

**Philosophy and *The Hitchhiker's*  
*Guide to the Galaxy***

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**EXCERPT FROM FRONT-MATTER.**

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And it occurs to me that running a program like this is bound to create an enormous amount of popular publicity for the whole area of philosophy in general.

(Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*)

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# Preface

This book philosophises via the wonderful *Hitchhiker* books by Douglas Adams. But it does not mean to presuppose any knowledge of philosophy. So:

**Don't Panic!**

However, an *interest* in philosophical matters *is* required. Still, and as this book will show, *Hitchhiker's* is not above a little philosophy in the same way that the sea is not above the sky. Consequently, anyone who loves *Hitchhiker's* is liable to have *some* interest in philosophy.

For a fuller introduction to the book, please see the Introduction that follows. Now, since there *is* that Introduction, you might wonder why this preface exists. Well, I wanted to start with a short and friendly bit of text. For philosophy *can* be forbidding, even when, as in this book, pains are taken to make it accessible and intriguing. There's an additional reason for this preface, though. It's this. Traditionally one ends a preface with one's initials and location – and there was a location that I just *had* to get in.

N. J.

A café in Rickmansworth