



Logic; or, The Right Use of Reason, in the Inquiry After Truth

Isaac Watts

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Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) was an English Christian hymnwriter, theologian and logician. A prolific and popular hymn writer, his work was part of evangelization. He was recognized as the "Father of English Hymnody", credited with some 750 hymns. Many of his hymns remain in use today and have been translated into numerous languages.

Watts wrote a text book on logic which was particularly popular; its full title was, *Logic, or The Right Use of Reason in the Enquiry After Truth With a Variety of Rules to Guard Against Error in the Affairs of Religion and Human Life, as well as in the Sciences*. This was first published in 1724, and it was printed in twenty editions. Isaac Watts' *Logic* became the standard text on logic at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Yale, being used at Oxford for well over 100 years. C.S. Peirce, the great nineteenth-century logician, wrote favorably of Watts' *Logic*. When preparing his own text book, entitled *A Critick of Arguments: How to Reason* (also known as the *Grand Logic*), Peirce wrote, 'I shall suppose the reader to be acquainted with what is contained in Dr Watts' *Logick*, a book... far superior to the treatises now used in colleges, being the production of a man distinguished for good sense.'

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