

HARRY POTTER AND THE
METHODS OF
RATIONALITY

BY LESSWRONG



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American expert on artificial intelligence, exploring the problems of technological singularity and working on the creation of Friendly AI.

Works at Machine Intelligence Research Institute

He participated in the organization of the LessWrong blog, aimed at "developing human rationality and overcoming cognitive distortions."

LessWrong promotes lifestyle changes that are believed to lead to increased rationality and self-improvement. Messages often focus on avoiding biases associated with decision making and evaluating evidence. There is also an emphasis on psychological barriers that interfere with correct decision making.

<https://www.lesswrong.com/>



Harry Potter and the methods of rationality

The plot covers the first year of Harry Potter's studies at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and draws on events from the original books. The discrepancy with the original lies in the background: the adoptive mother of the protagonist, Petunia Evans, marries a university professor, as a result of which Harry grows up in a loving family and receives a good education. By the beginning of the book, the protagonist knows the methods of scientific knowledge of the world and is ready to critically evaluate the events and to apply the scientific method in the study of magic.

The book contains cultural references to dozens of works in the genres of science fiction and fantasy, anime, games. There are parody elements that criticize the decision of the original book.

The conflict between good and evil is pictured in the book as a conflict between knowledge and ignorance. At the same time, the book affirms the value of human life and explains to the reader what it is to be rational and how to become more rational.

Harry Potter

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The translations were made by enthusiast.

In addition to Russian, there are full translations into Chinese, Indonesian, French and Italian. The Russian translation was noted by the author in 2014 as “the most impressive”

In 2018 was held a crowdfunding project to publish a Russian translation of the book on paper, which collected a record for Russia amount.

The required amount of more than 1 million rubles was collected during the first 30 hours, and in total the project collected more than 11.4 million rubles (approximately 175,000 US dollars)

Success prompted Exmo Publishing House to start negotiations with agents Joan Rowling on the official publication of the book in Russia, but Rowling opposes in principle any commercial use of her original book.

The novel was called by critics "probably the best book you have never heard of"

