



# Descartes' Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain

*Anthony Damasio*

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## **Descartes' Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain** Anthony Damasio

Since Descartes famously proclaimed, "I think, therefore I am," science has often overlooked emotions as the source of a person's true being. Even modern neuroscience has tended, until recently, to concentrate on the cognitive aspects of brain function, disregarding emotions. This attitude began to change with the publication of **Descartes' Error** in 1995. Antonio Damasio—"one of the world's leading neurologists" (**The New York Times**)—challenged traditional ideas about the connection between emotions and rationality. In this wondrously engaging book, Damasio takes the reader on a journey of scientific discovery through a series of case studies, demonstrating what many of us have long suspected: emotions are not a luxury, they are essential to rational thinking and to normal social behavior.

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