gifts of forgiveness to penitent persons), **if one hopes to be exalted, it must be earned**. The role of forgiveness is one of **allowing someone to become something**, not one of always being ok with looking in the moral downward direction toward someone.

God is interested in us becoming just like himself. But **can you imagine God as a person who is unqualified to govern the universe, and is just put in that position because he knows somebody?** This is the idea that Rand explicitly rejects in her books. The steel manufacturer sees that it would be immoral to put someone into a position just because, as is the case in the story, he is his brother. He can give some cash to his needy brother, but not a position he isn't qualified for. Charity is one thing, tricking people into thinking that he actually earned the money is something different, and is inappropriate. No, if we are to truly build something great, we must have the skills, we must do the work. Salvation is indeed the gift of Christ, but what we do with that gift is what will make or break us. Just because someone wants to help you become something great **doesn't mean the status of greatness is one where you sit around doing nothing** – that's the opposite of greatness. God Himself continues to "work" (Moses 1:39).

God rules the heavens by justice, he upholds justice, and if he were to cease to be just, he would cease to be God. Mercy only has a part when a 3<sup>rd</sup> party individual steps in and offers to help. And don't think that the help of Christ is without strings attached – it's a good

deal for Christ too because of what He in turn gets out of it – namely, Christ delights in us being on his team and helping him to help others, which thing indeed becomes a delight to the Christian.

God is the governor, and he can't let some people off the hook based on his mood or some plea for alms. Perfect justice is the grand ruling principle of the universe and all organized kingdoms. Only because of Jesus Christ's work on our behalf can we find mercy – Jesus pays the debt of justice, and makes alternative arrangements with us.

Mercy enables us to get up when we fall and keep on trying. Mercy does not enable us to just sit around. Only in walking, in making progress, do we **obtain moral character**. If we think that mercy allows us to remain seating and immobile, we have missed the point, and are damned. We simply **damn ourselves when we refuse to make moral progress**, to refine ourselves to higher levels. Consider the meaning of the word damn. It means to cease, to block, to make no progress forward. The choice is ours.

## The Not-So-Sacrificial Act of Love

They know that even things which appear to be sacrifice really aren't so, because they are a conscious exchange for something better. Giving up a handful of dirt in exchange for an entire world, etc. Rand hates the term sacrifice, Brigham Young also spoke of our using the word sacrifice as being a silly thing, since the rewards of said sacrifices are far greater than anything which was given up.

Paying our debts does hurt Christ. It is a gift. But that's not the end of the story. Christ's sacrifice pleases His Father, and brings us into His kingdom where we will be productive servants, even though God

continues to delight in over-paying us because he can. Christ did the atonement because of the joy that was set before him (Hebrews 12:2). It was a good deal for Him, and for us, a win-win, though that hardly captures the depth of it.

Let us also not think that we have an eternal get-out-of-jail-free card in Christ. The scriptures are clear: the wicked will go to hell, and no unclean thing can enter the kingdom of heaven. The spirit we leave this world with will continue to possess us in the world to come. The grace of Christ is available for those who enter into contract (covenant) with him to keep his commandments. One of those commandments is to repent, and that's more than mere lip service. We can and must come up with some real dedication and fruit for the Lord. We can do it. We can't do it all, but we can and must do something. Call it a 'free will offering.' Whatever you do, you'll be accountable to God, so no funny business.

Rand isn't a fan of the concept of sacrificing ourselves for others. Let's dive in to her perspective, and deeper into what Christians have in mind when they call for sacrifice.

Rand is correct when she explains that when a mother buys food for her children instead of buying a new hat, she does that out of love for her children, and because she loves her children, it's **really not a sacrifice**, she is doing something for someone she loves.

Similarly, God loves us. He is a person with a body and feelings, and one of those feelings is love toward us. Critical is the understanding that God is our father, and that explains **why he does things to help us. He loves it!** I will never forget in the missionary training center, when Elder Holland of the Quorum of the 12 Apostles came to speak to us, and in answer to the question "why does God love us?" he said

it was because of the relationship we had in pre-mortality where he raised us. We truly existed as intelligent beings in a world before coming to this world, a place for our spirits before we obtained our bodies. Elder Holland said that God loves you because he rose you from his knee in pre-mortality – meaning he was and remains your tender parent.

So when a Christian responds to God, desiring to serve the God who loved him first, it's not so hard to understand. A central Christian teaching is to see God in those around you. When you see people as creations of, indeed as children of God, creatures who God loves more deeply than we can comprehend, we understand that serving them is a delight.

Importantly, one must understand the context of the nature of sacrificial service to God. God always repays us for every good thing we do. God has already done great things for us, and we can never repay him because he always pays us more when we choose to serve him. He sends rain on the just and the unjust, and even more blessings on the just. These blessings sometimes initially come in the form of trials because God wants to make us strong so we can handle the weight of more blessings and more glorious responsibilities – but the fact remains that God sends tons of blessings to those who serve him, even if in covert ways sometimes. This life is a test, that fact remains. But there are also blessings of unshakable peace available for the faithful in this life, and eternal life, the greatest gift of all, awaits us in the world to come. You might say we are investors, but we invest in something more precious than gold.

Rand says that love is earned and is for persons of similar morals to those of your own. God shows this type of love when he makes it clear that he won't save everyone, only those who keep his

commandments, particularly the commandment that we love one another as he loves us, and the commandment to repent and want goodness even if we don't fully grasp it. The only way we can learn to happily serve others is if we learn to truly love them. Serving those you love is a joy, and really isn't plain service, but is a mutual exchange of you assisting them in return for the emotional love that they give to you. Further, a parent is recompensed by the fruits of the labors of their children; this is how the glory of God is forever expanding – when his children accomplish something good, the honor of it is heaped upon him, and his glory is exponential and eternal.

To serve others, when done in the Lord's perfect method, turns out to be for the better, not the worse. But when you try to serve others in apostate ways such as excessive government welfare, then you're doing the Devil's work, aka you're bringing more suffering upon the human race by and large. Further, charity must be voluntary, or it is heresy instead. **Forcing others to be giving of what is rightly theirs has never been the Lord's way.** If one voluntarily joins a religion or some society which believes in collecting monies to a higher cause, so be it, but joining that religion or society must always be **voluntary** rather than forced at gunpoint, which is what government laws do: pay it or you go to jail, we take everything you hold dear, we remove you from your family, we take your freedom, for all intents and purposes, do what we say, or you're life is over. And try defending yourself and it'll be over even faster. Government is good when ruled by law, not just a simple majority whim. The entire purpose of the creation of America was to focus more on what the government *cannot* do than what it can do.

## Exclusive Morals: What You Tolerate (And Don't Tolerate) Shows Your Character

God's love of everyone isn't to say he condones all lifestyles. Indeed, you can make the unpopular but true statement that those who obey God and live good lives are loved more by God than those who don't. All at once, God loves us all as his children, and has particular delight in and appreciation for those who have used their agency to elect to serve God and live good lives.

Perhaps you'd prefer to say God loves all equally but delights more in the righteous, but even this isn't quite accurate. On what authority can we make such a claim? On the only authority that allows us to speak for the character of God, that is the scriptures. Indeed, several scriptures are clear that God doesn't just disapprove of the behavior of the wicked, he actually hates those people. Specifically, those who are violent toward others, God really hates that. We can only go so far in persisting that someone 'made a bad choice but isn't a bad person.' Eventually, your actions determine what kind of a person you are. Your actions will serve to refine you into something better, or will bring you down into something truly loathsome.

Rand speaks of love having limits, that **who you love determines who you are**, and that **tolerating anything in the name of love is to throw away reason, morality, and the purpose of life**. A Christian isn't to love everyone in the sense of approving of all lifestyles people choose. No, they are called to **hate the sin but love the sinner**. So the most loving thing a person can do for someone is to let them know how they feel about the destructive path their life is on. Ironically today this is often classed as hate.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks gave a good sermon on this topic called Truth and Tolerance and <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/dallin-h-oaks/truth-and-tolerance/>. Oaks is refreshingly bold on many levels. I've written elsewhere about points Oaks makes in this discourse.

The Devil is sly, and mixes everything up. The true hate is the one that sees someone doing something dangerous, and endorses that behavior. For example, you won't find me at a 'gay' wedding - showing support for such an abomination is far from real love when you understand how singularly evil blasphemous and disgusting such a thing is. Even if they don't understand, you show them that you do by not coming within 10 miles of such an event. You wouldn't go to a child sacrifice party, or a homicide party, or a theft party, or a blasphemy party, so you don't go to parties celebrating other evils, even if they are more socially accepted these days. Someone has to have their head on straight around here. Someone has got to speak up and set an example for how NOT to explode civilization, even if people idiotically accuse him of hate.

## Bodies, The Sexual System, & The Good / Godly Life: Sacraments of Meaning

The saints agree with Rand that sex is a good thing which contributes to the happiness of man, and that sex should not be offered to just anyone, but should be an expression between two people who have the same values.

A few religious people see sex as a bad carnal thing, not quite so many these days as in days before the protestant reformation. Most recognize it as a good thing to be used in proper context. Indeed, religious people are known for upholding marriage and all that

entails as a positive thing. What we don't want is the crazies who say physical intimacy is some sort of tennis sport to be used however one wishes. That's the destructive view that'll bring society to collapse.

Dinesh D'Souza in 'Stealing America' made a great point that capitalism channels greed into something positive similarly to how marriage channels lust into a good thing. Capitalism takes the desire for money and directs it toward creating goods and services that people want. Capitalism prohibits theft conquest and government monopoly. On a related note, marriage takes the desire for sex and directs it to a circumstance of long-term commitment, mutual affection, childbearing, and a healthy environment for raising children by two happy parents. Human nature will remain the same, the key is to channel it into positive things.

Furthermore, look at the obvious logic – the sexual system and fruits it results in must be good, we are made in the image of God, so these things are of God and a part of a godly life. What did you think being children of God ultimately meant anyway? Doesn't Luke 3:38 give a genealogy culminating in Adam, who was the son of God? The Latter-day Saints have been quite clear on this – their official doctrinal statements on the subject from 1909 and 1925 state that man kind is the "literal" and "direct lineal offspring" of God. Ah, what refreshing clarity!

Rand suggests that we give ourselves to the highest person we can see, even so far as to abandon one love for a better one. It is better to climb with whoever one choses, not just cancel all the investments you and your partner have been putting into the marriage. Marriage is to involve permanent commitment.

Several cases are shown in Rand's stories where the spouse is not at all emotionally supportive, and in some rare cases of this nature a divorce can be justified, such emotional vacancy being a great betrayal.

Christians today buy into Greek philosophy in saying God has no body, and that our bodies are useless. Rand sees through that, and places high value on the body, and calls relations therewith as a good thing - as do the latter-day Saints. The saints are given more knowledge on when those relations should exist, namely marriage, and that such a relationship can extend beyond the grave in a post-mortal resurrection where the body is reunited with the spirit literally and forever. The Latter-day Saints are some of the few remaining believers in the truth that God Himself has a body of flesh and bone and is an exalted man.

Rand doesn't know of these things, but has a good lens on many truths. She sees that the things of this world aren't bad. Jesus said in the beatitudes, that blessed are the meek (meek can mean in control of one's self), for they shall inherit the EARTH. Things of the earth aren't bad. Wealth isn't bad, but it often tries the souls of those who possess it. In the text you'll see a wealthy man who doesn't give jobs to unqualified people, etc. This isn't bad, it's good judgement. Jesus said we should not throw our pearls before swine. The Latter-day Saints would agree with many of these points, and they envision the Earth as a future heaven.

### [Man is Glorious!](#)

**Rand speaks of mankind as though man is God. The latter-day saints echo this teaching**, that mankind are inherently good, that they

can become as God as they improve themselves, and that God came from the same place that we are.

The famous teaching of the latter-day saints as taught by Lorenzo Snow is “**As man now is, God once was: As God now is, man may be.**” (<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teachings-of-presidents-of-the-church-lorenzo-snow/chapter-5-the-grand-destiny-of-the-faithful?lang=eng>) What an exalting teaching! The Latter-day Saints have a lofty view of man indeed!

The Latter-day Saints also see Adam as an exemplary man to be revered, and one who is in high authority. When you want to launch a good university, you start with smart people, and hope it keeps going that way. So it is with Earth – the first people on it were very righteous and great candidates to launch the human family.

In these matters the saints stand unashamed and welcome the scorn of the fallen world. We know these truths to be eternal, and we hold the dignity of man in sacred regard.

Let this not be confused with evolution theory. Man is the offspring of God, the same species as God, so it is not a stretch to understand that man can become as God is. The Latter-day Saints take the exact opposite view of evolution – that man originated from God above, not from the animal below. Rand doesn't get this point, she buys into the evolution non-sense that so many have, but if she understood this point she would be even more emboldened in her declarations of the majesty of man.

In short, God sent us to mortality as a sort of schooling experience, and we expect to graduate therefrom and return home to participate in the family business.

Joseph Smith said that self-aggrandizement is a true principle inasmuch that when we lift others, it automatically lifts us.

It seems increasingly obvious that the more science we unlock, the greater our abilities become, the more we understand and approach God. How much longer can the world doubt that we are on track to divinity, and indeed, not so different from the divine?

## True Religion Is Not Impractical

Joseph Smith was a very hard worker, so was Brigham Young, they understood that **religion isn't just thinking** about things, it is doing things, building cities, etc. The Latter-day Saints are a very practical people all in all, and Utah is the fastest growing place in the nation with the most robust economy.

The fact that Christ taught 'the laborer is worthy of his hire' shows that it's not a sin for someone who works hard for his wage to enjoy that wage, whilst a beggar who doesn't work only gets crusts of bread, if that, for sustenance. The Bible also says that those who don't work aren't worthy to eat. It's harsh, but it's life, and it's fair. Scarcity and the need to work are excellent teachers, they exist by design.

Joseph was known on the crews he worked on for his excellent work, and he was among the strongest of men as a natural result. He was also known for being able to get those around him to work which made him all the more valuable laborer. These men were called to a higher work of building the kingdom of God, but still did things like chopping wood and constructing magnificent buildings.

You might say they left the normal corrupt cities and built their own Atlantis. Surely Rand must have her hat off to some extent with the saints fleeing Babylon and settling out in the west. Rand is a great admirer of America and how it was it's own independent land of liberty, and that principle continues on, that we can and should leave corrupt societies to seek better ones. Was there still manual labor and engineering to be done in their new cities? Oh yes. When we flee to a better land, it won't be fleeing away from work, but merely fleeing to where people will let you work in peace without infringing upon your rights.

Brigham Young said he knew where to go in the mountains to find metals enough to make the saints all rich, but such was not needed. He also said the greatest trial is riches, and few can endure such without becoming corrupt. He feared for the saints in these matters.

God expects people to improve themselves, and that the faster they improve themselves, the faster they will inherit the blessed status of divinity, the majestic cities of endless prosperity from pure freedom, and so forth. Truly God wants for nothing, and so can it be for us.

Rand doesn't answer all questions of philosophy, but it is true that such things as world hunger etc., the things which the liberals say are reasons for socialism, are really only solved in capitalism. It is also true that the Bible says the world lies in sin in that one has more than another. But in the process of bringing everyone to a higher status, there will always be employers and employees, and the employers will necessarily need more resources to fund their operations. It is noteworthy that Joseph Smith was very generous, and gave away everything he had to others multiple times, but was also a store keeper, and had people work when they begged bread of him rather

than just giving it away. Of course to the feeble and the widow, the case would be different.

## Positive Outcomes of The Fall of Adam, & Mistaken Ideas about Original Sin

Rand says that what happened at the Fall of Adam when he took the fruit was a series of good things, not evil. The latter-day saints agree! As Rand says, the results of the fall are described in the scriptures as a time when humans learned to work, they learned sexual pleasure, they learned the difference between right and wrong. Yes! These are all good things! Not to mention the blessing of posterity! The “Fall” of Adam was part of God’s plan from the beginning. The Fall did bring us from immortality to mortality, it brought weeds and decay, but it was necessary, important, and brought us forward in our progression and abilities. The Fall was an essential element of creating a situation for us on Earth where we could grow.

Rand points out that the doctrine of “original sin” is most abhorrent. The latter-day saints agree! While most Christians teach that man is inherently evil, the latter-day saints stand with Rand in the knowledge that the basis of the human race is a good one, and that no one should be punished for something that happened before they were born. Consequences must be earned. Brigham Young and others have made strong statements on these matters, confirming that humans are inherently good. People can build and be productive because such is their nature.

But it is also true that the nature of people is currently a fallen one – that we desire bad things like idleness. Indeed, children must be trained to have a good character, they won't figure it out on their own. Another important aspect of this is that we don't give too much power to one person, as the nature of most people is to be corrupted by power, or rather, to use power in a corrupt way. People are good and worthwhile and have great potential, but they need help to access that potential. Help from God, help from parents, and ideally, help from a good society that recognizes human rights, the importance of freedom's being protected, and filth that should be treated with derision, will all work together to help a person grow into the best they can be.

Did evil enter the world at the fall of Adam? Not really. Adam and Eve went on being good people, though they were given some handicaps at the Fall when compared to some of their earlier abilities. The Fall was a time of gaining some things and losing others. The time when evil came is when Cain chose to forsake good, and be evil. Cain nor anyone else is born evil, becoming evil is a deliberate choice people make. We all have the ability to choose good or to choose evil. Babies are never evil, they just haven't yet learned to fight evil. Children are innocent. Even when children learn some bad habits, those actions are not out of evil. It is when a person is older that they chose between good and evil. Children are greatly benefited when they have responsible parents who will help them learn good habits, which will greatly aid the grown children to choose good over evil. Indeed, a parent has great power to bless or curse the lives of their children, and which way they steer their children will be answerable upon their heads at the day of judgement either to their eternal blessing, or eternal cursing.

We are all tempted to be evil, and invited to be good. God's plan puts parents in a high position as children have such a great need of training. Of course every parent learns that the child also has much to teach the parent with their inherent goodness.

These things being said, it is clear to see why things like baptizing babies is an evil practice, since the essence of baptism is to cleanse oneself and make a statement about which direction you are going to take in life, and babies are already pure, nor are they ready to make decisions about which way to go in life. Jesus was baptized to show us how an adult should live, and we follow his example. He set the perfect example. The Father has commanded that baptism is to be a universal ordinance performed for all who have reached the age of accountability (8 years of age) who desire to belong to the fold / kingdom of God.

## Responding to Specific Claims about the Fall of Adam in Atlas Shrugged

This is an excerpt from my notes on Atlas Shrugged pertaining to the Fall of Adam. I summarize Rand's message, and add my commentary after it in notes:

Don't start your philosophy by saying that man is evil; that's setting us up to fail. We come from a standard of good, not a standard of evil.

*Note: Brigham Young taught that Adam and Eve were two of the greatest people that ever lived. Hugh Nibley teaches that the first humans on earth were like the founders of a great university – the university starts with*

*brilliant people, setting the example for the students to follow. The beginning mankind was not by idiots in caves, but by brilliant and righteous minds. Many atheists bash Christians for stating that mankind fell in Eden, and that mankind are fallen. But this is an obvious fact. Though innocent, children haven't learned to overcome evil, and must learn that. The evil they must overcome is in themselves. But it is a hopeful prospect. We don't look upon mankind with disgust, but with hope. The truly dreadful outlook is that of evolution theory – that we came from nothing with no purpose and are mere immoral animals. End note.*

The idea of original sin is to say that you are bad to start off with, without even doing anything wrong - this is a slap in the face of morality; this is not logical because if man is evil by birth, he has no power or will to change it.

*Note: But it should be recognized that human nature is such that most people are corrupted by power, so we should not trust a single person with too much power. There are many simple ways we can see that our nature is fallen. This is why free trade is the ideal – we set basic ground rules like honesty, and then we can work well together. Many people cheat and lie, and we have checks on that. Checks on power, a court system, and so forth, because we always have to keep our fallen natures in check. Just because we recognize the need to hold each other accountable doesn't mean we need a pessimistic outlook on life and humanity. Rand writes entire books, including this one, about how people have a tendency to try and be lazy and steal from others while wearing masks of legality. These are the realities we face. End note.*

*Note: Modern prophets teach that the doctrine of original sin is, on many levels, false. Adam transgressed the law and did fall, but it was part of the plan, part of forward progress. The fall was not sinful. If people become evil, it's because they choose to be evil. Cain is the time when evil really came into*

*the world, Adam and Eve were righteous, and evil only came into the world when someone deliberately chose it.*

*Note: Babies do not need baptism because they are not evil. Babies are innocent and wonderful, and not yet in the realm of the battle between good and evil. But when we grow, evil grows in the heart, and must be stopped. Babies must begin to learn how to control themselves, but the moral weight of those choices isn't fully in effect until a later age, like 8, and more fully by a young adult age, like another 8 years, being 16. End note.*

**To hate the human race because of its nature is to hate nature.** And to judge someone for something they did before they were born is to negate justice.

*Note: This is one way that the restoration clarifies the doctrine of the fall. As the second latter-day saint article of faith states, "we believe that man will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression." We have fallen natures, but it's because we are learning to grow. It's part of how life was meant to be, part of the test. When it comes to sin/crime and punishment, each person is accountable for their actions, not the actions of their parents. One point to clarify here is that a person's choices will impact those around him, even if those around him are innocent. In this sense, a family can be 'punished for four generations' because of something their parents did. But these things are part of the learning and growing process. Nothing we suffer is in vain, it all contributes to build us into stronger characters. One person can have a great impact on others for good or ill. That's natural. Religion and God are not about hating people, but about recognizing the natural state we are in, and making the best of it. End note.*

The code of the socialist who takes things from others and considers people evil, this is a man who apparently believes that both justice and nature are evil.

To say that we have original sin is like playing a game with weighted dice; no matter what we choose, the outcomes are going to be determined and this would not be fair. Never delete the importance of our reasoning power; our minds are our ability to create and the vitality of our life in general.

*Note: We all have weaknesses, but they can be overcome, particularly by the grace of God, and most particularly by the grace of Jesus Christ. People can change. Life is a challenge. Will we make excuses, or take on the challenges and rise above? End note.*

Reason, morality, creativeness and joy - these were all the things that happened to Adam and Eve when they ate the fruit of the tree, and yet (mainstream) society says that they became evil when they ate the fruit of the tree. What we call the fall of man in the Garden of Eden is where they really learned things of morality, judgment, creation, and these were all good things that enabled them to live life and made them human; someone who doesn't have these things is not really human, so when they gained the power to know right and wrong and to create and have joy; that's when they really became fully human, which is a step forward not a step backward.

*Note: Oh, how the latter-day saints agree with this! The fall of Adam was a step forward, not backward! That's when they became able to have children and know sorrow so that they could know joy! We call it a fall since they came from God and moved from immortality to mortality, but that step was a necessary part of our training. So when understood in its full context, the doctrine of the fall teaches us about the inherent dignity of mankind, and of their potential for greatness. We must recognize our origins as being from God above, not animal kind below. End note.*

Many say the body of the human is the evil thing, the bad thing, but it's the body of the human that is the good thing; it's how he works; it's how he has joy; it's how he exercises judgment and moral reason, both of the mind and the body.

*Note: Absolutely. The restored church of Jesus Christ teaches that even God himself has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's, and that the human race is destined to retain their bodies forever when the resurrection occurs. Our scripture even says that the spirit separated from the body cannot have a fullness of joy. (D&C 92). Fallen views have crept into Christianity over the ages, but the gladsome restoration which began in the 1800s brings back many plain and precious truths. End note.*

Some have split man into half saying the spirit is good and the body is bad. In reality, the whole man is good. You can't cut him in half. It all works together, you need all of it. Those who claim that God is some incomprehensible thing somewhere are denying reason and are utterly contemptible.

*Note: Indeed, Satan wants us to not understand God; the God fitting in your heart and being everywhere at once notion is false; God has a body and can be only in one place at a time, though His influence can be felt in many places, and His ability to know all things from information transmitted from all of His creations is a reality. God can be comprehended. Life eternal is to know God and the Christ He sent. Both body and spirit together form the eternal soul, and neither should be treated contemptibly. End note.*

# ATLAS SHRUGGED

## Introducing Atlas Shrugged

Atlas Shrugged is about industrialists who uphold society, and the evil of socialism, or getting unearned goods via government taking from the industrialists (the people who actually create goods and services).

A railroad executive watches as industries of coal steel cars banking and other industries fall apart as leaders in those fields one by one disappear as a result of government nationalizing their creations, and otherwise taking from the workers and giving to the looters.

The industrialists go on strike, showing that without their support, society fails. The industrialists prove to the looters that no amount of philosophizing can justify them in ever consuming and never producing.

## Atlas Shrugged Highlights & Commentary



Here are some highlights of the plot and characters of the text and their philosophies. Rand attacks the more radical elements of society. Rand teaches against socialism and a non-merit-based social structure. The emphasis I've placed on these notes is demonstrating good work ethic and principles of freedom, which seem to be all but lost to this generation of socialists who are looking for other people to work for them, trading freedom for the weak easy shallow lifestyle the government welfare state has to offer.

I've intermingled these notes with additional commentary of parallels between the teachings of the Latter-day Saints and those of Rand.

I have many agreements with Rand, but disagree with her religion bashing. Due to some places mixing in some foolish ideas, I don't recommend this book for young readers, particularly not without structuring and guidance from adult mentors. If a person isn't well grounded in Christian principles, they may not be able to discern between the truth and error found in Rand's books.

Notwithstanding its limitations, this book is a great chapter in the annals of freedom writings.

Audio of the complete text can be found at archive.org in the public domain at this

link: [https://archive.org/details/AynRandAtlasShrugged\\_1957](https://archive.org/details/AynRandAtlasShrugged_1957)

A pdf of the full text can similarly be found

here: <https://ia800305.us.archive.org/19/items/AtlasShrugged/atlas%20shrugged.pdf>

Further, the Ayn Rand website folks will send you a free copy of the text if you contact them and commit to reading it.

Let us now begin to explore the story:



Dagney Tagart, the railroad executive heroine, uses the common the phrase, "who is John Golt," which meant "nobody knows." People used the phrase as an excuse to get out of thinking, to shift responsibility elsewhere, to excuse idleness, etc. (Note: It is like how people today say, "Only God knows!" John Galt is essentially a prototype of a God in the text - the ideal, the standard, the judge who walked the walk. End note.) When people say, "Only God knows", they are avoiding their duty to investigate and find the answers themselves. So she built a railroad and called it the John Golt. When asked, "Who is John Golt?", she said, "We are." This means rather than stopping, you keep going even when you have questions. You take personal responsibility for greatness rather than always looking for someone to shift the blame to. You don't shift hope for success to the government or anyone else. Rather than sitting around in a stupor, we get to work and build great things and make great profits. We carry society by our work. To refuse to think is evil.

*Note: Many have used the bumper sticker "Who is John Galt?" as a way of passing in the freedom message. End note.*

Hank Rearton the steel business owner here worked 18-hour days. When something went wrong Hank **blamed no one but himself**. Hank learned to enjoy social parties/pleasures not for his sake but theirs.

*Note: Similarly, much of church services are being there to serve others, not just to learn new things. And particularly as a parent, you enjoy outings not for the outing sake, but for the children, and the simple joy it is to be with them and see them happy. End note.*

Francisco Danconio, the copper mine owner, let a large mine project in Mexico fall apart because he was **experimenting with conforming to what everyone saw as good** in the philosophy of his day, namely anti-capitalism, and that making a profit is evil. The masses said that owners were greedy and selfish and that it's good to give people jobs because they need them, not because they're skilled. They said that the purpose of a job is to give someone work rather than to produce something. He didn't bother going to the mine, he just left it in the hands of people who needed work who weren't really talented. He didn't bother them with his presence since it's not okay for a boss to be 'mean.' It all fell apart and then people blamed him for the loss. He asked them, "Why are you blaming me when you should be praising me? I've conformed to everything that you say is virtuous."

If you have good intentions and an honest offer/product, you don't need to spend much time getting acquainted.

*Note: Something similar applies to courtship. Honest people can quickly learn each other's intentions and character, and prolonged courtship won't be necessary before forming a stable happy marital union. This, I believe, is one reason why Utahans are known for marrying younger and staying married longer than other American marriages on average. End note.*

The employer says I hired you to do a job, not to do your best, whatever that is.

You can't bring the Fountain of Youth - which is on a mountaintop - down to man, it can only be had by those who will go up.

Rearton would not give a job to his brother just because he was his brother. It would be a fraud giving him a salary for something he could not perform, and Rearton's business would thus be reduced to a whore house, putting on an air of something while something else entirely was the reality. Rearton gave money to his brother when he asked, but giving him a **salary for a job he couldn't do would be dishonest**. If his brother wanted charity he could have it, but not under the false pretense of having earned it.

*Note: The comparison to a whore house works on the following level: A woman is a lot of things. One part of that is her sexuality. When you say 'come have a woman for \$,' such a thing really can't be done. You might have some of her, but not all, and not the best of her. Without the mind and heart, the soul is not there. In purchasing a prostitute you get something of a ghost, not a full person, sort of a half-dead zombie. The whore pretends to like the person she is hired out to, but it's all fake. People with half a brain have realized long ago that sex without a permanent fully committed relationship is nothing but a cheap trick, and leaves both parties ultimately alone and depressed. It is no wonder that religious texts denounce sexual relations outside of marriage as one of the greatest sins. What a mockery to God the Father and Creator of mankind. Don't bring His majestic creation, His child, down to the level of an animal! To blaspheme the created is to blaspheme the Creator! Animals actually have it better than prostitutes, at least they get to have and enjoy offspring! Cursed be every man who employs a woman for mere sexual mechanics! He will soon learn that his investments in these*

*things have left him fundamentally broken. If he does not turn and elect the grace of Christ, he will be forever damned. Rand would agree with this line of logic, even if she wouldn't clothe it in religious terms. Strangely, libertarian John Stossel, though some of his work is brilliant and he is a fellow admirer of Rand, doesn't get any of this and thinks legal prostitution is a fine idea. End note.*

To be without purpose is the cardinal sign of a lack of character.

The title Atlas Shrugged suggests that when the people whose work upholds society stop getting rewarded for what they do, they stop doing it, and everything falls apart. If the more Atlas struggles, the heavier it gets, he will shrug. (He can't hold an arbitrarily and increasingly heavier burden than what he already has.) When the more you push, the harder it gets, you shrug. The thought of looters using your product instead of honest men makes you want to destroy your product.

Those who live off others instead of working to make their own living are letting their wonderful existence go by in vain. (We are meant to create!)

Industrial champions who carry the weight of the world on their shoulders believe that everything is something. These industrial champions were often called greedy and self-centered but really they were the ones helping the most people via their products.

*Note: Dinesh D'Souza in Stealing America points out how the two most charitable groups of people, who spend their time tending to others, are capitalists and clergy. Capitalism is how the human trait of greed is channeled into something positive. End note.*

The crazy mainstream philosophers tried not to show the meaning of life, but that there was no meaning of life.

When the government tried to buy the business away from Hank Rearton, who was wildly successful, the government worker threatened Hank and told him that little businesses were suffering because of his big business. Hank would not sell even though his purpose in business was to get a profit, and the government offered him a very large profit. He would not sell because the Rearton metal was his product and he felt that it would be **immoral to just take a bunch of money to not give any service**, that it would be deception and **lying to take a great product off the market just because it was great**.

The great banker would not give a loan to someone who started to ask for the money based on personal pity for their circumstances. The interview ended immediately whenever someone started to do that. He considered it **evil to take advantage of people's pity by basing a loan on that**. It was said that the great banker had the Midas Touch, whatever he touched turned to gold; he said it was because he knew which things to touch.

The greatest philosopher worked at **making his living not because he had to survive but because it was the morally right thing to do**. He was the last philosopher who believed in the value of work. Action is man's foremost obligation, regardless of anything he feels.

*Note: Often we have to push through and just get working even when we don't feel like it. Learn to do that and you'll be successful no matter what.  
End note.*

*Note: As for doing physical labor, there are interesting accounts in the Book of Mormon of societies where their preachers (you might say philosophers/teachers) taught freely, and worked just like everyone else. They had a day job and taught on the side as a public service. Socrates was also famous for being leery of the professionalization of teaching. Rand is a big advocate of being paid for everything, but there may be situations where some things are better left to volunteerism. End note.*

People don't like to think, thinking is hard. So when someone comes along preaching that we don't need to think, they cling to that making what they know is their sin (laziness) seem to be a virtue.

It is most corrupt to suggest that the strong should not be able to accomplish things in order to protect the weak from feeling weak or of low self-esteem.

It is a sign of weakness to want to be surrounded by people who are inferior to you. It makes you very bored if that's the future in store for you. Men who are really great want nothing more than for everyone around them to become like them, of the highest intelligence. *(Note: Including their children.)*

Hank would not sell to the government because the government had done so much damage to his business. Selling to the government would be like manufacturing the weapons of his own destroyers. The government had turned his business from a thriving thing which could research new things and do exponential things into something that was barely alive. The government was forcing him to sell certain people certain amounts of his product, taking away from him the rights of his own product, all in the name of a national emergency. But no one really defined the terms of what an emergency was, or to

whom it applied. The government just used that as an excuse to feed the people without their having to do any work.

It is a sign of confidence for a woman to wait for her husband to come home in glad anticipation; the world today makes it seem like a woman is weak when she does that. In reality, this woman knows she is worth coming home to, worth anticipating.

The term “governmental scientific inquiry” is a contradiction of terms.

Getting paid for something you don't do/earn is terrible, but earning high profits for what you do is honorable. An **honest man won't consume more than he has produced.**

*Note: And a holy man won't use more than he needs, even if he has earned it, but will consecrate it. The holy man recognizes that all belongs to God, and that God has blessed him and wants him to share and invest in meaningful ways. End note.*

Francisco's speech on money at Jim's wedding: Money isn't the root of evil, but of production.

*Note: The bible rebukes the love of money, not money itself. All reasonable people understand the role of money in freedom. End note.*

Looters who steal money and moochers who cry for money are evil, but minds that create products that money represents represent the sum of human achievement. Living by trade, the best product, the best performer wins.

Francisco's speech continues: Trade means gain, not loss. Trade means we must deal with others by giving them things rather than whipping and driving them like beasts. **Trade sets us apart from the beasts** and sets each person equal to his neighbor, everyone gaining based on his effort and skill. **Money will not buy happiness for a man without purpose.**

*Note: In other words, if you just want money for the sake of money rather than from making meaningful contributions to society, your money won't make you happy. You can't live for money. End note.*

Francisco's speech continues: **If an heir is equal to his money, he thrives on it.** If not, it destroys him. **If the source of your money is corrupt, you've damned yourself** and will have no joy but shame instead. If you sell a bad product which plays on the weaknesses of men then the money you make won't bring you joy. (*Note: junk food, porn, drugs, and stupid junk come to mind. End note.*) If you steal your money, if you deceive others as to its worth, then money won't bring you joy. Money is a source of virtue if it was rightfully earned. Those who scream that money is evil are the first ones to sell their soul for a nickel. They are upset that the money they wrongfully obtained won't ease their seared conscience. Looters prey on rich people who hate money and take it from them quickly. **Those who earned their money respect it.** Those who got it by fraud hate it.

Men today try to exist not by right but by favor. They don't seek to earn their way, but to have their way paid for them.

When a corrupt person inherits money, it's not the money that corrupts him, **it's he that corrupts the money.** Furthermore, the person who is worthy of inheriting money is the person who **would have gained wealth whether or not he inherited** money.

Pandering to men's vices and catering to fools are corrupt ways to make money. Money gained in that way will not bring you true satisfaction. Those who have gained money in a corrupt way will see that all the things they buy with their **money will haunt them** rather than bring them peace. People who obtain their money in a corrupt way are who claim that money is evil.

Your money is the sign of the achievement of your greatest thinking; when you trade with other people, you're trading your best thinking and work for their best thinking and work. Those who say that money is evil are usually leeches trying to get your money. Money demands of you you're highest virtues if you wish to make it and keep it.

Those who do not defend their money as they would their life are those who do not have joy in their money; they will soon lose their money because the smell of the **looters who have been hiding under rocks come out at the first sign of someone who apologizes for having money**; they will hasten to relieve him of the guilt. People today consider it an unforgivable sin to like money and property, but these are the very things that motivate people to great achievements, which have a byproduct of helping everyone, bringing a booming economy.

Hitchhikers of virtue are those who live by force, who seek men of industry to create the meaning behind money, and then seek to take the money without creating any meaning themselves; it's a double standard.

Just because they just pass laws saying that you can loot someone via the government doesn't make it okay. Money is the barometer of a society's virtue, and you know that the society has **run out of virtue**

when trading is done **not by consent** but by compulsion. (*Note: And it is immoral to vote away the rights of others. End note.*) Society has no virtue when you need permission from the man who produced nothing.

Society has run out of virtue when men work not to produce goods but favors. Another sign of corruption is when the laws of the country don't protect the producers but rather protect the looters from the producers' rights. Money is so noble that it won't compete with guns. a society which is half production and half looters will not survive. When you make the means of surviving into something evil, do not expect men to stay good.

By not using money that's backed by gold and instead using checks that can bounce, it is just the looters holding others at gunpoint to provide for their checks and paper money; the financial bubble will burst, and men will be evil to hold up the corrupt standard.

Do not expect them to produce when producing is punished and looting is rewarded. Money is the lifeblood of production, and when people condemn the money industry, it fails, and people wonder why society crumbles around them.

When people condemn money, they start reverting to the savage jungle lifestyle, stealing existing resources from each other rather than producing goods to sell.

America is the first country in all of history that was built on justice, reason, and freedom. Throughout history, people have condemned industrialists and workers as people who create products, and they have exalted the looter aristocrats who sit around and take things.

When people are set up in slave scenarios, there's very little that can be gained; now that we are not in slavery we can have a free mind and be free to produce. There's a lot more to be gained that way. Freedom generates more prosperity than slavery, even if you're the slave owner.

*Note: People work better when offered something! Slavery has ended not just for moral reasons, but because it doesn't house the creative genius that a free market does. The blessing of God is upon freedom, bringing greater prosperity therewith! End note.*

Americans are the people who first invented the phrase "to make money." All other nations considered that money and goods are things that are given back or forth, a zero-sum game; but **in America, we make money, we build rather than take**. We create rather than conquest. Looters think that money is only obtained from inheritance, begging, or stealing. "To make money" is a phrase that represents virtue.

You'll be destroyed until you realize that money is the root of all good; it is how we trade with each other. (*Note: Or rather, freedom to trade is the root of good. End note.*) You can either have whips and guns or dollars - there is no in-between; those are the only two systems. (*Note: Freedom or captivity. End note.*)

The city wanted to force Hank to sell his products to them even though it would mean hurting his own company; he told the government that they could take his metal like a robber, seizing it from him, but he wouldn't sell it to them; he **wouldn't accept any money in exchange to make it look like it was a fair or voluntary deal**; if they're going to take it, **they could take it, he wasn't going to pretend like it was an agreeable deal**. If they wanted to arrest him he

wouldn't go quietly; they would have to do so at gunpoint. He wanted everyone to see how the government was behaving like a mob rather than to help the government make it look pretty and normal that they were seizing his property.

You earn your own living; that is the key. When Hank was that Court the accused of not being interested in the public good (because he wouldn't let the government seize his products in the name of a supposed emergency), he told them that his efforts have helped the public good more than they ever would, but that his freedom to do his business wasn't based in the fact that it was doing a lot of good for the society. His freedom was based on the fact that he is a free individual allowed to exist, allowed to make a product and trade it with other people. He had made his product with those who voluntarily consented to trade with him. Everything he did was based on voluntary participation, he didn't force or steal from anyone.

Hank declared that the courts against him were **invalid as they weren't defending his human rights**. Hank knew that **if you let people call you evil when you are righteous, they start abusing you**. The difference between a burglar and the government seizing your property for the public good is that the government wants you to sanction what they do.

Accepting someone's invitation to a party is a sign and a way of telling them that you're on good terms with that person. Everyone in society sees that you came and assumes you're on good terms with that person. So if the person is inherently corrupt, don't go to his party.

*Note: This is why it is important not to attend gay weddings. To attend is to condone. The best way to show love to someone is to let them know what's*

*right and what's wrong. In that they have the best hope for happiness. So the call for supporting such weddings in the name of kindness is an abomination. Jesus wouldn't attend a 'gay wedding.' Can you imagine Jesus sitting there smiling as two men exchange romantic vows, blaspheming the word of His Father? Jesus cleansed the temples turning tables and driving the whip. That's what Jesus would be doing at gay weddings. Marriage is a holy sacrament, not some mere social party. End note.*

Sacrifice your emotions regarding a problem; this is the first thing you must let go of to give way to reason. Always assume responsibility. It is the opposite of what other people do; they use their emotions as a reason to excuse themselves from their responsibility.

The government makes so many rules that are not intended to be kept. They wait around looking for honest men to slip up on one of their silly rules so they can be blackmailed. The government has no power to rule innocent men; it only has power when someone is a criminal. When it runs out of criminals to rule, it makes more criminals by making these laws which are so numerous that they can't be kept. They create lawbreakers by making laws that cannot be interpreted objectively or enforced. Then they make people feel guilty so they'll give in to the blackmail.

They call those who create greedy. The honest are called cruel. Workers are called parasites. The purest are called materialists. **It is a sin to accept unearned guilt**, to let people call you evil when you are not. There's a **difference between a shallow materialist and someone who makes a quality product.**

*Note: Many study business not with a desire to create, but to get rich quick, like a shortcut to the good life. But there is no good life without honest work.*

*There are no shortcuts. Business can be honest, but it can also be abused with intentions are not appropriate. End note.*

The materialist who expects happiness to come from his materials unconnected with values; he is more unhappy the more materials he gets, and he chases cheap women to try and find happiness. He has no personal morals and is driven mad by the fact that he thinks of himself as a mere piece of meat. He grows tired of the whores and wishes that he could have a virtuous woman to sleep with who would, for some reason, make an exception in his case.

Another kind of man is one who separates the meaning of life from material things; from buildings, money, bodies, and so forth; though he calls himself virtuous and finds himself without affection for his wife. When it comes to sex, the cause is values, the effect is sex. In other words, sex won't be fulfilling if you have no values as it represents a person's values.

Those who chase silly women have a large inferiority complex. Sex is an expression of one's own value. Sex represents your code of values, just like money. Tell me what kind of woman a man sleeps with, and I will tell you his entire philosophy on life. Man will always be attracted to the woman who reflects his deepest vision of himself. A man certain of his values will want the highest woman he can find, the strongest, the woman hardest to conquer, because only the position of a heroine will give him a sense of achievement, not a brainless slut. He does not seek to gain his value, he seeks to express it. A man who feels worthless will be drawn to a woman he despises. She will give him a momentary escape from the morals that damn him, a brief escape from the ugly mess he has made of his life.

Love is our response to our highest values and can be nothing else. When a man tricks himself into thinking that love is disconnected from values, he will learn to associate vice with pleasure, and virtue with misery. Then he starts to think sex is evil, that love is purely spiritual, and he finds himself disappointed in his relationship. Bodies and sex are good things when not used carelessly. Sex cut off from a code of values is the same issue as money cut off from a code of values. Both sex and money represent our values at the core.

It is evil to make something irrational seem believable so that people will start doubting their ability to reason.

When businesses fail the people suffer; they don't get their food, etc. Government looters like to tell you that only the private greedy people suffer when businesses fail, not so. Society is made of production.

The government limits business and tries to get people to go along with the depraved circumstances of communism, saying things like "going through hard things together will make us a better people." In reality they're just holding us back from becoming great through voluntary exchange.

*Note: Remember the COVID slogan to condone the tyranny: "We're all in this together."*

Don't assume people in power got there by greatness. Often weaklings are chosen to be set up as pawns as they can be trusted not to think, or to be corrupt.

To think that you can redistribute wealth so no one is poor is as insane as thinking that you can redistribute genius so no one is

stupid. In reality, wealth generates more wealth for everyone, so don't tear down wealth.

*Note: Don't "slay the golden goose" with things like graduated income tax. End note.*

We do not allow injustice, even to ourselves; we do not allow self-mutilation; injustice is evil anyway you look at it. Sometimes we think, "it's just me who has to suffer so it's okay," but it's not okay; we should seek justice. When we repeatedly let others trample the righteous underfoot, it becomes the norm, and the entire society is damned, becoming brainwashed by fallen ideas that no one ever stands up against.

The industrialists were being taken down by centuries of evil people who denounced work, thrift, ingenuity, and ownership. The industrialists gave their fine products to these bad men and in this was their guilt: that they charged too little for so good a product; that they let it go to the swine; they allowed the masses to call them evil, and just **ignored them instead of fighting** them to define **clearly what is truly good and what is truly evil**. They let the people they fed boss them around.

*Note: A few of bogus expensive lawsuits and bad press is a big part of it. Lawyercraft. But we cannot give in to fear. We must be wise, prudent, and brave. End note.*

Some men work to have a job instead of working to create something. These men avoid responsibility and seek not to make decisions which they can be held accountable for; they refuse to do anything that isn't written in their job description; they miss the bigger picture of what their job is; they seek to shift accountability to someone else because

all they care about is having a job. They don't care about the product they're supposed to be making; they won't put themselves at any risk; they are stagnant, unwilling to rise because they are unwilling to fall.

Robin Hood is not known for helping people who have been robbed but is known for giving to people who are in need just because they need; he takes things to give to needy people rather than producing things to meet their needs. He wanted to meet their needs without producing, without real effort. Thus, Robin Hood is a most immoral and contemptible symbol.

Instead of death and taxes as being the absolutes, production and life can be our moral absolutes.

Live by your standards even if you're the only person who does.

In the world of the free market, the builder was expected to use his mind and to listen to his conscience in order to create the best product he could. But in the world of government, rather than being expected to think, the worker was expected only to obey.

One government worker was given an industry job not for his skills but as a political favor. He had learned in college that the way to get what he wanted was by fear, so he ordered people around to do wrong things, threatening to sue them, take them to court, and fire them. He didn't have the business experience that teaches a person that being reasonable and offering incentives is really how to motivate people.

There is no such thing as a contradiction. If we are puzzled, we must check our premises.

To achieve is the greatest thing in life, and to love virtue is to love life.

Those who are independent and pay their own way and create things have control over material things; they don't have to depend on material things like the looters do. People who build material things are the ones who value material things the least; they define what the material things are worth, they set the prices, and when they need to, they can walk away from the material things for a season when needed. They can afford to do this because they know how to rebuild them. **But those who don't build have to always cling to material things because they don't know how to replicate them.**

The railroad, the mines, all of these things were living things; the soul of them were those who created them. When others came and **forced the creators to abandon the creation, it was like taking a soul out of a body**, and the body became a corpse which no longer produced good but poison, because only the genius who created the machines and the sacrifice to make them come to pass could rightfully manage them and use them for good. Those who came in seeking something for nothing had to take away these bodies from these souls, and they found the bodies were useless; they could not handle them, they could not operate them, and the body ceased to represent the soul; the body of the machines, the companies, the railroads, the mines and so forth, these large **companies represented freedom and the spirit of ingenuity**; the excellence and the achievement of the people who made them. When government people put rules on them, stopping them and telling them how to do their work, those bodies, in other words, those in corporations and machines, no longer represented the creators of them, and they became worthless, void of meaning and unable to produce good things that were formerly used for **the holy service of supporting the human race.**

The communist experiment of an auto machine industry was that no one would get paid for their work, they would just get paid for their needs, and those with more talent would be required to work longer hours. They all wanted this system because they thought that they would get to have some of the unearned profits of those who were smarter and better than them, but in reality, all the people less smart & lazier below them took some, so everyone was losing and everyone became immoral. In a year of this, they all became looters, bums and began to hate each other. This was a project that promised to be out of love for brother, but they learned to hate each other more than they ever thought possible because of it. The communist plan involved paying them for being present rather than for having skills. Those with skill were punished by being required to do more, so they hid their skill. They instead became skilled in begging for free money, which was offered to all who had a good enough sob story. They spied on each other to try to catch each other cheating so they could have more money. They all lived in fear of one another rather than working together as a team. Perhaps ironically, **when they worked for individual profit, they were more united than when they pooled their wages.** Of course their company went bankrupt because of this.

*Note: Cooperative enterprises can work in some limited circumstances, but certainly never by government force. End note.*

When the communists were not allowed to spend money on hobbies so they turned to alcohol. How did they afford it? They broke into stores and did all kinds of crimes. Such is the nature of alcohol - they have it whether or not you can afford it, they find a way at any cost.

Everyone thinks that with communistic pooling of income they'll reap free benefits from those who are smarter than themselves. But they forget that there are always people beneath them who want to benefit

from them. No one wins in this scenario, no one perhaps except the person who does nothing.

In the free market everyone can win and no one must be sacrificed. Benefiting your business will inherently benefit your children; benefiting your children inherently benefits society. In the government-controlled scenario you often have to choose between saving one or saving the other because it's a zero-sum game. Government-controlled economies are about dividing what's there rather than creating more. This means we all become losers.

In the private "Atlantis" city the industrialists built and escaped to, the men often had two jobs: one in farming or some other community activity like storekeeping or an orchard, and one in their business or industrial production, their science, etc. They paid each other for their services in gold, and the rates were low since they didn't have to deal with looters, inflation, etc.

Among those who retreated from civilization were the economist who was not allowed to teach at a college for teaching that men ought to work in freedom. The history professor who taught that America is the greatest in the history of the world for making wealth by production rather than conquest. The banker who prided himself for having earned money. The engineer who felt bad creating an engine for looters. The doctor who was asked to work for the poor rather than for a wage. When asked what they were doing in this place, the answer was "living." Finally they could live among people who weren't constantly robbing and brainwashing them. The great medical doctor treated his patient quickly and effectively, like a mechanic giving a tune-up to a machine.

When Dagny struggled to stay focused due to **great anxiety**, she **gave herself small orders/tasks to complete**. Her mission was to walk to the elevator. Once there, her mission was to go to x location, etc. She had to keep moving, like a train, just keep moving even if it's just in small ways, since **any movement is better than stagnation**.

All that John Galt needed to do to destroy the engine of the world was to do nothing. To withhold his gifts from the undeserving socialist looters. Without his help, their society could not progress nearly as fast. He refused to serve them on their terms, to be their slave. If the industrialists don't support the looters, the looters' society will revert to 3<sup>rd</sup> world conditions. The looters can't build anything; they just take.

The economics professor couldn't get a job at colleges because he taught that you shouldn't consume more than you produce. The history teacher couldn't get a job at colleges because he taught that the people that live in the slums are not the people who made this country. The psychology teacher couldn't get a job at the colleges because he taught that men are capable of thinking. These men fled to the city of the industrialists and they found industrial jobs and did quite well at them, and taught their honest **intellectual trades on the side**. The writer could not get a job because she believed that when one deals with words, one deals with the mind. She also went to the industrialist city, and she had two positions; almost everyone there had two positions, an industrial position and another position. She was the town fisher and the writer.

*Note: The Book of Mormon teaches a similar message about an idea society. The teachers/intellecutals also worked with their hands. Everyone contributes to the manual labor, and everyone gets to pursue learning. End note.*

There is **no such thing as a lousy job**, only a lousy man who doesn't care to do it.

**The purpose of life is to find joy through your work.**

*Note: Of course that work, particularly for women, also chiefly involves raising children. End note.*

*Note: The Book of Mormon teaches a similar message, that the purpose of life is joy! End note.*

Never live for the sake of another person, and never ask another person to live for yours.

*Note: We must maintain our individual identity and worth regardless of whatever organizations we belong to, including the organization of the family, a marriage, a school, or the government, etc. Our personal happiness is always important, and we shouldn't let people boss us around. Giving to others voluntarily is one thing, but thinking it is charity to let others force you around like a slave, is not charity. When someone serves someone else because they really want to, you could say that such service isn't really service at all but is self-serving, as it brings so much joy to the servant to see the other person happily receiving service. Remember Joseph Smith's teaching that self-aggrandizement is a true principle, in that helping others simultaneously helps yourself. End note.*

*Note: I believe that the gospel of Christ, the whole point of religion, isn't so different than capitalism. But it's more of a long-term investment. Even Christ did His great sacrifice because of the joy that was set before Him. Even God does his work for glory. We work for joy. If there wasn't joy in it we wouldn't do it. But it often requires looking further than this life. This isn't to say no amount of pleasure is available during life, there surely is, but it*

*means that a life lived for God isn't just wasted, it's actually the wisest of all investments. God is the best employer, and He helps you become the best you can be. And the better you become, the more you can handle and thus the more you can enjoy! End note.*

The industrialists were on strike against the world that had taken advantage of them for so long, restricting their access to their rightfully earned profits, their creations.

In the new city the doctor was able to devote time to researching new ways to treat things.

They didn't want to reveal their inventions to the public because they weren't worthy of them.

*Note: Not casting the pearls before swine. And recall Alma's teaching, that is not appropriate to reveal more than people can handle. The spirit guides us as to what we are permitted to teach. End note.*

Justice never stops to exist; **justice is the act of confessing what is real.**

*Note: Religious teachings say that to rule over men, one must be just. Further, they teach that God upholds justice. The Book of Mormon goes so far as to say that if God ever failed to uphold justice, he would cease to be God. The Latter-day Saint view of God would be quite attractive to Rand – namely that God is an exalted man! End note.*

All work is an act of philosophy. Some honest intellectuals boycotted their regular jobs and went into jobs in which they weren't giving their full gift to society. They couldn't give their full gifts because society had abused them so long. **They had to withhold knowledge**

**and other gifts from people who had shown that their only intent was to take from them.** Now, on strike, these Atlas' were letting the socialist looters see clearly that it was they, the industrialists, who upheld the world. **There comes a point where it becomes immoral to participate in a system so broken, so far gone, that it no longer represents what you lived and worked for.**

*Note: The Jews are famous for doing this historically as well – working simpler jobs despite being qualified for more complex jobs when boycotting society. Better to be a street-sweeper in Zion than an accountant in Babylon! Of course there were other cases such as WW2 where the Jews were forced to work jobs below their skill out of force. End note.*

John Golt and the others in Atlantis city watched those still in society, hoping and planning for their coming to Atlantis.

Whether it's a symphony or a coal mine, **all work** is of the same value and significance because it is the **expression of a rational mind**; it is the capacity to see to connect and to make and collect things which have not been made or connected before. **An excellent artist and an excellent industrialist have more in common** than an excellent artist and a mediocre artist.

The surgeon left the main city for the private one because in healthcare the doctor was given no say in who or how he would treat even though it was he who had learned the painful lessons of how to be a physician. It was all about the patient, and they never considered the physician.

If someone just goes off of feelings like something was created out of nothing, like a drunk man's vomit just happened, if all they can do with their art is feelings, then they're missing out on the work that

goes into making art. **Making great art is harder than any chain gang** and it's harder than what any drill sergeant would ask you to do; is the utmost discipline.

The one thing worse than the businessman who doesn't know that what he does is art is the artist who thinks that the businessman is his enemy.

People often make the mistake of thinking that you don't need to study philosophy if you are a physicist, or that you don't need to study physics if you are a philosopher, but in reality, every physicist should understand the importance of thinking, and every philosopher should understand the importance of objective matter.

*Note: Joseph Smith said everything is matter, that even spirit is matter, but in a more refined form. Everything is connected, and God doesn't give temporal commandments – everything is spiritual. We are trying to connect all truth into one great whole. It is an ignorant society which doesn't seek to master all knowledge, but only to have experts who specialize in one narrow field. As Hugh Nibley said, we need not just depth, but also breadth. We can't chop things into individual segments and ignore the whole. We can learn from the great renaissance men who didn't limit their studies to one field. Oh how tiresome are the engineering students I encountered who knew nothing of the humanities! And oh how foolish and imbalanced were the psychology students who knew nothing of the working world! End note.*

Don't seek for what you wish to come in the future, looking for some gift or ability from someone somehow, but instead hope for your dreams to come true because of what you personally will do and become.

*Note: Approaching your future like a lottery is stupid and wicked. But this is exactly how the woke radical world operates: Everything is blamed on the system, nothing is the fault of the individual, the individual has no ability to change their circumstances, so they adopt a permanent victim mentality and waste their time advocating for more socialist policies. The left and right agree there are problems, but their approach of how to solve them is wildly different. I saw one consistent theme in the bogus social justice classes I had to take in college – their solution for every problem was more and more government. End note.*

The three bright students worked while in college even though they didn't need to; they also studied very hard during their degrees studying physics & philosophy; matters of **food and sleep were often neglected, getting lost in the wonder of studying.**

The world considers white lies which hide the truth as an act of mercy. It is not.

*Note: As it was said in the TV miniseries on the Ukrainian nuclear power plant scandal at Chernobyl, “Eventually, the debt of truth must be paid.” The interest accruing on that debt of truth will make it so it will be much harder to pay than if you had just told the truth to begin with. End note.*

You cannot hide reality, it always exists. You can't get something you didn't work for.

*Note: And if you do, it comes back to bite you. It weakens your character. It sets you up for future failure. It robs you of the joy and added intelligence that come as a result of work. End note.*

Machines can never replace bright minds. Without the minds of the people who make the machines, the machines will fall apart, no matter how good they are.

*Note: And AI will never replace the need for people. Some resist automation thinking it will end jobs, but new jobs always come. End note.*

To do something for someone else's conviction is a great lie. You must stand by your convictions.

*Note: Along these lines, Truman G. Madsen said while it is lying to say you know something when you really don't, it's also lying to say you don't know something when you really do! End note.*

The world is yours to make into what you will. That is the premise Dagny always held.

It was considered bizarre to have your own opinion that does not match the opinion of the government; they say whatever the government said is right and true, good peace and love. The government makes false reports of peace to keep the people calm and not rebellious.

People who don't like to work feel like anything they're asked to do at their job is an injustice, something they don't deserve, and any assistance they give they consider to be going above and beyond.

To give someone your body is to give them your mind, your will, everything. It is no trivial thing, and it represents one's will.

The person who lies lives in a false world does so because he has to fake his life; it's all pretend.

*Note: Many today live in virtual worlds and avoid reality. Many are too focused on worlds of fiction. As Hugh Nibley said, we all have a full time job learning the history of our world. As the mother of Dimitri Mendeleev said, beware illusion and focus on divine and scientific truth. There is a place for fiction, but that place is to teach us lessons of reality, not to fill us with utter silliness. These are but a few examples. Others live in fake worlds by getting bogus certifications and degrees and working at bogus jobs where they don't accomplish anything. End note.*

When you have learned to love someone you will always respect and admire them, even if your paths turn in different directions.

*Note: This is true, but let's talk about something important. More commitment to a relationship should exist than what is shown in Rand's book where the woman leaves a man she is with because a better man comes along, especially as they had already been involved sexually and should have been married. The better way is to not give yourself to someone without permanent commitment to them, with the only exception being gross abuse. The best way to live is to commit to someone in marriage, then to grow together and help one another. You don't just abandon someone who has given their self to you when someone better comes along. Of course the other side of this is that you don't just let yourself go into a sloppy life once you've married – you owe it to that person to continue pushing toward your best self. We should not expect perfection, but excellence and continual improvement. Perfection is the end goal. But we don't abandon one another when it seems there is someone else who might be closer to perfection than you or your partner is. We don't make our social contracts so flimsy. End note.*

The looters/politicians/welfare recipients branded an economy of favors instead of products. They weren't creating anything but were just offering other people's stuff to each other.

The cheating executive will feel just as the beggar – they have no joy. He will not find joy in having money and will be indifferent as to whether he has a lot of it or none of it. He has not earned his money, and it therefore brings him no joy. He does not know the meaning of happiness from work because he gets his money from begging and being deceptive.

Honest people are never touchy about being trusted. They know they can stand by what they are selling. This includes personal relationships. Further, they don't require much introduction or acclimation, because they aren't trying to hide anything.

*Note: Dating should operate similarly. Strange are the courtships that last months and years. People with honest intentions don't take forever to become acquainted. Latter-day Saints are known for marrying young and rather quickly because they have high quality young people who have been taught to live honestly, to have high standards, and that marriage is a very noble path in life which God expects and hopes that all of His children will take, just as He took that path. End note.*

It is the man who gets drunk all the time who claims that the world is out of his control and says that 'the world is how it was when we found it and we can't do anything about it.' With this bogus attitude he makes bad choices and wastes his time. This way of thinking is just to excuse his idleness. This type is found in bars and among cheating executives.

You can't separate a man from his work. When you marry someone, the things that person has done tell you a lot about who they are; we can't separate what they do from their name.

*Note: And if he has repented from foolish ways and built a new life, that is a positive accomplishment. Many are stuck in foolishness. The nature of life is such that people truly can change. Bad habits can be done away with. When you see a person is virtuous, you don't need to worry too much about their past mistakes. It's the person that persists in and justifies his mistaken ways that you need to worry about. End note.*

Jim held up suffering instead of sacrifice as his first goal. He didn't know how to meet goals because he blamed things on others rather than working. In his view, nothing that ever went wrong was his fault.

The welfare people want unearned love, unearned greatness, unearned accomplishment. They want to be loved for themselves, not for what they are doing. They just want to take. They don't work to be great like a great industrialist who works to build something, they're just in the business of asking favors and giving favors (i.e. giving other people's stuff away) and taking pills and throwing parties and manipulating the true worker's business. The looters worked in politics rather than business; when industry broke down everyone suffered.

The welfare man accused the industrial woman of being a spiritual gold digger because she wanted to love someone who had character, morality, honesty, accomplishments, and so forth. The welfare man said that looking for those traits in someone to love is spiritual gold digging and the industrial woman responded that the welfare man was trying to get something for nothing; unearned love based in

nothing; that's the root of everything he did. He did not want to work hard to become something great, he was just someone who cheated other people and sold people out to the government by government bills and various schemes and conspiracies.

Many are afraid of upright people.

*Note: Elder Bruce R McConkie said the wicked are always living in fear of the moment when the righteous will come down in holy indignation against them. (see book The Mortal Messiah). End note.*

The people in the government are just mobsters when they claim that love is blind.

In the presence of people who are unfair and take advantage of others (as is often seen in government power grabs and socialism), we can feel intimidated and wonder how we can exist while those people exist. But we must go on being honest and independent. We must be ourselves; we must continue to believe what is right even when the philosophers of our day say that things are up to interpretation, bendable, and more of a goo than an iron; we must **stand up and say that reality is real.**

We can stand strong in the midst of all of the corruption; the rule is that we always stand by the verdict of our own mind.

*Note: or perhaps rather that we seek to understand the will of God with our own mind, and to ask God for a revelation to understand His ways personally. For a long time the prophets have taught that we are to gain our own knowledge rather than just believe others. Jesus taught that He is full of grace and TRUTH, and that we can KNOW, not just believe. End note.*

The evil woman could not bring people to kneel down before her in admiration, so she brought them to kneel down before her in slavery by taking away all they had.

Depending on what it is used for, sex can be a most holy thing or a most evil thing. Does it celebrate excellence or celebrate debauchery? Is it between thieves or between honest people? Is it for cheap pleasure, or is it for uniting great dreams?

*Note: And creating new people, whom you both will fill with your dreams and whom you will build together to approach those dreams. Indeed, creating a clone of yourselves together is one of the greatest manifestations of love for one another, and is one of the greatest ways to state of love of life and to perpetuate your ideas through the world. End note.*

Socialists destroy themselves while blaming some unknowable evil for their destruction.

Socialists at first say: 'Why should we suffer while other people have so much', and then they take from the people who have a lot. Later they say; 'Why should we suffer while there are some people who have enough to last them for years', and then they take more, and then they say; 'Why should we suffer while others have enough to last for months', and so on until via redistribution of wealth they've **drained the entire industry which was holding up society.**

Note: Those who don't make money don't know how to hold onto or properly use it. Forced wealth redistribution is anti-freedom, anti-justice, and blows up free and prosperous society. Everything America stands for dies when economic freedom dies. End note.

Give **loans not alms.** Support producers, not consumers.

*Note: Alms can be appropriate in some limited settings. Those unwilling to work and try to improve must face the natural consequences of their choices. The best type of service for the poor is to help them find work and to teach them how to work. Often giving cash to street beggars just perpetuates their corrupt lifestyle, and many church leaders have indicated that there are smarter ways to serve the poor than by dishing out random cash. End note.*

Socialist moochers just want to take. They think that the industrialists never suffer, but in reality, the socialist welfare people sit around all day while industrial people work and suffer all day.

Many courtrooms operate on a set of rules which don't have much to do with right and wrong, and you basically know the outcome before the hearing even happens; the hearing is just to give the bunch of people jobs who sit there and recite the various rules that enact various things; there's not really any judgment of right and wrong taking place at all. Though they were there in the name of justice, they all believed that there was no such thing as justice.

The real crime was committed by those who made regulations on business, not the industrialists resisting compliance. The industrialists are forced to operate in the strange ways of the legalists, or they're threatened that their business will be shut down.

Those who are industrial and admire the great industrialists are better than the great government looters in high places. Even though they are in what many call lowly ranks, they are still on the right side of the war. **There isn't an honest job that's bad, only people not honest enough to accept them.**

If a person wishes to rise in the market through honest trade, to develop his talent through great performance, he may do so. It's those who wish to rise without achievement we must beware of. Also those who sell cheap products which play at the vices of men are not really offering any skill or quality product, they're just taking advantage of men's weakness, and their business is immoral.

Note: Vendors of pornography drugs and junk food would fall into this category of dishonest business, **taking advantage of the weakness and ignorance** of the masses. Or get rich quick scams. Or any trashy product marketed as a quality product. Marketing today involves a lot of deception. A good product should speak for itself. End note.

It is immoral to be a mere pragmatist.

When things are transferred from the private sector to the **government sector, the benefits start to go away. They stop caring about customer satisfaction.**

The socialists believe that only experts should think and that only experts should be trusted. Socialists say you shouldn't bother looking into medicine or engineering unless you are a physician or engineer. They teach that it's essentially not profitable for the common man to think. They teach that men should rely only on authority. Inherent in this thinking is the idea that mankind is weak and stupid. On the contrary, you should expect greatness of the commoner. You should put power in his hands, rather than dictate everything in his life.

Note: RFK Jr. taught a similar message in his fight against Big Pharma. America is about people making their own choices, not leaving decision making to a few people at the top. We can hear what

experts have to say and make our own informed opinions. Freedom is the key. End note.

*Note: Elder Dallin H. Oaks **warned of the consequences of leaving things to scholars.** He said, "I have seen some persons attempt to understand or undertake to criticize the gospel or the Church by the method of reason alone, **unaccompanied by the use or recognition of revelation.** When reason is adopted as the only — or even the principal — method of judging the gospel, the outcome is predetermined. One cannot find God or understand His doctrines and ordinances by closing the door on the means He has prescribed for receiving the truths of his gospel. **That is why gospel truths have been corrupted and gospel ordinances have been lost when left to the interpretation and sponsorship of scholars who lack the authority and reject the revelations of God.**" (Elder Dallin H. Oaks *Alternate Voices*, April 1989) End note.*

When the copper mine was nationalized, the real owner blew it up and said, "Brother, you asked for it." Then the economy tanked.

Most college diplomas aren't worth the paper they're printed on.

*Note: Unless you live in a rigged society like we do where arbitrary value is assigned to the diplomas. But the point is that much of what goes on at colleges is bogus, soft, brainwashing, and teaches lessons of pandering rather than creating. Particularly in the social sciences. End note.*

*Note: Ezra Taft Benson warned against social sciences being taught at colleges these days. He said, "in many cases a higher degree today, in the **so-called social sciences**, can be tantamount to a **major investment in error.** Very few men build firmly enough on the rock of revelation to go through this kind of **indoctrination** and come out untainted. Unfortunately, of those who succumb, some use their higher degree to get teaching positions even in*

*our Church Educational System, where they spread the falsehoods they have been taught.” (ET Benson Teachings p.319) End note.*

It is evil to love suffering; to think that people are better off when they suffer; to consider that the fruits of one's labor should not be given to the laborer. It is wrong to consider that wages are unworthy of the hire.

*Note: The Bible says the laborer is worthy of his hire (1 Tim. 5:18 & Luke 10:7).*

Labor that requires no thought is exhausting.

Pain is something to be fought and then thrown aside; it is not something to expect to be there always.

When you learn of a better way, go to the better way. If you understand your way to be the best, hold to it. But if you find a better way, go to that. Stick to your convictions. When you're ready for the higher ways, they're ready for you.

*Note: This is similar to what Joseph Smith said, “When we understand the character of God, and know how to come to Him, He begins to unfold the heavens to us, and to tell us all about it. When we are ready to come to Him, He is ready to come to us.” Joseph’s view of God was that He is a person on another planet with a body, from a more advanced society than ours, who sends us messages and tries to help us avoid our own self destruction. The commandments of God aren’t so much His idea as they are the laws of nature. He can’t help them, He must abide by them too to avoid His own self destruction. He wants us to learn His ways so we can be truly free. He said, ‘ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’ (John 8:32) End note.*

*Note: When talking about finding better ways, particularly when dealing with Rand's books, I must add a caution: beware jumping from one marriage to another. Instead, grow together, lift each other. If you were drawn together in the first place, you're probably not so different, and can make it work together. It is more noble to stay together. End note.*

Sometimes we avoid understanding because we are afraid. Afraid of the consequences that would come from understanding the truth. So we keep telling ourselves it's not our fault because we don't understand. In reality, it is our fault, as we had access to the truth but didn't bother to take a look.

*Note: With more understanding comes more responsibility, but also if we understand where to look but don't, we are accountable. I'm reminded of a scientist who was brought to a site where human footprints were seen alongside dinosaur prints. The news asked him if he saw anything there that challenges evolution theory. He said 'no, I didn't see anything that threatened evolution.' The trick was, he refused to look at the prints! When we intentionally evade evidence like this, it makes us liars! End note.*

Justice will forgive miles of innocent steps of wrong but will not forgive one step of conscious evil.

To feel without thinking is vanity.

*Note: This could include many things, certainly drug use, emotional and sexual intimacy with strangers, reckless spending of money, prolonged wasting of time, unwillingness to learn new things, seeking employment where you won't have to think, unwillingness to think deeply, etc. End note.*

We enable looters when we let them to take from us to extort us instead of standing up for what is right. It is not right for those who produce to go without while those who do not produce have. It's not right for those who can't think to lead, and it's **not right for those who can lead to obey foolish leaders.**

*Note: Sometimes in the church a foolish leader is called. Truman G. Madsen taught that sometimes that can be to test your patience. Some are called to lead us, others are called to test us. So while we always remain committed to truth, we should also give some respect to church leadership, even when they are wrong. The parable of the Ten Virgins applies to the church, and even Ezra Taft Benson taught that some of its leaders magazines etc. are on the wrong side (on at least some issues). So ultimately, we can never relinquish our responsibility to think for ourselves, even while we value inspired leaders. End note.*

*Note: Here are a few more quotes about standing for what's right even when some around us in the church do not:*

- 1. Benson taught that the greatest injuries to the Church come from within. He initially quotes President McKay they expounds. Here is the quote: "The Church," says President McKay, "is little, if at all, injured by persecution and calumnies from ignorant, misinformed, or malicious enemies." (The Instructor, February 1956, p. 33.) **It is from within the Church that the greatest hindrance comes.** And so, it seems, it has been. Now the question arises, will we stick with the kingdom and **can we avoid being deceived?** Certainly this is an important question, for the Lord has said that in the last days the devil will "rage in the hearts of . . . men," (2 Nephi 28:20) and if it were possible he shall "deceive the very elect." (Joseph Smith 1:5-37.) (Ezra Taft Benson, Be Not Deceived, Oct. 1963)*
- 2. President Packer, referring to progressive attacks on church doctrine, warned that not all the persecution against the saints comes from*

outside of the church. He said, "Atheists and agnostics make nonbelief their religion and today organize in unprecedented ways to attack faith and belief. They are now organized, and they pursue political power. You will be hearing much about them and from them. Much of their attack is indirect in mocking the faithful, in mocking religion. The types of Sherem, Nehor, and Korihor live among us today (see Jacob 7:1–21; Alma 1:1–15; Alma 30:6–60). Their arguments are not so different from those in the Book of Mormon. You who are young will see many things that will try your courage and test your faith. **All of the mocking does not come from outside of the Church.** Let me say that again: All of the mocking does not come from outside of the Church. Be careful that you do not fall into the category of mocking." (President Boyd K Packer, Jan. 16 2007 Lehi's Dream and You - Boyd K. Packer - BYU Speeches)

3. Elder Benson taught that the Church is not divided, there's just people who aren't in harmony with it, and yes, they write in our Church publications. Benson said, Sometimes we hear someone refer to a division in the Church. In reality, **the Church is not divided.** It simply means that there are some who, for the time being at least, are members of the Church but not in harmony with it. These people have a **temporary** membership and influence in the Church; but unless they repent, they will be missing when the final membership records are recorded. It is well that our people understand this principle, so they will not be misled by those apostates **within the Church** who have not yet repented or been cut off. But there is a cleansing coming. The Lord says that his vengeance shall be poured out "upon the inhabitants of the earth . . . And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord; First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me" (D&C 112:24-26). I look forward to that cleansing; **its need**

*within the Church is becoming increasingly apparent. Not only are there apostates within our midst, but there are also apostate doctrines that are sometimes taught in our classes and from our pulpits and that appear in our publications. And these apostate precepts of men cause our people to stumble. As the Book of Mormon, speaking of our day, states: ". . . they have all gone astray save it a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are taught by the precepts of men" (2 Ne. 28: 14). The world worships the learning of man. They trust in the arm of flesh. To them, men's reasoning is greater than God's revelations. The precepts of man have gone so far in subverting our educational system that in many cases a higher degree today, in the so-called social sciences, can be tantamount to a major investment in error. Very few men build firmly enough on the rock of revelation to go through this kind of an indoctrination and come out untainted. Unfortunately, of those who succumb, some use their higher degree to get teaching positions even in our Church educational system, where they spread the falsehoods they have been taught. President Joseph F. Smith was right when he said that false educational ideas would be one of the three threats to the Church within (Gospel Doctrine, pp. 312-13)." (Ezra Taft Benson, To The Humble Followers of Christ, April 1969, <http://www.gapages.com/divided.htm>)*

- 4. In the same address, Benson equates Jesus' appointing with Judas the traitor with elements existing in the latter-day church. He said, "The Lord strengthened the faith of the early apostles by pointing out Judas as a traitor, even before this apostle had completed his iniquitous work (John 13:21-30). So also **in our day** the Lord has told us of the **tares within the wheat** that will **eventually be hewn** down when they are fully ripe." (Ezra Taft Benson, To The*

*Humble Followers of Christ, April 1969,*  
<http://www.gapages.com/divided.htm>)

5. Ezra Taft Benson quoted President Kimball in teaching that many in the church reject the current prophet and try to get the prophet to not speak on evolution etc. He said, “It is the living Prophet who really upsets the world. **“Even in the Church”**, said President Kimball, “many are prone to garnish the sepulchers of yesterday’s prophets **and mentally stone the living ones.**” Why? Because the living prophet gets at what we need to know now, and the world prefers that prophets either be dead or mind their own business. Some so-called experts of political science want the prophet to keep still on politics. **Some would-be authorities on evolution want the prophet to keep still on evolution.** And so the list goes on.” (Elder Ezra Taft Benson, *The 14 Fundamentals of Following the Prophet*; <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/ezra-taft-benson/fourteen-fundamentals-following-prophet/>)
6. Elder Neal A. Maxwell also warned of these wolves among the flock. He said, “True, the enemies and the critics of the Lord’s work will not relent; they only regroup. **Even among the flock**, here and there and from time to time, are a few wolves, wearing various styles of sheep’s clothing —ironically, just before the shearing season! A few defectors and “high-minded” traitors (2 Tim. 3:4) even go directly to the “great and spacious building” to hire on (1 Ne. 8:26). Their recruits are celebrated and feted until —like their predecessors —they have faded into the dark swamps of history.” (“For I Will Lead You Along” By Elder Neal A. Maxwell, Apr. 1988, <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1988/04/for-i-will-lead-you-along?lang=eng>)
7. Elder Maxwell further encourages us to stay on the right course, knowing that these worldly philosophers will be overturned. He said, “We surely have been warned and forewarned about **our time**, a period in which the compression of challenges may make a year seem

like a decade. Members **will be** cleverly mocked and scorned by those in the “**great and spacious building**,” representing the pride of the world (1 Ne. 8:26, 1 Ne. 11:36). No matter, for ere long, **He** who was raised on the third day will raze that spacious but third-class hotel!” (Elder Neal A. Maxwell, “Overcome . . . Even As I Also Overcame” Apr. 1987)

8. In case we had any doubt about who was in that great and spacious building, President Monson specifically identified it as those who reject scripture. He said, “**The great and spacious building** in Lehi’s vision represents those in the world who mock God’s word and who ridicule those who **embrace** it and who **love** the Savior and **live** the commandments.” (President Thomas S. Monson, *May You Have Courage*, April, 2009)
9. In our rejection of worldly philosophers, Church leaders can stand as a guide for taking the right direction. Elder Ezra Taft Benson taught, “If we want to know how well we stand with the Lord, then let us ask ourselves how well we stand with His mortal captain. **How closely do our lives harmonize with the words of the Lord’s anointed** — the living Prophet, the President of the Church, and with the Quorum of the First Presidency?” (Elder Ezra Taft Benson, *The 14 Fundamentals of Following the Prophet*, <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/ezra-taft-benson/fourteen-fundamentals-following-prophet/>)

*End of quotes on standing for the right even when there is division in the church. End note.*

You discover what it really means to be alive when you want something and work to make it happen.

Socialists teach that there are no values, only social customs; they teach that what we do does not matter, that it's all based on popular opinion and custom. They will not allow such ideas as right and wrong, or the existence of good and evil.

*Note: It's the same thing with 'democratic socialism'; the rule of law disappears, and you're ruled by the gang majority; 2 wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner won't work out well for the sheep. Further, whether forced into socialism or a majority electing to get into socialism, it's slavery either way. Only a 100% vote should allow such a thing. So long as one person doesn't want to give up the human right to be free, socialism should not be something you can 'democratically choose' to make him do. This also would assume that your children want to be slaves too, so each generation would have to decide. Socialism kills individual human rights and is a gross evil. End note.*

The wicked say that when a human dies it's just like when an animal dies, that it makes no difference, and that there are no values.

Often the college professors betray their students as the students seek for knowledge and reason and the professors deliver the students to evil looters, to evil socialists teaching the children that there are no morals. Socialistic schools teach the children that it is bad to think (teaching them instead to repeat popular agenda laden ideas). The mind is the human's way of survival and the schools teach man not to use it. **They teach not to stand out but to belong; not to understand but to obey; not to ask but to submit; not to struggle but to compromise.** They say 'who are you to know, society knows best'; they say 'who are you to know, your parents know best', (Note: Or the trend now, they say that the government knows better than your parents. End note.) Schools focus on appeals to authority without teaching students how to think for themselves. The way they teach children is like a bird pecking the feathers off its baby and pushing it out of the nest to survive - they are disarming the human with the power of his form, which is the power of his mind. They're sending

away the graduated students with cheap phrases, talking points of socialism.

The fruit of the teachings of the socialist philosophers and mystics are armed thugs who use force as a means of getting others to give them what they have not earned.

One man can change the city; the socialist wants you to think that you are insignificant and that one person can't make a difference.

*Note: A recurring theme in The Book of Mormon is that one person indeed has the power to sway many things, even civilizations. Believe in the individual, not the system! One righteous voice in the wilderness can do more than a thousand trendy compromising voices united! End note.*

**Socialists force others to trade happiness for duty when, in reality, they could have done their duties with happiness.**

Humans are separate from animals - they must choose to have morals - they have to choose to value life or not; it won't just happen, they have to make a conscious choice about choosing to love life and choosing to work.

Your life is irreplaceable and of great value. This is the opposite of what many of the philosophers of our time teach.

A person is an end in and of themselves; in other words each person is inherently good.

*Note: People are inherently good, but they're also inherently fallen and in need of training.*

Each person is someone who deserves to enjoy himself, but has to work for it. It's not just good to help others, it's also good to help yourself and let yourself enjoy the fruits of your labor.

*Note: Joseph Smith told one man who had done much work for the building up of God's kingdom, that this brother needed to rest a while, to enjoy himself. The man responded, "I cannot". Joseph said, "Then you will die." The man indeed later died a premature death. Joseph Smith was known to be easily drawn to laughter, and frequently played with children and his brethren, engaging in sports and joking with them. He said we shouldn't be too involved in the fantastic, but that a good sense of humor is of God. Many saw Hyrum Smith as more prophet-like than Joseph, as Hyrum was less jovial and playful (see Truman G. Madsen lectures on Joseph Smith). The true character of God is revealed in Joseph Smith. As The Book of Mormon reads, "men are that they might have joy" (2 Ne. 2:22). End note.*

Some people separate our ability to reason and our ability to have morals, but in reality, reason is where we get our morals, and one's mind is the measuring rod.

*Note: There's some truth to this but also limitations. Reason is not the only source of morals. We tried just relying on reason in the French Revolution and that didn't turn out well (it was a reign of terror). We tried just relying on reason in the 20<sup>th</sup> century atheist dictatorships and tens of millions were executed. Dennis Prager in Still the Best Hope treats this subject well. End note.*

Un-focusing the mind intentionally, blanking out, refusing to think, these are great evils. Some consider that reality isn't real if you ignore it. By suspending your logic and reason, you are suspending your identity and your person, your existence; you're refusing to say, 'I am.' (like God says.)

*Note: God identified himself as I AM, aka the truly living one, the one who has found the true way to not only enjoy existence, but to have that status of joy/fully alive perpetually; the fact that Christ resurrected his body shouts this fact. End note.*

When you say, 'who knows,' it's another way of saying, 'how can I know I don't matter.' Rationality is life, irrationality is death. Those who ignore reality will be wiped out by reality; for example, if they think someone's going to give them food that they didn't earn, they will perish.

To be productive is to choose to live. On the other hand, to punish people for producing it is to wear the black mask of death worship. Business regulations, mandatory licenses, and graduated income tax are a few examples of punishing people who produce.

If someone has to be your leader it must be chosen, not forced upon you, or else your mind will rot and your value of life will die.

*Note: But if you act tyrannically or like a slave, expect others to come in and control you. End note.*

Virtue is not an end in and of itself; it is not a sacrificial reward; virtue is rather a means to the end of joy; the reason we are virtuous is so that we can be joyful; you cannot have joy without virtue. Life is the reward of virtue. Virtue includes, among other things, being honest, treating others fairly, promoting an honest product, etc.

*Note: To live virtuously may not always appear to be 'the good life.' You might know some people who are living it large despite their poor choices. It does take some faith to continue in the path of virtue. In the religious context*

*we also see virtue to mean power; it also refers to chastity, and suggests that we lose power when we are unchaste. Rand would agree that those who give their body to strangers are cheating themselves of the power, self-esteem, and unity they could have otherwise had. End note.*

**Values are the fuel we put in the motor of ourselves;** if we put in the wrong fuel, it will wreck that motor; you must have the right values, which are compatible with human beings.

If you do A, then B happens. If you do A and you expect C to happen, you're going to be miserable. You must confess reality.

**Happiness isn't the satisfaction of whatever blind whims that you indulge; joy is to live in a state of noncontradiction.**

**Joy involves not escaping from mind, but using your mind to its fullest.**

*Note: Amusement, literally meaning 'without thought', can only bring a person so much joy. The roller coaster, the junk food, the cheap thrills, the bad women, the easy money, these only takes a person so far. Life's deepest joys come from embracing thought and work, not avoiding it. This isn't to say there is no place for simply pleasures, but it does mean we must keep things in perspective, be wise, and avoid things that will bring great regret. Don't sell your birthright for a mess of porridge like Esau. End note.*

**The joy of a drunkard is nothing compared to the joy of a creator.**  
The Creator relies on rationality.

A trader is someone who earns what he gets. Living off government welfare rather than setting your own hand to some form of industry will bring the result of an **identity crisis and major depression as**

**you're not becoming** anything. (Note: And even if you do foot your own bills, if you aren't making personal progress in meaningful ways, you'll be depressed. End note.) **A person who trades does not ask to be paid for his failures and does not ask to be loved for his flaws.** Someone who trades doesn't squander his body as fodder, he doesn't abuse others as fodder, and he doesn't use himself as alms. The values of friendship, love, and esteem appear in someone who knows trade, aka work ethic, not those who sit around seeking something for nothing. Idlers have no concept of good virtues, even if they claim to have them.

*Note: This is why Christ taught that a person in prison can't pay the utmost farthing. Sitting in prison you can get lots of ideas, but you can't do much. One thing you can do in prison of course is write – many important books, like much of the Bible, have been written in prison. End note.*

Mystics throughout the ages railed against the people who trade and have spoken highly of the looters and lazy people. The trader is a man of justice; it is someone the wicked dread.

Relationships must be entered into voluntarily, and when someone has a problem with it, then you part ways; everything is voluntary.

*Note: This is true, but there should be serious commitment going into a marriage. You work things out. You both make major investments in each other, and it is extremely inhumane to walk away from a marriage based on a whim. But there is the ability to end a marriage for extreme cases. We are too casual about this these days. Family scientists show that most humans get in arguments sometimes, and that greatest joys of relationships are had among those who work together to find resolutions. End note.*

We have nothing to gain from stupidity and human vices; the only value man can offer is the work of his mind. In whatever his craft, man must engage his mind and improve upon his methods and produce. To cease to improve is to die.

*Note: You might describe many people as 'the living dead' when they have stopped progressing and live as slaves, drowning out their conscience with endless entertainments. The 'zombie apocalypse' is upon us! End note.*

When you have a disagreement with another rational person, you let reality determine who is right, and either they will learn, or you will learn.

Morality ends where a gun begins. Force and mind are two opposites. When you start to force someone you take away their mind. Force takes away one's ability to reason. It's just as bad as taking away their vision because when you take away someone's resources to live by forcing, this is what you're doing - you're taking away their means of survival.

Force can only be used against someone who is trying to force you; it is never right to force someone to do anything unless you're defending yourself from them forcing you. Those who use force only to defend themselves are using it to destroy force. (When you must defend yourself from those who threaten your life with a gun, you are defending, not ending, your morality.)

Government says if you don't do things this certain way we'll take your property. Your property is your means to live, a reflection of your mind. Government takes away your mind when they take away your property. Your mind is what you employed to obtain your property.

People who use terror instead of proof to get people to agree with them shut out the mind and with it the will to live. Reality demands of man that man act for his own rational interest.

Force in an evil destructive way to gain things that do not belong to you.

*Note: Some training of children by parents requires force. You teach them to brush their teeth, to eat vegetables, to not run into the street. Your life is in their hands. You at times must use force as needed to secure their safety, and to set them up for a successful life. Further than basic safety, you also train them to be respectable, to abide the laws, to look people in the eye, to work hard, to read, to think, and many important things. You don't allow them to shrivel up into a fraction of what they could become with the excuse of letting them have their way. Children do have agency and freedom to chose in various things, but the parent who shirks their duty to set real limits on their children will rue the day that they neglected their duty to bring children up in the way they should go. Dr. Leonard Sax in his Collapse of Parenting has a few good teachings along these lines of how we have forgotten the natural ways of parenting and have replaced them with a zero-authority bogus approach to parenting which is producing fragile helpless and miserable people. The new 'nice' isn't so nice after all. Treating someone forever like a baby is hardly nice or morally superior. The parent must setup real rewards and real consequences. Children can use their agency to make bad choices, but they must know that unwanted consequences will follow those bad choices. There term 'free agency' can be misleading when we think that we can do whatever we want without consequences. That's not how the adult world works, and it is the duty of parents to create a world for their children that operates similarly, not to forever coddle their children in idleness and stupidity. Parents have a serious job to do, and must stop blaming everything on the choices of their children. Of course a parent can take it to*

*far, but in today's culture we mostly have a problem with permissivity, not pushing them toward greatness enough. End note.*

Light is not the absence of darkness; joy is not the absence of pain; intelligence is not the absence of stupidity; the absence of destruction is not the same thing as building. If you just sit around and say, "We're not destroying anything," then nothing is going to get built. Just not making things worse doesn't make you a good person; it's making things better that makes you a good person.

*Note: Not making things worse is a good start, but we can do better than that. Sometimes when we have a good system, like the US Constitution, our job is to uphold that system. Some of our best presidents, like Coolege, have been ones who have maintained the government without growing it. Government should stay small so individuals can grow. The more government, the less freedom. The duty of man isn't to grow the government, its to grow themselves. End note.*

Don't live just to avoid pain, live to be happy. Don't live just to avoid punishment, live with a purpose to build things.

We don't wish to avoid death, we seek to live life. We spend our time living, not worrying about death.

*Note: We must be aware of death and prepare for the next life, but not to the point of being paralyzed here and now. End note.*

Doesn't think that fear is the more powerful motivator.

Don't start your philosophy by saying that man is evil; that's setting us up to fail. We come from a standard of good, not a standard of evil.

*Note: Brigham Young taught that Adam and Eve were two of the greatest people that ever lived. Hugh Nibley teaches that the first humans on earth were like the founders of a great university – the university starts with brilliant people, setting the example for the students to follow. The beginning mankind was not by idiots in caves, but by brilliant and righteous minds. Many atheists bash Christians for stating that mankind fell in Eden, and that mankind are fallen. But this is an obvious fact. Though innocent, children haven't learned to overcome evil, and must learn that. The evil they must overcome is in themselves. But it is a hopeful prospect. We don't look upon mankind with disgust, but with hope. The truly dreadful outlook is that of evolution theory – that we came from nothing with no purpose and are mere immoral animals. End note.*

The idea of original sin is to say that you are bad to start off with, without even doing anything wrong - this is a slap in the face of morality; this is not logical because if man is evil by birth, he has no power or will to change it.

*Note: But it should be recognized that human nature is such that most people are corrupted by power, so we should not trust a single person with too much power. There are many simple ways we can see that our nature is fallen. This is why free trade is the ideal – we set basic ground rules like honesty, and then we can work well together. Many people cheat and lie, and we have checks on that. Checks on power, a court system, and so forth, because we always have to keep our fallen natures in check. Just because we recognize the need to hold each other accountable doesn't mean we need a pessimistic outlook on life and humanity. Rand writes entire books, including this one, about how people have a tendency to try and be lazy and steal from others while wearing masks of legality. These are the realities we face. End note.*

*Note: Modern prophets teach that the doctrine of original sin is, on many levels, false. Adam transgressed the law and did fall, but it was part of the*

*plan, part of forward progress. The fall was not sinful. If people become evil, it's because they choose to be evil. Cain is the time when evil really came into the world, Adam and Eve were righteous, and evil only came into the world when someone deliberately chose it.*

*Note: Babies do not need baptism because they are not evil. Babies are innocent and wonderful, and not yet in the realm of the battle between good and evil. But when we grow, evil grows in the heart, and must be stopped. Babies must begin to learn how to control themselves, but the moral weight of those choices isn't fully in effect until a later age, like 8, and more fully by a young adult age, like another 8 years, being 16. End note.*

**To hate the human race because of its nature is to hate nature.** And to judge someone for something they did before they were born is to negate justice.

*Note: This is one way that the restoration clarifies the doctrine of the fall. As the second latter-day saint article of faith states, "we believe that man will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression." We have fallen natures, but it's because we are learning to grow. It's part of how life was meant to be, part of the test. When it comes to sin/crime and punishment, each person is accountable for their actions, not the actions of their parents. One point to clarify here is that a person's choices will impact those around him, even if those around him are innocent. In this sense, a family can be 'punished for four generations' because of something their parents did. But these things are part of the learning and growing process. Nothing we suffer is in vain, it all contributes to build us into stronger characters. One person can have a great impact on others for good or ill. That's natural. Religion and God are not about hating people, but about recognizing the natural state we are in, and making the best of it. End note.*

The code of the socialist who takes things from others and considers people evil, this is a man who apparently believes that both justice and nature are evil.

To say that we have original sin is like playing a game with weighted dice; no matter what we choose, the outcomes are going to be determined and this would not be fair. Never delete the importance of our reasoning power; our minds are our ability to create and the vitality of our life in general.

*Note: We all have weaknesses, but they can be overcome, particularly by the grace of God, and most particularly by the grace of Jesus Christ. People can change. Life is a challenge. Will we make excuses, or take on the challenges and rise above? End note.*

Reason, morality, creativeness and joy - these were all the things that happened to Adam and Eve when they ate the fruit of the tree, and yet (mainstream) society says that they became evil when they ate the fruit of the tree. What we call the fall of man in the Garden of Eden is where they really learned things of morality, judgment, creation, and these were all good things that enabled them to live life and made them human; someone who doesn't have these things is not really human, so when they gained the power to know right and wrong and to create and have joy; that's when they really became fully human, which is a step forward not a step backward.

*Note: Oh, how the latter-day saints agree with this! The fall of Adam was a step forward, not backward! That's when they became able to have children and know sorrow so that they could know joy! We call it a fall since they came from God and moved from immortality to mortality, but that step was a necessary part of our training. So when understood in its full context, the doctrine of the fall teaches us about the inherent dignity of mankind, and of*

*their potential for greatness. We must recognize our origins as being from God above, not animal kind below. End note.*

Many say the body of the human is the evil thing, the bad thing, but it's the body of the human that is the good thing; it's how he works; it's how he has joy; it's how he exercises judgment and moral reason, both of the mind and the body.

*Note: Absolutely. The restored church of Jesus Christ teaches that even God himself has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's, and that the human race is destined to retain their bodies forever when the resurrection occurs. Our scripture even says that the spirit separated from the body cannot have a fullness of joy. (D&C 92). Fallen views have crept into Christianity over the ages, but the gladsome restoration which began in the 1800s brings back many plain and precious truths. End note.*

Some have split man into half saying the spirit is good and the body is bad. In reality, the whole man is good. You can't cut him in half. It all works together, you need all of it. Those who claim that God is some incomprehensible thing somewhere are denying reason and are utterly contemptible.

*Note: Indeed, Satan wants us to not understand God; the God fitting in your heart and being everywhere at once notion is false; God has a body and can be only in one place at a time, though His influence can be felt in many places, and His ability to know all things from information transmitted from all of His creations is a reality. God can be comprehended. Life eternal is to know God and the Christ He sent. Both body and spirit together form the eternal soul, and neither should be treated contemptibly. End note.*

The mystics claim that we should work for things that we don't understand, and sacrifice on the altar of some unknown God for some

unknown reward in some unknown place; this denies the reason and justice of man. Also, the idea that rewards are only available beyond the grave is another demoralizing idea.

*Note: True religion isn't vague and superficial in its promises, nor does it limit its rewards to the hereafter. Living morally is the best way to live now and forever, and brings rewards in both places. True religion has a specific God, specific commandments, and specific blessings promised in return. Knowing the exact location isn't necessary, but we have even been given details on this point, such as the fact that the destiny of this Earth is to itself become a heaven. That is an idea that Rand could get behind. We must beware the voices of those who overly simplify things to make a culture of skepticism and doubt. These voices may be well meaning, as Rand is, but there is more to the story. More to add to the debate of reason than what the atheists are want to chant. End note.*

*Note: This is also a tactic used by evolutionists – life could not evolve, it's far too complicated, and the business of evolutionists is to downplay complexity and make a fairytale version of the origins of life, far more unbelievable than the teaching that an intelligent being created us in His image through natural means, and some supernatural means still beyond our comprehension and mastery, for now. End note.*

Ultimately, sacrifice means trading something of value for something of lesser value, which is not good. However, trading something of temporary pain for future reward is good. But many of the mystics of spirit promise only rewards in the next life. The government people would have us think that we must comply to self-deprivation to help our grandchildren, when it's really just a government agenda to usurp the people. We must not trade our rights for some government cause or other.

*Note: Religious teachings don't just give a good afterlife, they give a good life. The many rewards of capitalism and free trade themselves are from the religious values of honesty thrift diligence and ingenuity. Of course there's more to religion than this, but there are many examples of a religious life being an upright way to live with benefits for now and later. You could even view it as 'eternal investments.' God has joy, and in the best ways. He wants to extend that joy to us. And the sooner we figure things out the sooner we can have it. We don't have to 'wait for heaven.' End note.*

*Note: Sometimes we can't understand how that works and it takes some faith, but it can be figured out by and by, because the Judeo-Christian God is a God of reason. He is one God, one Creator, not many Gods acting on whims. The Bible actually gave rise to scientific thought – that nature is predictable and operates by uniform laws, not unpredictable as indeed some mystics have promoted. Even Islam is weaker on this than the Bible, as the God of Islam is seen to be so powerful that he just does what he wants, he doesn't conform to nature or anything else, and is rather unpredictable. The eastern religious certainly have particularly mysterious and unpredictable Gods. It is the God of the Bible that gives us the most predictable and reasonable God. It was Christian Europe that gave us the renaissance and enlightenment, including the science revolution and protestant reformation. For a good treatment of some of these points read *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Bible* by Robert J. Hutchinson. End note.*

If you give milk to your child at your own expense, it's not a sacrifice; but if you give milk to your neighbor's child and let your own child starve, then it is a sacrifice, and that's bad thing. Another example is that if you give money to some person, it is a sacrifice; but if you give money to a friend that is not sacrifice.

*Note: This is a bit of a word game – both acts of kindness are in a sense sacrifice. But it's true that our highest obligation in life is to help our*

*families, our loved ones. Rarely are we asked to serve beyond that. The Bible does teach us to love our enemies, but it doesn't teach us to enable our enemies in their wicked ways. It does say to feed the poor, but also says those who don't work don't eat. Ultimately no sacrifice God asks us to make will leave us worse off than we were as God always blesses us. Also, God has already greatly blessed us, and the least we can do is keep His commandments. As King Benjamin teaches, God will always bless you more when you do anything good, and it's impossible to ever 'repay' God for all He does for us, even if we give our life itself. But of course, some tyrannical leaders will manipulate the concept of sacrifice, like communist regimes, asking you to sacrifice for your fellow man in destructive ways that destroy the individual, both body and soul. End note.*

If you buy food for your hungry child instead of buying a new hat, it's not a sacrifice because you value your child more than your hat, and so it's not correct to call that a sacrifice; you're doing something that has value to yourself. However, if you truly did love the hat more than the child and you were only feeding the child out of duty, you didn't really want to, that perhaps would be called a sacrifice in this sense of the word, dealing with sacrifice as a negative. Another example is that if someone dies fighting for freedom, that is not a sacrifice because they're doing it for something that they want to do. They want freedom, they're not willing to live as a slave. But if someone was willing to live like a slave and they died fighting for freedom, this would be useless and it would be a negative sacrifice, or as the author puts it, a sacrifice in general.

If you renounce the material world you are evil.

*Note: Yes and no. If you want to participate in things of intellect rather than finance, you might view this as renouncing the material world. But in Rand's definition, things of intellect are part of the material world. So many*

*who call for renouncing the material world aren't doing so in the way that Rand condemns. The world is indeed a gift to us, as are our bodies and minds. It is indeed a strange notion to let go of all things material. If you sit and meditate and do nothing else, you have probably lost the meaning of life. If you chose to be involved in projects bigger than your personal bank account, you haven't necessarily renounced the material world, but have found something perhaps more useful to do in the material world. Perhaps you 'renounce' the world by using whatever means you are blessed with to increase your joy and the joy of your family and so on, and this is good too. What we want to avoid is heaping endless privileges upon ourselves without thought for our fellows. The most natural way to have a life of joy love and sharing is through the natural affections and bonds of family. And again, in the system of capitalism (voluntary trade), the person serving their own interests does so by serving the interests of the community. Ultimately all God asks of us are the basic things of honesty and such, and the world works really well when people will do that. Other commandments are just an extension of honesty. End note.*

Those who argue that you must satisfy the wants of others instead of your own ultimately end up saying you must sacrifice your values and morals for someone else's; usually the end game of these people is to get you to buy into a personal agenda they are pushing.

*Note: This can be quite different depending on the setting. For example President Eyring speaks of taking care of others' needs before your own. He spoke about this when talking about a natural disaster, and how some people helped others meet their basic needs before heaping comforts upon themselves. Of course people who engage in this kind of service find out that deep joy comes from it, it is the gift of God, His appreciation showering upon those of His children who help others of His children. End note.*

*Note: Surely one must hold to their convictions, even if they are not popular. We should watch for the motives of our teachers, and make it a matter of serious investigation before giving allegiance to any government, group, religion, etc. End note.*

Socialists teach a double standard of morality because they say that anything you want is bad, and everything everyone else wants is good, that we should surrender ourselves in a pool of the collective. This means that someone else's wishes are valid while yours is not; that's not logical.

*Note: This is why each person should lift where they stand, and that often involves serving self-interest. End note.*

Enjoyment is a value, so why teach that it's okay to help others enjoy, and not okay to help yourself enjoy? The sensation of eating a cake is good - why is it moral for you to help others experience it and not let yourself experience it? It is important to help yourself have joy too.

The passkey that gets you into the moral elite among the prevailing philosophy is to constantly cater to others and hold onto **no convictions of your own**. This boils **down and down until you're not allowed to have any convictions at all, and must appease those of everyone but yourself**.

*Note: Something similar tends to happen in public school classrooms – the teacher must play to the least common denominator, leaving the gifted students no better off. They insist that special needs students be in the main classroom and operate with the same textbook everyone else uses. The home will always be the best place for academic instruction due to the unpredictability and downward trend of the schools. End note.*

*Note: Something similar tends to happen in churches. When you have new members, the temptation is to only cater to them. To keep things really simple. But the best congregations are willing to get bold if they can. They are willing to push a little. They are allowed to be flexible based on local circumstances, not just relying on a centralized curriculum. The home will always be the best place for religious instruction due to the unpredictability and downward trend of the churches. End note.*

Morality and self-esteem are sacrificed when your only measurement of how to use resources is the *needs of others*. We don't just operate based on the needs of others and throw away our own needs and our own values in place of the values of others. **Tolerance and acceptance are no longer tolerance and acceptance when they cease to tolerate and accept your views!**

Some insist that every bite of food we take is guilty because it could have been better used to feed some poor person somewhere, but in reality, it is just for someone who has earned something to enjoy it. It is correct and wholesome.

*Note: Jesus said the laborer is worthy of his hire/wage. You rob no one if you earned it honestly. End note.*

Similar to a whore who gives up her body for any man is the person who gives up their morals for the morals of any person, pandering to the least common denominator of those who believe the least. The bar of society's norms and values are commonly set that way.

**Love is an expression of one's values; the greatest thing you can earn from someone is their love.**

Love is the **emotional price one person pays for the joy they receive from another**. But the evil philosophers of our time would **insist that**

**we divorce ourselves from our love** and give our love to anyone who asks for it. They want us to use love **not as a payment for virtues but as a blank check on vices**. We are taught by many that love means letting go of all judgment, letting go of all morals, and sending love and 100% forgiveness everywhere without any conditions; such a scenario would eliminate justice, morals, reason, and the value of human life and experience.

*Note: And to love God is the greatest thing you can give to God. Your trust, your standing with him. End note.*

*Note: While God loves all as His children, he can more highly favor those who keep His commandments, those who align their lives and values with His. End note.*

*Note: This is why we need not only a God who upholds justice, but a Savior who can intervene and offer mercy. God the Father cannot offer mercy; He would cease to uphold justice if He did. But He did train a Son to be virtuous like Himself, who would help us in a constructive, non-weakening way. And we need that help! Father sending this Son to us is how He is merciful, while yet upholding justice. A 3<sup>rd</sup> party character is needed so that one can uphold justice, and the other can help intercede for us poor whelps. For more on this, see Elder Christofferson's 2017 BYU address, 'A Message at Christmas'. Notes of it are found in my book on salvation, with the title "The Need for A Savior: God's Plan of Justice vs Lucifer's Tyranny." End note.*

*Note: Another view on why Jesus helps us is because it is in His self-interest to do so, inasmuch as it brings Him joy to see us be saved and to see us learn to become like Him and His Father; Jesus Christ is perhaps a bank account willing to give us loans which we will pay back with interest as we become increasingly able to pay it back; we will end up paying Him back greatly by the good works we do which will bring Him so much joy. However, He does*

*continue to bless us, so He is always ahead of us, so He must find joy in forever assisting us, until the day comes where we are like Him in every way, and can then go and, on the level He did and does, help others. This process of creating essentially replicas of Himself must be the most rewarding process in the universe! This is the work of God the Father and the Son Jesus Christ. It will become our work too, and with Them, we will have a fullness of joy. We will, as Elder Dale Renlund put it, "join the family business." The scripture says that Jesus performed the atonement because of the joy that was set before Him. Everything about the gospel makes sense and aligns with natural values of exchanging services for rewards, even if some of those rewards are not seen without an eye of faith. End note.*

Heaven can be a place on earth.

*Note: This earth is patterned after planet Heaven, and will become a Heaven, indeed. And if we live right, we will be blessed with peace and hope for a greater world during mortality, and will inherit that greater world after mortality. Eternal Life is simply an extension of this life. Death is but a door, and life carries on forever. End note.*

You must build your wishes, not just wish for them. Feelings won't make that happen. Work will.

If you sleep with sluts then you're not a moral person, no matter how much you feel that you love your wife the next morning; it's not the feeling that matters, it's the behavior.

The greatest fear of a child is the fear of identity crisis. It's the villains who say we must get rid of our individual identity. We need to establish goals and identities, concrete realities, concrete roles, positions. But the socialist philosophy is to throw away reality and

identity. Socialists say whatever the majority says is right, that we should bend who we are to fit in with the majority.

*Note: Progressive political power is upheld by creating victim groups and dividing us against each other. They focus on people as part of a group rather than a person as a unique individual. They hyper focus on race, class, gender, and whatever other special interest groups they can come up with. Then tax dollars go to help little groups rather than going toward the 'general' (whole) welfare of everyone alike. End note.*

Children will have an identity crisis if you tell them lies.

*Note: For example, if someone wants to say they are a boy when they really are a girl, it's just not true, and it's immoral even allowing them to say that, **tolerating their intolerance for truth.** End note.*

The moral, rational thing to do is to say it exists, so I want it; what tricksters would say is, I want it so, it must exist.

*Note: The rational being operates on reality. The socialist trickster operates on theoretical ideas. For example – communism might sound great on paper, but in practice, it's a mass graveyard. The rational thing to do is to work with reality as it is, not to dramatically try and change reality. For example, human nature is consistent. Trying to change human nature is dangerous and fails every time. Build a system that works with human nature, such as the US Constitution's checks on power. Don't build a system that only works on fairyland. End note.*

The idea that God just created the universe out of nothing from a whim is bogus. The laws of science were at play.

*Note: First, why are we assigning motives to God as being 'a whim?' He could have done it because he wanted to, because it would bring Him joy. End note.*

*Note: Second, God didn't create out of nothing, but out of existing materials! You can't create matter! Or destroy it! Joseph Smith was ahead of his times when he taught this 200 years ago before it was mainstream science. End note.*

*Note: Third, let me unravel the mystery. God wasn't the first person in the universe. He had a father and so on. Similarly to how you can't create matter, you can't create intelligent beings - they always have existed and always will exist. God's role in creating us was to bring us to the next phase of our existence rather than creating us out of nothing. Thus the doctrine of creation ex nihilo is unwarranted in light of the restored gospel. End note.*

The law of causality is determined by action, otherwise you have the non-existent controlling the existent.

Corrupt philosophers change around the cause and effect - they want to eat the cake before they bake it; they say it doesn't matter who bakes it, what matters is that cakes exist and that everyone should be able to share them equally, discounting the need for baking altogether! They do this totally disregarding how that cake came into existence, and the investments of those who worked to bring the cake into existence. Similarly, the cause of our moral philosophies can have an effect on who we choose to mate with, but the corrupt philosophers change it around and say mate with anyone. Over and over, they reverse cause and effect, and they build a fiction. This is why their philosophies on how to help the poor, etc., are so evil - they don't work!

*Note: It fascinates me how the Devil doesn't just give us an alteration of truth, though that may be how he gets us hooked. His end game is to give us a complete inversion of the truth! For example, evolution theory gives us an order of creation diametrically opposite of what is reported in the Bible. The Devil doesn't stop at discontinuing marriage, he doesn't stop at sexuality outside of the bonds of marriage, he gives a complete inversion in homosexuality, and forces everyone to celebrate it or be hunted. As the Bible says, truly the friend of the world is the enemy to God! As the Book of Mormon says, the natural man is an enemy to God and will be until he repents! End note.*

Those who uphold reason are the core of society, others couldn't even conceive their wishes without them.

Socialists want to have the lights but destroy the generators. When you disincentivize business owners by taking away their profits, you "kill the golden goose" instead of allowing it to live and produce more golden eggs.

The mystics only think and pray, but we should act.

*Note: As the old saying goes, pray like it all depended on God, then get up and act like it all depended on you. The old debate of grace vs works is simply resolved in the Book of Mormon: It is by grace that we are saved after all we can do. True religion never discounts the importance of works. End note.*

People say that there is no such thing as an absolute, but do they not realize that the statement itself is an absolute statement?

*Note: Similarly, Joseph Smith asked people who claimed that revelation was done now that we have the Bible: Did God reveal to you that revelation is done? Because the bible sure doesn't say that! Indeed, some point to the*

*passage in Revelation about not adding to or taking from the book, but an almost identical passage appears in the book of Deuteronomy. Clearly these passages refer to not manipulating the specific book they refer to, not the compilation we call The Bible. The Bible does explicitly contain the doctrine of ongoing revelation. Amos 3:7 speaks of God always revealing His will to His prophets before carrying them out. End note.*

The philosophers of our time are sinking us back to the Dark Ages; the anti-science ages; they are taking away the concept of objective reality and the human consciousness.

*Note: The 'Dark Ages' actually planted the seeds for the renaissance and enlightenment and the American freedom revolution. They gave us the first universities and hospitals (thanks to inspired movements in the Catholic Church). The Bible actually has But indeed, the false philosophies of our time would serve to take us backward away from progress. Apparently real progress is too conservative of an idea for progressives. End note.*

*Note: Many say the prevalence of corrupt philosophies indicate that we have reached the height of civilization, and are about to cycle into another age of stupor. I suppose the present is in many ways a time of great stupor, but alas, the great Millennium will come, and Christ, the Creator of earth, will not deliver us to such great evil. The Lord has been testing us, and those tests are coming to an end. We have proved ourselves for better or worse, and it's reckoning time. End note.*

Those who refuse to work really deep down hate themselves. They don't care so much about being rich as seeing other people be poor.

**An inventor is someone who asks the universe why and lets nothing stand between his mind and the answer.**

**When someone wants to nationalize a product being made, that's the same thing as wanting to nationalize the brain of the person who made the product; it's not fair - that brain belongs to the person, not to the society, and similarly his product belongs to him and not to the society; taking away the fruit of his brain is the same thing as taking away his brain.**

Socialist thieves like to say, 'we're doing this for the people.' What/who are the people? Does it not include the inventor? The inventor doesn't get part of any welfare; only the failures get to have it. People who do nothing get all the benefits; **the creator just has to watch from the sidelines; he's no longer considered one of the people.** (This type of society is a ticking time bomb.)

Today's philosophers would have us think that we are **bad because we are smart and successful and because we listen to our conscience.** They are involved in **minimalizing the truth until it's small enough to be replaced by a convenient lie.** This is repeated until it is small enough to be replaced by a **quiet lie**, then it becomes the **new norm**, and we are left in a thoughtless stupor, happy to serve the interests of the corrupt government rather than the interests of what is really important to 'we the people.'

*Note: We the people slip into comfortable slavery where we are okay with a massive government, minimal freedoms, and no real growth. Just give us bread and circuses. I was once teaching in a lockdown facility and a staff member said, 'I think you all should have to stay here twice as long.' The class protested. The staff continued, 'but, I would make sure you get better snacks!' What the students did next was shocking. Instead of continuing their protest, their response was, 'what kind of snacks?' Oh how easily we are lured into bondage! What cheap things we sell our freedom for! End note.*

A right is something that humans need to exist on this earth. For example, if you are to exist on this earth, it is your right to keep what you make. **Human rights cannot exist without property rights.** If you say that human rights are superior to property rights, that's just a way of saying that you believe it's okay to take some people's property and give it to others. (In other words, that some people's rights are more important than others.) The law behind property rights is the law of causality: that whoever causes something to be has the right to it. You cannot obtain a product except on the conditions of the owner's mind.

The only proper function of government is to protect your rights; to act as a police officer (meaning that they can respond with force to anyone who tries to use force against what is rightfully yours). But too often, governments now have officers who just go around forcing you to give more and more of what is yours to them and to your neighbor who didn't earn it.

*Note: We hear cases of runaway children where police are called and refuse to intervene when someone else is holding the child, so long as the child wants to be there. What a bazaar reversion of justice! We hear cases of juvenile theft where the police refuse to be stern with the criminal because he is under 18. We hear of cases where people who defend themselves from robbers on their property are the ones who go to jail. To learn more about this topic check out Justice Corrupted by Senator Ted Cruz. End note.*

Government's only job is to stop people from using force on each other. Those who won't abide by this simple law always revert to mob rule (which means that people can do whatever they want as long as their mob is bigger than the other mob, something America has always been expressly against).

When gangs of mediocre people juggle around laws against

inventors, it makes the inventors not want to invent. The same goes for business, which is the organized invention of goods and services.

**Whoever is at the top of the intellectual pyramid contributes the most;** it takes him the most mental effort. That is the person who **came up with the product** (and made arrangements for it to actually come into being).

**Those who do not compete in intelligence will compete in brutality.**

Don't play the game where the rules are made by your enemy.

*Note: Hugh Nibley says the best way to deal with temptation is not to try to resist it, but to try to stay far away from it in the first place. Remember the blessing of the Rabbi in Fiddler on the Roof for the Czar: "God bless and keep the Czar far away from us!" God's people have always been instructed to flee Babylon and build their own kingdoms when the prevailing ones are corrupt. End note.*

Evil socialists **fight against truth by saying nothing about it** and pretending like it was never said; they also fight against the truth by saying, 'Yes, let's allow them to speak but we're going to keep undecided. It's not right for us to have an opinion either way. We have to be neutral.' Then in private they are terrified of the speaker of truth. They tell the public 'Oh you see, we are tolerant, and we hear all sorts of views' then they go about silencing the speaker of truth wherever possible. **They play down the speaker of truth as if it never happened, even though everyone knows it did.**

*Note: There is more than one way to kill a prophet. Silencing them is one of those ways. End note.*

The world has many people who want jobs of janitors, busboys and other types of unskilled labor, but what it's looking for is skilled labor - that is hard to find.

**The first step toward rebuilding the economy is to abolish all income taxes and fire the government employees.**

When you force someone to act in a way contrary to their judgment, you are forcing them to not think.

Those who tell lies don't really desire to live. Liars are hiding from reality. Words should be a solemn vow of truth, but people live in false worlds. **The liar doesn't really love or care about anything.**  
*(They spend their life time building houses of cards.)*

The person who says 'who am I to know' is really saying 'who am I to live.' When you disable the mind you disable life. Life is about using your mind, not about obeying orders. A good employee isn't just a yes-man. A good employee is a helpful man with good judgment.

What is the answer to rebuilding the economy? It is 'government: get out of the way.'

**The intellectual posterity of a socialist is someone who takes over things without knowing what they are and dubs himself the boss without having any skill or knowledge, claiming that he has a right to do this because he has a gun and an army of thugs to back him up with guns. They seize what others have created simply because they can.**

**People who want to get around reality, who want to live**

**independent of logic and reason, are people who hate themselves.** They hate themselves more than anyone else, and **they want to destroy every living thing just to prove that they can exist in a non-reality by nothing else existing to prove them wrong.**

*Note: This is a telling comment about why Satan is determined to destroy us. His ways don't work, yet he is so stubborn on his non-working ways that he seeks to destroy any who get in his way, any who uphold justice and logic. Satan and the other sons of perdition have chosen that path; they have rejected the full light. As Truman G. Madsen taught, they are locked in a cell, but they have locked themselves in from the inside. End note.*

**Children have a conviction that knowledge is possible.** Adults, when they are idle **socialists, lose that conviction,** and they spend their lives resorting to orders instead of thinking for themselves because they don't believe they can find answers and that they must forever look to others for the answers.

The best within us consists of making a living.

The honest industrialists worked so hard that they couldn't feel the pain any more, they just pressed forward, **not having time for things like exhaustion or feelings.** They felt the **joy of hard work, a joy that cannot be felt any other way.** Yes, they were worn out, but they **wouldn't have it any other way.**

*Note: Elder Holland spoke of a good missionary as one who collapses into bed at the end of the day, delightfully exhausted. End note.*

The great banker taught that the thing worse than one who doesn't regard pity is the one who uses one's pity against them as a weapon by using their sob story as a reason to give them a loan.

Socialists call it an unforgivable sin to be proud of the fact that you made profits. Those who boast of not making profits in their business are the most depraved.

The lovers of truth **must live in a private city until the regular cities are wiped clear** of all corruption. Then they can return to the regular cities and start building, because you can't build when there's that much corruption.

*Note: That is precisely what the prophets have taught will take place so far as the New Jerusalem is concerned - the place for that city must be wiped clean before we can go there and build a great city of refuge.*

## THE FOUNTAINHEAD



On my notes about *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand, I put much more extensive analysis of Rand's overall philosophies, and how they are in many ways, related to doctrines of the restored gospel, and the extent to which they are not. Please see that article, which is important to understand how Rand's works can be profitable. This document focuses primarily on simple notes of Rand's novel, 'The Fountainhead.'

Here I will put a short precautionary note which I also put on my notes in *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand: I do not openly endorse Rand's materials, but have found, as with the apocrypha, that there is lots of good in them. If the reader can throw out the bad and keep the good, discerning which is which by the Spirit of God, there are things here which can lead a soul to do good, work hard, and be a man of integrity. In particular, the love stories embedded in the text are not appropriate. The characters find themselves in difficult situations, but they could have done better despite that. Naturally we don't expect everyone to understand the fullness of God's standards in these matters, but it is nice to find authors who do. Needless to say, I still present these notes on the text to the reader as I do believe there are good lessons to be learned.

## Introductory note on The Fountainhead:

This was a good book; some parts that were weird/ridiculous (particularly the love story, which caused Phyllis Schlafly to put the book down), but for the most part the book was insightful on how to use reason.

Rand is an atheist and doesn't subscribe to the possibility of revelation, but I still value her writing as it has compelling ideas of human progress, and she taps into the spirit of freedom frequently, despite not having the full picture. Remember, the spirit of freedom is the spirit of Christ (2 Cor. 3:17, James 1:25, Rom. 8:21, Alma 61:15, 3 Ne. 21:4). Nevertheless, a person must be open to the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ if they are to understand the whole picture. Doubtless, the name of Christ has been misconstrued in our time to such a great extent, that many rational people can see through the false claims, and have developed a mistrust of Christ in the context of contemporary (false) claims to Christianity.

Where Rand's ideas don't interfere with God's laws, I quite enjoy reading her material. As I've stated in my book notes on Atlas Shrugged, much of what Rand teaches butts heads with mainstream Christianity but coincides well with the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as found in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The reader of The Fountainhead can find compelling insights, be they religious or non-religious. I have added commentary to my highlights of her book which add religious insight, but the majority of these book notes are simply things I've jotted down about the text as I read it, things which stood out as interesting and compelling.

### **Some main ideas of this book:**

The human species is a glorious species, that they have potential for greatness, that evil men (typically socialists) try to tear down the greatness of others to usurp power.

The great man will have to stand against the whole world if he adheres to upright principles to do his work.

The creative genius does service to mankind by creating, more so than by standing in soup kitchen lines.

The core duty one person has to another is to not interfere with their freedom.

A creative person has only the right to govern his creations.

*Note: The restored gospel teaches that even God only rules over things He created, He doesn't seek to control the creations of others; this, as Rand explains, makes him (or other creative people who don't seek to rule over others), independent, and independence is the measure of one's personal character. End of note.*

Sometimes the most evil dogmas are taught with the nicest voiced people, who make themselves appear holy and kind, but really keep people from progressing.

There's only so much schools can teach you, so drop out if they are teaching you nonsense.

*Note: For most of us we don't have a strong enough position to drop out of school even if there's some bogus, but ultimately, we have to stand against bogus schools. We have to not waste our lives. We have to resist slavery. End note.*

Don't just learn to copy what's already been done. Don't use old materials to build new things; Each material is to be used differently as each is different.

That excellence involves creating majestic things and everyone rejecting them. Excellence involves the pain of hearing ignorance paraded as enlightenment, and the roaring applause of the crowd when such ideas are presented.

You can work during school to pay your way; you don't need to rely on others.

True romantic love involves not micromanaging your partner.

Don't use loved ones as a maneuverer to advance in your career; don't seek to have an advantage because of who your closest friends and family are, etc.

*Note: Dreadful are the many companies that tell you to focus on exploiting your close friends and family to get sales. End note.*

The man with a great mind is always being a hero, always working, finds pure joy in it, and the pain that comes with it is far preferred to the vanity of stupor.

It is easier to do hard labor than to do easy labor for a cause you don't agree with.

Find joy in your work and everyone will hate you for it; they say just pander to what the masses want, and most do that. But when someone comes along who does something great and loves that intrinsically, people envy and hate them, for they have done something they dismissed as impossible.

The fallen man uses tactics of deceit, not morals and work, to rise in business - he plays people off each other when they stand in the way of a position he wants.

The artist creates based on his genius, not based on the whims of others.

It's better to have morals than high wage jobs if there comes a choice between the two.

Some people are only shelves with the name of who are inside, just a collection of the opinions of their friends. They don't really have any morals of their own, they just do what's popular. These people don't really exist. They are just remnants of things from the past and they cannot be persuaded, as you cannot reason with the dead.

What people do in their free time when they have extra money or on weekends when they don't have to work reveals their character, and it's often pitiful what they spend their hard-earned work on.

As every muscle having a function which pertains to the body so should a house be - it can be based on its needs not having all the superfluous additions.

*Note: I think Rand takes this theme a little far throughout the book, but so it is. End note.*

We don't admire people who've done something outstanding, but whose personal lives are full of immorality and decay we now admire.

The hero Howard frankly forgave Peter immediately and said forget about it when Peter spoke of great hatred for Howard (because of

Howard's success). Howard wasn't overly social with Peter. Forgiving him didn't mean he had to be; but he didn't hold a grudge.

Prestige is overrated. It is a stamp of approval from the masses to those people who live second-hand lives. They don't have any personal desires beyond the pursuit of popularity.

If you don't love yourself, you cannot have love or respect for others.

Note: But self-love doesn't mean self obsession either. Rand focuses on pursuit of self interest, and that is important, but it's also important to be generous. Rand focuses on generosity within a person's skillset, and the free market principle that making something and selling it at market price is indeed generous, a gift of one's best, and that the financial aspect of it is appropriate element of giving. End note.

The person who has **self-respect has the ability to like and respect others**, and therefore only the person with sufficient self-love and self-respect would give their life for someone else in danger.

Note: One's view of humans needs to be high, and that has to include yourself. Religion, in particular the Bible, does a tremendous job at teaching respect for all human life. End note.

Rand speaks of 'secondhand' people who don't make contributions but just leech off of the work of others. The worst secondhand person is the person who goes after power. This is a person who is not living for his work, but is living for the approval of others.

If you help others where they should not be helped, you overload them with more than they can carry, and it blows a circuit and ruins their life.

The great artist and the mediocre artist both have a lot of flops. The great artist probably even more flops. But the difference is that the great artist's flops find their way to the trash can instead of trying to be published.

Note: Rand does a good job at rebuking 'modern art' as a scam, sort of an 'emperor has no clothes' situation that everyone has bought into.' End note.

The great man will speak of his work during time of rest. He doesn't seek to avoid it. He loves what he does, and it shows constantly. He is the same person everywhere, anytime.

Note: This principle applies in many areas. For example, those who have a true love of the gospel will speak of it all the time. Bruce McConkie and his father-in-law Joseph Fielding Smith were known for always talking about the gospel in their spare time meetings together. The idea is to follow your heart and not just follow the crowd. A life invested in what you really believe in is a great life. End note.

You can tell an immensely large amount of things about a person by the first interaction, the beginning impression. The face.

Note: Similarly, it shouldn't take forever to date someone before knowing whether they are marriage quality. The Latter-day Saints are known for fasting dating toward marriage. This is from their honesty, and from their commitment to the virtue of marriage. End note.

Loneliness & isolation can be positive.

When you love greatness, you hate mediocrity.

Note: Love cannot come without hate. Even God, the essence of love, hates. It says he “hates” those who do violence to the innocent, etc. The mother who loves her children hates the influences that would bring her children down, and she fights for them! Lovers are fighters! See Peter Kreeft’s Culture War book for great analysis on these points. End note.

The socialist tells people to not follow their passions and talents for their careers, but to just think about what society needs.

Note: I heard a saying that you shouldn’t ask what the world needs you to do, but ask what makes you come alive, because the world needs people who have come alive. There’s limits to this of course, but it’s a great principle. Thank God for a free and prosperous society that allows us to specialize in fields of interest! End note.

The socialist has no reverence for sex.

Note: The socialist thinks everything is a public good, even including bodies. They encourage people to share their bodies freely and are against marriage.

The socialist despises individual progress and only talks about societal progress.

Note: They have no eternal standards and blame character on society, never on individual choice.

The socialist doesn't like it when people excel. Socialists say that people should only climb as high as other people can climb. The socialist calls achievement rude and embarrassing.

The socialist says that personal love and all other personal things are evil.

Go beyond the probable and seek the possible. Seek the heroic, seek the best.

Boards and councils are virtually useless; it's individuals who get things done. What boards create is generally worse than what any single one on the board could have created on their own. Great minds often work alone.

Note: Freedom advocate John Stossel hilariously said people who like to be on boards tend to think like socialists. End note.

When things going on are enough to make you sick, you can't let yourself get sick. You just be strong.

Howard believed that exaltation consisted of joy and living to your fullest potential. But the socialist said that exaltation consisted of pure humiliation of your nothingness. The socialist refuses to see the dignity of humanity and their potential.

Note: The restored gospel teaches that religion is to make us better, not just to make us eternal worshippers. We aren't destined to be God's pawns, but to be His children, and children grow up to be like their parents! End note.

To cast pearls before swine is a sin because the person values so little of their pearls and lets them be defiled.

Note: Aha! We catch Rand agreeing openly with a Bible teaching! Rand doesn't speak the language of religion, but she does understand many principles of freedom. Remember, the spirit of freedom is the spirit of Christ (2 Cor. 3:17, James 1:25, Rom. 8:21, Alma 61:15, 3 Ne. 21:4). End note.

Socialists don't really like people who have an actual love for the poor, such as a social worker who really does truly love the poor.

Note: Nurses and social workers who spend time with patients are often ridiculed. All too often healthcare worker goes around checking the boxes and has no heart in the work. End note.

Self-loathing based in an unhealthy concept of humility leads to unhappiness and a feeling of uncleanness. It stops your potential and makes you tired emotionally, which leads to being tired physically.

Note: The gospel of Christ teaches humility, but not discouragement. God always gives courage, even when that courage has to come with stern rebukes of our behavior. End note.

The self-loathing socialist isn't grateful for his supposedly selfless service; they start to see the human race as a fallen people. They are jealous when other people are happy. Many socialists develop hatred for the poor they serve.

Supposedly selfless people are never happy. Each human, including the people who want to help others, deserve a level of dignity. The socialist repeatedly teaches people that they shouldn't care at all about themselves and that the only important people are other people.

The socialist teaches people to lose their identity and forget their souls, to not care about being righteous but to only care about nothing at all and to forget about God's judgement.

The socialist teaches that individual identity is an illusion and that your only purpose is to melt into the whole.

The socialist teaches only to believe, not to reason; to merely believe in some ideal but not to use your mind as to how to obtain that. The socialist emphasizes feelings over understanding.

The socialist teaches that individuals don't really matter.

Note: A socialist teaching is that what you do doesn't matter so much as what the system does. He avoids personal responsibility. He blames his flaws on the system and doesn't take responsibility for them. End note.

The socialist teaches that you should never stand up for yourself.

The socialist teaches that personal happiness is irrelevant, but in reality, personal happiness contributes to the happiness of the whole.

The socialist teaches that the whole is the only important entity, but in reality, the individual is just as important.

People who aren't honest in their profession are never confident about themselves. Deep down they're never sure if what they've done in life was worthwhile.

Those who betray beauty to try and fit in with the popular masses are never really sure about what they're doing. They're always looking for an excuse to make what they're doing sound noble. The person they want to convince but just can't is themselves.

Note: At some point a person becomes 'beyond feeling' (1 Ne. 17:45-46) and persuades himself that the wrong path is right, at least superficially, and he refuses to feel deeper down where the truth is. End note.

There is more pain in some people not having opportunity to do what they are passionate about than the pain of a herd of people being run over by a truck. End Note.

Even if you're reading books out of order your mind will make order of it.

No happy person can be impervious to pain. If a person seems impervious to pain, you know they are not a happy person.

Note: Sometimes we have to put on emotional 'armor' to withstand hard situations. But not being able to pull out of it is a bad sign. The surest guarantee of an emotionally stable life is to live in the natural manner centered in family. End note.

To do something halfway is to lie to yourself. It is to create a fissure in yourself.

True self-respect can't be killed. The worst someone could do to someone else is merely kill their pretense of self-respect.

You can't have equal love for excellence and unrefined matter.

Note: We aren't supposed to just worship Earth, we are to build. We are to improve our circumstances. End note.

The quest for self-respect is proof that you don't have it.

Some literary critics praise bad plays just to stand out, just to be proud of the fact that they can sell a piece of garbage.

The sound perception of an ant does not include lightning. In other words, people try to make the average, everyday life as the heroic life, and they ignore the heroes. When a person really does great things it

gets to the point where society can't comprehend it, so society attempts to whittle the hero and his works down. With socialism, they stop expecting greatness. This is also why socialist literary critics praise garbage writing. They're making everyone seem equal, but in reality people's talent and ability vary greatly.

Note: It's popular today to deny that heroes can exist. Popular to say that we are all pretty bad. They find everything bad they can to trash real heroes who have accomplished mountains more than they themselves have. But in truth, we can accomplish great things if our hearts are turned to love virtue and we focus thereupon. End note.

Large public weddings are hideous. It is a sacrilege of what should be a sacred moment of the climax of two people's lives. It should be solemn, not overly decorated and populated. It should be more solemn than party.

Note: Weddings are both sacred and joyful occasions. Often we separate the deeper more special wedding ceremony from the more jovial afterparty. Indeed, a person shouldn't make his wedding a big show, but rather, a humble special occasion, as Rand suggests. A simple church can meet the needs of a wedding as its not what's on the outside that counts. End note.

The socialist believes that the happiness of others is dangerous.

When a business owner can't fire whoever he wishes to of his own company, he may as well blow up the building.

Note: Rand takes this idea a little far in the story (the builder actually blows up a building he made which the government tries to control), but the point is that you can do what you want with your own things; the government shouldn't be able to manipulate your own work; you should have complete control of it. End note.

There is a stage of worship which makes the worshipper himself an item of reverence.

The socialist calls crudeness the eloquent language of the common man and exalts it when he should be reaching for higher things, not just calling the mundane or average the highest excellence. The socialist refuses to see humanity as capable of something higher than average. They refuse to paint high ideals.

Note: Many today call for bad language not to be corrected, but to be respected as another culture. This is patent absurdity and negates true principles and the goodness of intelligence. It is anti intelligence and brews in ignorance and the evils that accompany such. End note.

Note: On refusing to paint high ideals – even our art reflects our rejection of nobility and elegance! We have a trash culture and must return to the greatness we once maintained. When you can make good art, you have the moral responsibility to do so. When great art is available, you have the moral responsibility to use that rather than some blocky disproportionate overly simplified unrealistic art. There is higher morality in realism than abstract art. One good example of this is the company “The Good and the Beautiful” who produces a monthly magazine to educate children full of high quality beautiful art. It is a mockery to the human senses to fill a person with trashy art. End note.

Those who take their work seriously are by nature very religious people.

Note: Religion and religious can be defined as dedication. Discipleship. Disciplined. Someone who masters the self in place of higher ideals. Religion therefore is a universal truth that every human can and should go toward. It is the pursuit of intelligence, dignity,

and true achievement. America has a longstanding tradition of being formally religious, and what you might say informally religious, as in being focused on achievement, building, and real progress. Today the woke culture is taking us backward – the modern ‘progressive’ is more ‘regressive.’ But suffice it to say that America builds the world more than any other country. As Dinesh D’Souza points out, some countries boast of playing dominos on the street, but America boasts of building an economy that lifts millions out of poverty and stabilizes the whole world. America is a savior on mount Zion. Now that’s religion! On one occasion Joseph Smith and a group of church members were doing a service project for someone, the recipient said something to the effect of, ‘I don’t care much for your religion, but I do appreciate this service!’ Joseph responds in effect, ‘You might say that service is our religion!’ Indeed, the Bible says service is the truest religion. Another aspect of this is government – the saints will maintain constitutional government when society falls apart, and many will come to them, not interested in their formal religion, but interested in the freedom they have to offer. Remember, the spirit of freedom is the spirit of Christ (2 Cor. 3:17, James 1:25, Rom. 8:21, Alma 61:15, 3 Ne. 21:4). End note.

Integrity is much more than just not taking people's money, it includes holding the same ideals over time.

Convincing people of the glaringly obvious which everyone has chosen to ignore is one of the hardest things to do.

Architecture is music in stone.

Note: And some music, like some architecture, is inherently bad! It’s not just subjective. Someday society will understand the laws of nature pertaining to music and so forth, and find scientifically that bad music is bad, even if enticing to the baser fallen nature of man! End note.

Seeing something truly beautiful and magnificent can give a person the courage to face a lifetime of hardship.

Note: This is why we need good art, good reminders around us of true principles and high ideals. This can be reflected in a clean home, meaningful art, wholesome clothes, etc. End note.

The worst curse of poverty is lack of privacy.

Note: Rand understands that a person needs privacy for dignity. Think of this principle when it comes to modest dress. Do not cast pearls before swine. Some things are private in nature, reserved for special settings only. End note.

Two kinds of greatness are needed for greatness to survive. One, the person who creates great things. Two is the person who can see it and says something about it.

Note: It has been said that to have an impact in the world you need to either do great things, or write about people who do great things. End note.

Excellent people don't always require the presence of others.

When you are involved in creating something excellent your humble circumstances don't bother you. You don't even notice it.

Note: This is a key for healthy living, grateful living, and a happy life. You have to be involved in something, or you'll just be drawn to the vices of the world to cure your boredom. End note.

True greatness travels by word of mouth. The masses don't care about it. Those who discover it do so by seeing it first-hand. Like an underground river, it shoots forth from random springs.

People who aren't happy don't build great things.

Note: It never was the purpose of true religion to rob people of joy. Truly the purpose of life is to have joy (2 Ne. 2:25). Religion is to check us against stupid alluring paths that would rob us of our joy. The devil wants to destroy us, as do his failed friends, and religion helps us avoid all that. It helps us be aware of the reality of our situation so we can navigate it well, and come off conqueror. End note.

The difficult earned joy makes you feel like a better person. This is a much higher joy than the placid, face value joy.

Some things are too precious to let commoners, the public, see, and freely interact with.

Note: Temples and the wife of God fit this description; the concept of sacred space vs profane space (private vs public). And its not just God, it's every human. Every human is made in the image of God and is a temple of God. Many principles apply here about what we should say, how we should dress, how we should act, and a general attitude of dignified living. This dignity used to be commonplace, and we must find it again. End note.

When two excellent people speak to each other there is no pressure or pretense; it is open and free as if they're speaking to themselves.

Excellent people usually don't care whether others like them or not. There are very few people whose opinion (of themselves) they care about.

When you hate incompetence, you can walk away and do your own work. Or you can take the darker path of trying to control others whom you despise.

Note: Brigham Young told the saints to flee Babylon, to not participate in her economy, to make your own food, your own clothes, your own trends, to be completely independent. If we mingle with Babylon, we can expect to mingle in her plagues. One good example of independence is the Amish. Many examples of their excellence can be given, one is that their babies don't die from vaccines because they don't vaccinate. Granted, the Amish do have other problems and I do believe various advancements are inspired by God, but their choices to limit certain things do help them focus on what matters most. You could say similar things about the Hopi Indians and so forth. End note.

When you say 'amen' to something, you say yes to it; it becomes yours in conjunction with the creator of it.

Note: You become one. And this by choice. End note.

The soul consists of the ability to say yes or no to things.

Note: Agency begins with our ability to say no. We can always say no. This separates man from beast – we aren't just driven by instinct and nature – we have our own willpower to choose. We have intelligence and can choose our own way. That often manifests by rejecting various offers. Make sure that you are choosing the highest life you can, because if you don't, there's only yourself to blame. Life is simple when you understand the perfect principle of individual accountability. At the judgement bar of God, we will see that making excuses isn't going to get us where we want to be. The sooner we learn that the better. Stories of greatness are about overcoming obstacles, not about having no obstacles. End note.

Once you say yes to something it never changes. You are the same forever. There are little things along the way you don't understand, but you are you. Build what you wish. The outcome of it all is you.

A person's house is a reflection of their character.

Note: Some people don't care much about their house and focus on other things, but I suppose even that is a statement about a particular aspect of character. But Rand is right that often one's situation can quickly reflect many things about one's character. The duty of man is to bring order out of chaos in some way or other. And every man has some amount of temporal responsibility. A house of order is a sign of dignity. End note.

Pain is a stimulant also.

Note: In our comfort seeking world obsessed with self-care, we are forgetting about greatness, sacrifice, and the dignity and joy that can come from doing hard things. The Devil seeks to lure us into a placid state of dependence and shallow comforts. We will never reach our potential in such cozy settings. God on the other hand sends the Holy Ghost to give us peace that the world doesn't understand, peace that keeps you going when you're in hard circumstances. Often the irreligious person doesn't comprehend HOW the Christian does what he does. It is indeed a great secret found out only by those who walk that path of duty and excellence. Such a path involves tapping into a power source beyond the self. End note.

The socialist says that freedom is a nuisance, that everyone would be happier in a highly controlled society, and that those who are selfish should be shot.

Note: Such a view is out of alignment with the true (glorious) nature of human beings. Socialists, Marxists, they think you can rewire humans into something they are not. For example, humans thrive when they have independence freedom and can work on their own projects and when they can keep the fruits of their labors and do with them as they please, including participating in charity in the way they see fit. They like local government. As Aristotle said, man is a political animal – this means he wants to participate in a local community, not to be a drop of water in an ocean – he wants a voice and a place in society. End note.

The socialist believes that compulsory education will in essence force everyone to make good choices and force them to be happy and that they should be taught these ways whether they like it or not, for their own good.

Note: It is the job of parents to teach basic principles of life which are calculated to bring happiness, like work ethic, manners, and yes, letters. It is the duty of parents to guide children toward further education. It is not the job of the state to dictate which path is best for everyone. End note.

The socialist hates art. He says that everyday life is all the art we need and that the majestic paintings, the Shakespeare plays, that all of this is not needed. This is another way the socialist dumbs down the masses to usurp control.

Peter's real love was art. He fizzled out in the profession his mother pushed him into, architecture. He tried to start painting late in his life after being burned out in the other career he chose, but by then he was mediocre, and likely to remain so.

Note: It's never too late to start something new, but it does get increasingly difficult to provide with something you haven't

specialized in over time. Each person must balance the advice they get from well-intended friends with what his own mind and heart call him to. End note.

The socialist insists on things constantly changing.

Note: And in the worst way. Their version of progress is to remove foundational time-tested ways of life, and to replace them with popular trends without a foundation. Their biggest mistake is to think that the family is outdated. End note.

The socialist leaders don't find young talent, they pick someone suitable for their purposes and enthrone them as a pawn.

The socialist knows fully well the subliminal messages he pushes in the news everyday, but no one else knows.

The socialist, metaphorically speaking, creates a mega fertilizer which will kill all certain kinds of plants that he doesn't like.

To be able to help people, you first must become someone who can get things done. And to be someone who can get things done, you must be someone who loves the work of getting things done. Not just the end product, but the process of the work itself.

To do what you truly want to do is the hardest thing and the most courageous thing to do.

Note: When a person truly wants to serve God, he becomes an unstoppable force for good. You might say that a person who follows his heart in a good direction becomes an unstoppable force for good. End note.

You can't give away your core identity as an individual without becoming a monster, a hollow shell who goes around looking for the approval of others, who focuses on opinions rather than abilities. You become your own worst enemy. You never trust that what you're doing is any good because deep down as a human you know that what you're doing isn't any good when you've given up your core self. When you've spent your life pandering to others, bending morals to pander to the cheap barometer of public opinion.

Many rise to the top quickly, go down quickly, and wonder why they fell. The reason is because they never belonged at the top anyway. They were a mere puppet thrown away after their usefulness had passed.

A person brainwashed by socialism devalues himself and nothing is sacred to him anymore. His own life isn't sacred to him anymore.

The socialist's past is their present. They take their future lightly and don't have any real friends. They consider everything as a matter of fact and their own experience as the universal experience of humanity, missing the truth that each life is something sacred and special and unique.

People really in love don't have to constantly speak to each other as if they're afraid that their fragile relationship will fall apart. They can enjoy silence together or silence apart. They have deep respect for themselves and for their partner. They trust one another and aren't suspicious.

People with a healthy self-respect enjoy physical exercise before breakfast.

Note: Or some kind of intellectual exercise before breakfast, etc. Mornings can be a good time for self-improvement and recreation of

some kind, particularly some form of meaningful recreation. The word recreate is to create again, so it's constructive. We aren't talking about scrolling social media (though there are some good social media pages) or flipping channels on a TV (though there are some good TV channels); we must learn to appreciate wholesome recreation, or we will remain forever small. End note.

The socialist says be selfless and give to others. What they mean by this is the complete opposite of healthy sharing. They mean that you should give your soul away to whatever makes people happy, be that good or evil. The socialist view of selflessness is another way of saying "sell your soul to accommodate the least common denominator." Everyone sells their soul, that's what they do every day. The hardest thing is to keep your soul, to have true integrity. Some people call it egotistical, but those seeking their own long-term happiness are always the nicest people, not just in public but everywhere.

Note: The person whose only ambition is to control others is often a wretched person. For example, career politicians like Hillary Clinton are famously mean to everyone around them when they aren't on camera. So why are they this way? Because they have no personal foundation, and thus no satisfaction that comes from living an inherently good life. They are always focused on the faults of others and blame their problems on others rather than resolving their own problems. End note.

Socialists want a love which permits anything, forgives anything, and expects nothing.

Note: Of course such a love isn't really love. Do you 'allow' a puppy in a home to pee wherever it wants, or to nip at people? Soon that puppy will become a dog that no one wants. If you love someone, you

direct them to excellence and truth, you don't cater to whatever they want. End note.

Note: Peter Kreeft points out that the mobs will forgive you for being wrong, but will never forgive you for being right. In other words, when you are right, it shines a light on the darkness others live in – they don't want attention drawn to the fact that they are wrong, so they attack those who are right. End note.

Note: Broad is the way of wrong, and narrow is the way of right, so expect trouble if you're doing something right. Those who do right will always be a minority. That applies everywhere, including doing quality honest dignified work, teaching truth, parenting responsibly, etc. The time has come to stop trying to fit in for the sake of fitting in, to stop catering to politically correct falsehoods, and to stand for the right that we all know deep down is right. We don't need the backward ways of the world any longer. End note.

Often intellectuals use anger to attempt to cure their boredom.

The great man spends his life in and out of court. This endites not the man, but the society that rejected the man.

Note: Joseph Smith was such a man that wicked society couldn't tolerate. He was dragged into the courts dozens of times.

Socrates, Galileo, Pasteur, these were martyrs of society - great men that society rejected.

The socialist wants power and they get this by preaching to others to hate power. The men who sought power in the past used physical control, but the man who can control another man's soul, however corrupt, will have power over others.

The great men cannot be ruled. The socialist enthrones mediocrity.

Happy men are free men. The socialist seeks to take away what is dear and important to man, to not let him have what he wants.

Note: A man is different from a child. Adults need and can handle more autonomy than children. Furthermore, men should have the right to keep the fruits of their labors. It's an eternal fact that we do things based on the reward set before us, and if you take that reward, our psychology is damned. The Bible says Jesus did the atonement because of the joy that was set before him. God Himself works for glory and joy. For every good deed there is and must be a reward, even if that reward is delayed. End note.

Internal corruption is the age-old tool to get power.

A person's first duty is to himself, to his own happiness.

Note: this is why we keep God's commandments instead of doing what the masses want, because our happiness is more important. Because God is love, we can trust his instructions to be for our own benefit. End note.

Peter regularly came to Ellsworth for Ellsworth to convince him that he was a good boy. Peter became Faust and Ellsworth Mephistopheles.

Note: Faust is the classic person who makes a pact with the Devil, Mephistopheles. Indeed, if you are doing what's right, your own conscience will let you know that what you are doing is good. If you're not doing good, you'll always need to run to others for them to tell you that you are good. End note.

The socialist creates an environment where phenomenal people cannot exist. He creates a vacuum of nothing where a great man cannot survive.

Collectivism makes everyone united in slavery. One neck suited for 1 leash.

Note: Would you rather be equally poor, or unequal and rising? True equality means equal opportunity, not equal outcomes. If you want to guarantee equal outcomes as some sort of a 'right,' you can only do so at the deletion of real rights. People must have both the freedom to progress and the freedom to not progress. The opportunity to succeed and the opportunity to fail. Truly charitable people recognize these eternal truths, and work within them rather than trying to tear them down. The Devil fell from heaven because he tried to override the system to do things his way. In reality, there is no short cut to greatness, no guarantee of a 100% pass rate. The opportunity to try is the best you can get. There is deliverance in Christ, and that deliverance begins with understanding the nature of personal accountability, work, and freedom. End note.

The socialist wants you to give up your soul to a leader or a council, to anything. He just wants you to give it up. He wants to kill the individual, to kill man's soul. When your soul is gone, the rest of his plans for dominion will follow naturally.

The devil tries to get you to obey him in the name of ideals. Then he unveils himself and shows that there were no ideals in what he was getting you to do. But by then you are hooked. You follow him regardless.

Writing has healing power. It is a fountain of life when a thought takes shape in words.

Organizations made without a purpose are especially dangerous.

The great business owner pays his employees plenty of money and calls the shots. He is in charge, not the employees. He pays them enough so they don't want to leave. This is a fair agreement - they can choose if they want to work there.

A brilliant machine functioning at its best makes immediate decisions and precise commands. A great person can function as a brilliant machine when it comes to his work.

The moochers want freedoms without recognizing the work of creators. If it weren't for the creator there would be nothing for them to be free about. The creators are who made the real sacrifices.

Note: If you think its hard working under a certain boss, think about how hard it might be for that boss to get all of you employees to work. Being a boss is hard work! End note.

Socialists condone violent protests.

When you play the system of corruption to gain power you become a part of the people who were feeding into the corruption. You're not independently ruling anything.

To love is to make exceptions.

Note: Indeed, mercy is love, but it is also love when we setup a system and rule it justly. Sometimes tough love is the type of love people need most. You might say that mercy is one for of love. Devotion is another form of love. So is consistency.

To confess pain is not as deep and revealing as to confess joy.

Note: Joy is found by the honest person. Honest in his work, honest in his intentions, honest with himself, honest with those around him. Pain is universal, but abiding joy is the reward of faithfulness, and is the purpose of life which we too often fail to attain. End note.

Only a free person has the capacity for benevolence.

Note: As the good Lord said, we can't be an utmost farthing while in jail. End note.

Every great new thought and invention is opposed. The inventors are met with hatred, but in the long run they win.

Note: Greed inspires people to be upset about the success of others rather than to applaud it. The competition is ever on, and if someone wants to excel, they are free to do so. It may mean less people want to buy your product, but freedom demands everyone the opportunity to innovate and compete. In a free environment, everyone's lives get better, even if not immediately or all at the same time. End note.

All of the functions of body and spirit are private and cannot be shared. One cannot breathe or digest or be creative for another.

The thing that is created is the property of the creator.

Note: Ultra secular Obama spoke of businesses in his typical derogatory method when he said 'if you have a business, you didn't build that.' He claims the social structures allowed you to build it, so your business belongs to everyone rather than to yourself. When he fails to see is that everyone had access to the social structures like roads, yet the creator of the business was the only one to create, so clearly he was doing something that others weren't, and he has full rights to all the benefits of his business. Every laborer is worthy of

pay for his products. He sells them in the market for whatever people are willing to pay. End note.

The creator is involved in the conquest of nature, whereas the parasite is involved in the conquest of men. The parasite lives second-hand and needs others; the use of others becomes his prime mode of operation, his basic need is other people. But the basic need of the creator is independence. The creative mind cannot work under any form of compulsion, it demands total independence in function and motive. The parasite teaches that relationships are important above all things. The parasite mindset is to shun independence.

To enslave oneself is the most debased action and it should not be done, not even in the name of love.

Note: John Taylor said he loves to serve God, but would not consider himself a 'slave' of God. The true man enslaves himself to no one, nor does God, the truest of men, ask such. God's highest blessings, which he offers to all, are to become part of his eternal family. End note.

To create, not to suffer, is the highest function of life.

Note: True, but suffering can be a great teacher.

The creator is the man who stands alone.

People think that masochism (joy in pain) is the only substitution for sadism (joy in causing pain), but the real trade is between dependence and independence.

Things that are based on depending on others are evil. The righteous man does not expect anyone to live for him and he does not live for anyone else. Independence is the gauge of human virtue and value. The only standard of personal dignity is independence.

Note: It is appropriate to ask for help at times, but the general approach to life must be independence. End note. Consistent good choices will put you in a position to give help, rather than to ask it. The Bible says God's blessed people will be lenders, not borrowers. End note.

The first right and duty is the ego, the self. One's moral obligation is to do what he wishes, provided that it does not rely on (or harm) others.

Note: This doesn't quite cover it, though it is a basic truth to not cause harm. End note.

Robbery, exploitation, and ruling all involve depending on others. They're not independent.

Note: Consensual ruling is appropriate. You can rule a kingdom where the constituents of it voluntarily participate. Indeed, all proper government is voluntary. That doesn't mean government can't use force – if someone tries to kill you, the government can indeed stop them from killing you, and they can use force to protect you. But opting to live in a society with a certain government is in the first place voluntary. End note.

Note: Another situation where a person must be ruled is if they step outside of their realm of authority. For example, if you steal from others because you cannot produce yourself, those you steal from will be justified in ruling over you to the extent of forcing you to stop harming them.

The individual against the collective is another way of saying the creator versus the second-hander.

Note: It is revealed that God only governs His own creations. In this sense, he isn't a ruler over others' things, which is what Rand rebukes in stating that the ruler isn't independent. God created His children and the Earth they live on, and therefore has the right to govern them. Indeed, only He has the exclusive right to rule; all other rulers are imposters if they aren't approved by Him. End note.

Note: In another sense, each person is their own person and coexists with God, and thereby is allowed agency to operate in the universe as they will, and may become like the prototype of perfect independence (Jesus Christ) or to become like the prototype of a fallen being, forever captive, destroying others' things and never really creating anything of his own. End note.

The USA was based on the pursuit of happiness, the 'selfish' motive, and that has resulted in it becoming the greatest most free nation in the world.

Note: It goes a little deeper than that. Christian convictions of thrift, hard work, honesty, all of these worked to help America become great. You might say that Christian values are inherently good values, or that Christianity inspires people to do inherently good things. Christianity has better results for civilization than any other system. End note.

The collectivist uses the narrative of altruism in what appears as love, but ends up in blood shed. They say that anything is okay if it is done in the name of altruism.

The integrity of a man's creative work is of more importance than any charitable endeavor.

Note: Recall the scripture that to obey is better than sacrifice. In other words, if you have some good idea, make sure it squares with true

principles. A good end doesn't justify corrupt means. If your plan to solve world hunger involves theft (something taken seriously by many, called wealth redistribution), then rest assured that your plan is bogus and unsustainable. End note.

Note: Some fail the basic test of morality that is the question of whether to steal medicine to help your child survive. Of course you don't steal the medicine because stealing would destroy civilization. It would destroy the engine that made the medicine in the first place, resulting in many children dying as there would be no medicine at all. The producers would no longer be able to produce. End note.

Note: This is a big theme in Rand's Atlas Shrugged book – society steals more and more from business owners until the owners have to flee civilization to survive, and what is left behind turns to darkness as no one is there to create light. End note.

A man's only obligation to another man is to respect his freedom and to not take part in a slave society.

Note: Rand is correct in that freedom is the basic premise of all proper civilization. We can do a lot of good things based on that premise, but nothing good can come of injustice. As the psalmist said, "he that ruleth over men must be just." End note.

Note: There is a God in heaven who is the father of mankind, and He delights to bless us all the time, but especially when we help others. Thankfully, helping others is often a natural fruit of helping ones self. The product you sell is a win-win for you and the buyer because the deal is voluntary – you both walk away having an improved situation to your liking. End note.

Note: Those who accept the challenges of independence are welcome to participate in freedom. Those who refuse these responsibilities will find themselves in a condition requiring a ruler to rule over them.

Straight is the way and narrow the gate that leads to freedom. Some are unwilling to put in the required work for it. End note.



# Hop Aboard the Freedom Train!

This train is going to the places you want to be! Tired of the government punishing you for being productive? Want to see how it would work for a truly free society to operate without big government? You're in the right place. Ayn Rand's freedom writings have had a legendary effect in building the conservative movement.

Throughout my notes highlighting some of Rand's best writings including *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*, I add commentary giving conservative and religious perspectives which enthrone and balance the 'objectivist' writings of Rand. I also include several topical essays pinpointing similarities and differences between the views of Rand, Christendom, and the Latter-day Saints in particular. From the Fall of Adam, to the value of the human body, to the majesty of man, Rand's messages are often very similar to teachings of the restoration, and many of Rand's critiques of religion are shared with and corrected by messages of the restored gospel.

There will always be a few places great thinkers will disagree on things, and I point that out throughout these messages, but the fact remains that Rand taught many principles of freedom in powerfully persuasive ways that should not be forgotten.

God is the author of freedom. Moses called for a proclamation of liberty throughout the land (Lev. 25:10). The spirit of freedom is also the spirit of Christ (2 Cor. 3:17, James 1:25, Rom. 8:21, Alma 61:15, 3 Ne. 21:4). Rand's writings show what it really means to be honest, to work hard, to treat others fairly, and to contribute to the community. Many socialist ideas are exposed with pinpoint accuracy as we see their ultimate effect to be evil and destructive to society.

If you haven't explored Rand's freedom writings, want to remember some of her greatest messages, or wonder how her teachings align with a conservative and religious worldview, this book will be a welcome study never to be forgotten.