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Response Paper

Calculation and the Rationality of the Enlightenment

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In the article *Condorcet and the Meaning of Enlightenment*, Daston (2007) points out that Marie-Jean-Antoine-Nicolas de Caritat, Marquis de Condorcet, contributed to promote calculation and probability into national education during the Enlightenment period. Condorcet believed that the practice of arithmetic operation could help children learn about the “three intellectual operations of which our mind is capable; the formation of ideas, judgement, reasoning” (p.126, Daston, 2007) which are considered as the keys leading to the human rationality. I agree with Condorcet’s point since mathematics is the basic discipline of natural science, and it is the introductory and tool for exercising rational thinking.

恐惧是理性的天敌，陷入恐惧时容易受到摆布，恐惧成为统治阶级控制人民的工具。而恐惧的根源在于不确定性，正如 p132 balabala

Reference

Plofker, K. (2008). "Sanskrit Mathematical Verse." In *The Oxford Handbook of History of Mathematics*, edited by Eleanor Robson and Jacqueline Stedall, 519-536.
New York: Oxford University Press.