

A “Very Brief Summary” of
Ludwig Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

- 1 The world is all that is the case.
- 1.1 The world is the totality of facts, not of things.
- 1.2 The world divides into facts.
- 2 What is the case (a fact) is the existence of atomic facts.
- 2.1 We picture facts to ourselves.
- 2.12 A picture is a model of reality.
- 2.141 A picture is a fact.
- 2.172 A picture cannot depict its pictorial form: it displays it.
- 2.19 Logical pictures can depict the world.
- 2.223 In order to tell whether a picture is true or false we must compare it with reality.
- 2.224 It is impossible to tell from the picture alone whether it is true or false.
- 3 A logical picture of the facts is the thought.
- 3.01 The totality of true thoughts is a picture of the world.
- 3.1 In a proposition, a thought finds an expression that can be perceived by the senses.
- 3.332 No proposition can make a statement about itself, because a propositional sign cannot be contained in itself.
- 4 The thought is the significant proposition.
- 4.001 The totality of propositions is language.
- 4.003 Most of the propositions and questions to be found in philosophical works are not false but nonsensical.
- 4.0031 All philosophy is a critique of language.
- 4.11 The totality of true propositions is the whole of natural science
- 4.112 Philosophy aims at the logical clarification of thoughts. Philosophy is not a doctrine, but an activity.
- 4.461 Propositions show what they say; tautologies and contradictions show that they say nothing.
- 4.464 A tautology's truth is certain; a proposition's truth is possible; a contradiction's truth is impossible.
- 5 A proposition is a truth-function of elementary propositions. (An elementary proposition is a truth-function of itself.)
- 5.5302 Russell's definition of '=' is inadequate, because according to it we cannot say that two objects have all their properties in common. (Even if this proposition is never correct, it still has sense .)
- 5.6 The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.
- 5.61 We cannot think what we cannot think; so what we cannot think, we cannot say either.
- 5.621 The world and life are one.
- 5.63 I am my world. (The microcosm.)
- 6 The general form of a truth-function is $[p, E, N(E)]$. This is the general form of a proposition.
- 6.1 The propositions of logic are tautologies.
- 6.13 Logic is not a doctrine, but a mirror-image of the world. Logic is transcendental.
- 6.2 Mathematics is a logical method. The propositions of mathematics are equations, and therefore pseudo-propositions.
- 6.21 A proposition of mathematics does not express a thought.
- 6.22 The logic of the world, which with logic is shown in tautologies, is shown in equations by mathematics.
- 6.41 The sense of the world must lie outside the world.
- 6.431 At death the world does not alter, but comes to an end.
- 6.4311 Death is not an event in life: we do not live to experience death.
- 6.4 All propositions are of equal value.
- 6.42 There can be no propositions of ethics.
- 6.44 It is not how things are in the world that is mystical, but that it exists.
- 6.5 For an answer which cannot be expressed, the question too cannot be expressed. The riddle does not exist. If a question can be framed at all, it is also possible to answer it.
- 6.54 He who understands my propositions recognizes them as senseless. (He must so to speak throw away the ladder, after he has climbed up it.)
- 7 Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must remain silence.