

Discourse on the method of rightly conducting the reason, and seeking truth in the sciences

René Descartes

Abstract

If this Discourse appear too long to be read at once, it may be divided into six Parts: and, in the first, will be found various considerations touching the Sciences; in the second, the principal rules of the Method which the Author has discovered, in the third, certain of the rules of Morals which he has deduced from this Method; in the fourth, the reasonings by which he establishes the existence of God and of the Human Soul, which are the foundations of his Metaphysic; in the fifth, the order of the Physical questions which he has investigated, and, in particular, the explication of the motion of the heart and of some other difficulties pertaining to Medicine, as also the difference between the soul of man and that of the brutes; and, in the last, what the Author believes to be required in order to greater advancement in the investigation of Nature than has yet been made, with the reasons that have induced him to write.

doi : 10.5214/ans.0972.7531.2009.160108

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Source: Discourse on Method (1637). Cambridge University Press, 1911, translated and edited by S. Haldane and G. R. T. Ross; first five parts. If this Discourse appears too long to be read all at once, it may be separated into six portions. And in the first there will be found various considerations respecting the sciences; in the second the principal rules regarding the Method which the author has sought out; while in the third are some of the rules of morality which he has derived from this Method. In the fourth are the reasons by which he proves the existence of God and of the human soul which form the foundation of his Metaphysic. Source: Discourse on the method of rightly conducting the reason and seeking the truth in the sciences, by René Descartes, edited by Charles W. Eliot. Published by P.F. Collier & Son, 1909, New York, Transcribed: by Andy Blunden. Prefatory Note by the Author. If this Discourse appear too long to be read at once, it may be divided into six Parts: and, in the first, will be found various considerations touching the Sciences; in the second, the principal rules of the Method which the Author has discovered, in the third, certain of the rules of Morals which he has deduced from this Method; in the