Roark vs. Spock: Who is the Rational man?





For many the idea of a life governed by reason brings to mind an image of Mr. Spock, the dispassionate Vulcan from Star Trek who sees emotion as a human weakness. Ayn Rand's heroes stand in stark contrast to this view. Rand thought that man should hold "reason as his only absolute", yet she described Howard Roark as "the joy of living personified". He is a man of deep emotions who feels an intense love for his values and acts boldly in pursuit of them. What is the proper place of emotion in a rational life? Who is the truly rational man, Roark or Spock?

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