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 damming 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. 64–92)

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