

A Study of Galt's Speech

Onkar Ghate

Course Outline

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Procedural issues
- 1.2. The two main goals of the course
- 1.3. Why study Galt's speech?

2. Galt's speech and *Atlas Shrugged*

- 2.1. The main aim of Galt's speech
- 2.2. The overall structure of Galt's speech: its three main parts
- 2.3. Some other reasons why Galt's speech is an integral part of *Atlas Shrugged*

3. Part I of Galt's speech

- 3.1. The structure of Part I 2
- 3.2. Selected topics for further discussion

4. Part II of Galt's speech

- 4.1. The structure of Part II. 5
- 4.2. Selected topics for further discussion

5. Part III of Galt's speech

- 5.1. The structure of Part III 10
- 5.2. Selected topics for further discussion

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Outline of the Structure of Galt's Speech

Note: Page numbers reference "Galt's Speech" in *For the New Intellectual*

INTRODUCTION (pp. 117–120)

- (1) Ladies and gentlemen, said a voice
- (2) For twelve years, you have been asking
- (3) You have heard it said that this is an age
- (4) You have destroyed all that
- (5) Your ideal had an implacable enemy
- (6) Men do not live by the mind, you say?
- (7) While you were dragging to your sacrificial altars
- (8) All the men who have vanished
- (9) We are on strike against self-immolation
- (10) There is a difference between our strike
- (11) We have granted you everything you have demanded of us
- (12) Are you now crying
- (13) Through centuries of scourges and disasters
- (14) You wanted to know John Galt's identity
- (15) Yes, this *is* an age of moral crisis
- (16) You have heard no concepts of morality
- (17) For centuries, the battle of morality
- (18) Both sides agreed that morality
- (19) Whatever else they fought about

PART I — THE MORALITY OF LIFE (pp. 120–136)

Section A — Man's need of a moral code (pp. 120–122)

- (20) Man's mind is his basic tool of survival
- (21) But to think is an act of choice
- (22) A being of volitional consciousness
- (23) There is only one fundamental alternative
- (24) A plant must feed itself
- (25) An animal is equipped
- (26) Man has no automatic code of survival
- (27) A living entity that regarded
- (28) Man has been called a rational being
- (29) A code of values accepted by choice

Section B — The standard and purpose of morality (pp. 122–124)

- (30) Whoever you are, you who are
- (31) All that which is proper
- (32) Man's life, as required by his nature
- (33) Man's life is the *standard* of morality
- (34) Since life requires a specific course
- (35) Happiness is the successful state of life
- (36) But neither life nor happiness
- (37) Sweep aside those parasites
- (38) Sweep aside those hatred-eaten mystics
- (39) No, you do not have to live
- (40) No, you do not have to live as a man
- (41) No, you do not have to think
- (42) No, you do not have to be a man
- (43) If you wish to know how

*Section C — The philosophical foundation of the morality of life
(pp. 124–128)*

- (44) We, the men of the mind
- (45) Existence exists—and the act of grasping
- (46) If nothing exists, there can be no consciousness
- (47) Whatever the degree of your knowledge
- (48) To exist is to be something
- (49) Whatever you choose to consider
- (50) Are you seeking to know
- (51) Man cannot survive except by gaining knowledge
- (52) All thinking is a process of identification
- (53) Reality is that which exists
- (54) The most depraved sentence
- (55) You who speak of a “moral instinct”
- (56) A rational process is a *moral* process
- (57) That which you call your soul
- (58) Thinking is man's only basic virtue
- (59) This, in every hour and every issue
- (60) To the extent to which a man is rational
- (61) You who prattle that morality
- (62) If I were to speak your kind

Section D — The guidance—the values, virtues and reward—offered by the morality of life (pp. 128–132)

- (63) My morality, the morality of reason
- (64) Rationality is the recognition
- (65) Independence is the recognition
- (66) Integrity is the recognition
- (67) Honesty is the recognition
- (68) Justice is the recognition
- (69) Productiveness is your acceptance of morality
- (70) Pride is the recognition
- (71) Are you beginning to see
- (72) This wish—which you share
- (73) Just as your body has two
- (74) If you hold the irrational as your standard
- (75) Happiness is not to be achieved

Section E — The morality of life's implications for dealing with others (pp. 132–136)

- (76) Just as I support my life
- (77) The symbol of all relationships
- (78) Do you ask what moral obligation
- (79) Whatever may be open to disagreement
- (80) To interpose the threat
- (81) Do not open your mouth
- (82) To force a man to drop his own mind
- (83) Be it a highwayman
- (84) If there are degrees of evil
- (85) It is only as retaliation
- (86) In the name of all the producers
- (87) You who are worshippers of the zero
- (88) You seek escape from pain

Part II — THE MORALITY OF DEATH (pp. 136–164)

Section A — The damning of man's nature as evil (pp. 136–138)

- (89) You, who have lost the concept
- (90) Death is the standard of your values
- (91) Damnation is the start of your morality
- (92) It is does not matter who
- (93) The name of this monstrous absurdity
- (94) A sin without volition
- (95) Do not hide behind the cowardly evasion
- (96) What is the nature of the guilt
- (97) Man's fall, according to your teachers
- (98) They call it a morality of mercy
- (99) No, they say, they do not preach
- (100) They have cut man in two
- (101) They have taught man that
- (102) Do you observe what human faculty

Section B — The standard and purpose of morality according to the two teachers of the morality of death (pp. 138–139)

- (103) And as he now crawls
- (104) As products of the split
- (105) The good, say the mystics of spirit
- (106) *Selfishness*—say both

Section C — The meaning of sacrifice (pp. 139–143)

- (107) Whoever is now within reach
- (108) “Sacrifice” does not mean
- (109) If you exchange a penny
- (110) If you give money to help
- (111) If you renounce all personal desires
- (112) A sacrifice is the surrender of a value
- (113) You are told that moral perfection
- (114) If you start, however
- (115) Do not remind me that
- (116) If you wish to save
- (117) Sacrifice could be proper
- (118) The creed of sacrifice
- (119) Are you thinking
- (120) Your morality tells you
- (121) Do you say it is the spirit
- (122) And *that* is precisely the goal
- (123) It is your *mind*
- (124) This much is true

*Section D — The guidance offered by the code of sacrifice
(pp. 143–145)*

- (125) If you search your code
- (126) Your code—which boasts
- (127) As this double-jointed, double-standard morality
- (128) For those of you who might ask questions
- (129) You who have no standard
- (130) I, who do not accept the unearned
- (131) The answer you evade
- (132) Such is the secret core of your creed
- (133) Your code divides mankind
- (134) Whatever the value involved
- (135) If you succeed
- (136) If you heal your pain
- (137) A morality that holds *need*

Section E — The code of sacrifice's implications for dealing with others (pp. 145–146)

- (138) Who provides the account
- (139) Under a morality of sacrifice
- (140) You fear the man

Section F — The justification of the code of sacrifice (pp. 146–148)

- (141) The justification of sacrifice
- (142) As there can be no causeless wealth
- (143) Observe that he does not
- (144) Love is the expression of one's values
- (145) Such is your morality
- (146) Such was your goal

Section G — The means and motives of the preachers of the morality of death (pp. 148–164)

Point 1 — The mystic attacks you through your fear of relying on your mind (pp. 148–149)

- (147) The degree of your ability
- (148) The mystics of both schools
- (149) They claim that they perceive
- (150) It is only the metaphysics

Point 2 — The mystic's ideal is a world where wishing works (pp. 149–150)

- (151) What is the nature
- (152) And *that* is the whole of their shabby secret
- (153) The restriction they seek
- (154) Those who tell you
- (155) There is no honest revolt
- (156) No matter how eagerly you claim

Point 3 — In the name of his ideal he rebels against causality (pp. 150–152)

- (157) Your teachers, the mystics
- (158) They want to cheat
- (159) Those irrational wishes that draw you
- (160) Whenever you committed the evil
- (161) The links you strive to drown
- (162) The law of identity
- (163) Whenever you rebel against causality

Point 4 — The men of the mind, the cause of the causeless, must be blanked out (pp. 152–155)

- (164) Who pays for the orgy?
- (165) We are the *cause*
- (166) You—who leap like a savage
- (167) Just as your mystics of spirit
- (168) For centuries, the mystics of spirit
- (169) *Now* we are chained
- (170) Dropping below the level of a savage
- (171) As they feed on stolen wealth
- (172) As they proclaim
- (173) “We know that we know nothing”
- (174) When a savage who has not learned
- (175) When he declares
- (176) An axiom is a statement

*Point 5 — The mystic's goal is to deprive you of the concept of objective reality—in order to rule you
(pp. 155–160)*

- (177) Do you think they are taking you back
- (178) A savage is a being
- (179) *We* are the men who reach that day
- (180) To a savage
- (181) *His* is the intellectual state
- (182) If you wonder by what means
- (183) For centuries, the mystics of spirit
- (184) If you surrender your power
- (185) If you doubt that such is their purpose
- (186) The problem of production
- (187) They proclaim that every man
- (188) And to forestall any inquiry
- (189) Did you wonder what is wrong
- (190) Make no mistake
- (191) From the rites of the jungle witch doctors

Point 6 — The mystic's success requires your consent: the birth of a mystic (pp. 160–164)

- (192) But it cannot be done to you
- (193) When you listen to a mystic's harangue
- (194) A mystic is a man
- (195) From then on, afraid to think
- (196) When a mystic declares
- (197) Every dictator is a mystic
- (198) Just as the mystic is a parasite
- (199) There is only one state
- (200) No matter whose welfare
- (201) Destruction is the only end
- (202) You who're depraved enough
- (203) You who are innocent enough
- (204) You who've never grasped
- (205) It is a conspiracy without leader
- (206) It is a conspiracy of all those who seek

PART III — YOUR CHOICE IS EITHER THE MORALITY OF LIFE
OR THE MORALITY OF DEATH (pp. 164–192)

Section A — The morality of death is through (pp. 164–170)

- (207) We, who were the living buffers
- (208) I am the man whose existence
- (209) Twelve years ago
- (210) Like the man who discovered
- (211) Then, one night
- (212) Then I saw what was wrong
- (213) I quit that factory
- (214) If you want to know what you lost
- (215) Take a look around you
- (216) You proclaim yourself unable
- (217) You propose to establish
- (218) This idol of your cult
- (219) In order to deprive us
- (220) What blank-out permitted you
- (221) Did you want to know who is John Galt?
- (222) I have done by plan
- (223) The infamous times
- (224) But there will be no extinction
- (225) I have called out on strike
- (226) You, who dare
- (227) Unless you learn

Section B — You must identify your belief that morality is a necessary evil (pp. 170–172)

- (228) But to those of you
- (229) Since childhood
- (230) No matter what dishonorable compromise
- (231) The sole result
- (232) Swinging like a helpless branch
- (233) Morality, to you, is a phantom scarecrow
- (234) If you identify
- (235) Do you wonder why
- (236) Do you cry that

*Section C — Your resulting attraction to compromise only serves evil: you must reject your moral code
(pp. 172–175)*

- (237) The fence you have been straddling
- (238) The man who refuses to judge
- (239) There are two sides
- (240) You, who are half-rational
- (241) You have reached
- (242) At the end of your road
- (243) You blank out the open
- (244) You blank it out and cling

Section D — You fear rejecting your moral code because your self-esteem is tied to it (pp. 175–177)

- (245) You blank it out, because
- (246) By a feeling he has not learned
- (247) Every act of man's life
- (248) Every form of causeless self-doubt
- (249) It is not any crime
- (250) The *self* you have betrayed

*Section E — Reclaim your self-esteem by reclaiming your mind
(pp. 177–181)*

- (251) Observe the persistence
- (252) Some of you will never know
- (253) That choice is yours to make
- (254) Whoever you are—you who are alone
- (255) Accept the irrevocable fact
- (256) Do not say that you're afraid
- (257) Discard that unlimited license
- (258) Learn to distinguish
- (259) Accept the fact that the achievement
- (260) As a basic step of self-esteem
- (261) Do not say that my morality
- (262) We—whom you are now calling
- (263) When you failed to give recognition

Section F — The men of the mind will rebuild this country on the foundation of the morality of life (pp. 181–185)

- (264) It was the three of us
- (265) This country—the product
- (266) Neither he nor the rest of us
- (267) You who've lost the concept
- (268) *Rights* are a moral concept
- (269) Just as man can't exist
- (270) The source of property rights
- (271) The only proper purpose of a government
- (272) Only a brute
- (273) So long as men, in the era of savagery

Section G — The men of the mind are not your exploiters but your benefactors (pp. 185–188)

- (274) Look past the range
- (275) When you work in a modern factory
- (276) The machine, the frozen form
- (277) Every man is free to rise
- (278) In proportion to the mental energy
- (279) Such was the service we had given
- (280) You did not care to compete
- (281) Some of you might plead the excuse

Section H — Stop supporting your own destroyers—go on strike (pp. 188–192)

- (282) But it is not to him that I wish
- (283) I am speaking to those
- (284) Do not attempt to rise
- (285) If you find a chance to vanish
- (286) Act as a rational being
- (287) When the looters' state collapses
- (288) We will open the gates
- (289) Then this country will once more
- (290) In that world, you will be able to rise
- (291) Such is the future
- (292) The last of my words
- (293) In the name of the best within you
- (294) But to win it requires
- (295) You will win when
- (296) I swear—by my life

Summary of the Outline of the Structure of Galt's Speech

1. The Morality of Life

- a. Man's need of a moral code
- b. The standard and purpose of morality
- c. The philosophical foundation of the morality of life
- d. The guidance—the values, virtues and reward—offered by the morality of life
- e. The morality of life's implications for dealing with others

2. The Morality of Death

- a. The damning of man's nature as evil
- b. The standard and purpose of morality according to the two teachers of the morality of death
- c. The meaning of sacrifice
- d. The guidance offered by the code of sacrifice
- e. The code of sacrifice's implications for dealing with others
- f. The justification of the code of sacrifice
- g. The means and motives of the preachers of the morality of death
 - (1) The mystic attacks you through your fear of relying on your mind
 - (2) The mystic's ideal is a world where wishing works
 - (3) In the name of his ideal he rebels against causality
 - (4) The men of the mind, the cause of the causeless, must be blanked out
 - (5) The mystic's goal is to deprive you of the concept of objective reality—in order to rule you
 - (6) The mystic's success requires your consent: the birth of a mystic

3. Your Choice Is Either the Morality of Life or the Morality of Death

- a. The morality of death is through
- b. You must identify your belief that morality is a necessary evil
- c. Your resulting attraction to compromise only serves evil: you must reject your moral code
- d. You fear rejecting your moral code because your self-esteem is tied to it
- e. Reclaim your self-esteem by reclaiming your mind
- f. The men of the mind will rebuild this country on the foundation of the morality of life
- g. The men of the mind are not your exploiters but your benefactors
- h. Stop supporting your own destroyers—go on strike