**Eclipse of Reason (1987)** [1]

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**Keywords:** Abortion [2]


*Eclipse of Reason* begins with a brief narration by Charlton Heston, a Hollywood actor who opposed women’s rights to legal abortions. In the introduction Heston claims that there are ten times more performed abortions than open-heart surgeries, claiming that the media has failed to inform the public of the details of abortion [8]. Heston prefaces the rest of the film, warning the viewers that they will witness death, but says that viewing such material can benefit viewers by decreasing their ignorance about the procedure. He concludes by labeling aborted fetuses as victims.


*Eclipse of Reason* concludes with a montage of photographs featuring terrorists, Ku Klux Klan members, Hiroshima victims, and starving children. Nathanson states that they will witness death, but says that viewing such material can benefit viewers by decreasing their ignorance about the procedure. He concludes by labeling aborted fetuses as victims.

After Heston’s introduction, Nathanson narrated the film directed, filmed, and narrated by Bernard Nathanson, an obstetrician in the US. American Portrait Films released the film in 1987 featuring Nathanson’s commentary and footage of an abortion [4] of a four-month-old fetus [4]. The film also featured the testimony of women who had suffered similar procedures. In *Eclipse of Reason*, Nathanson equates the fetus to a person, likening abortion [3] procedures to murder and arguing for the illegalization of abortion [3]. This documentary was a sequel to Nathanson’s first documentary film, *The Silent Scream* released in 1984. Both documentaries argued for

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**Sources**


Eclipse of Reason is a 1987 anti-abortion documentary film directed, filmed, and narrated by Bernard Nathanson, an obstetrician in the US. American Portrait Films released the film in 1987 featuring Nathanson’s commentary and footage of an abortion of a four-month-old fetus. The film also featured the testimony of women who had suffered following similar procedures. In *Eclipse of Reason*, Nathanson equates the fetus to a person, likening abortion procedures to murder and arguing for the illegalization of abortion. This documentary was a sequel to Nathanson’s first documentary film, *The Silent Scream* released in 1984. Both documentaries argued for
illegalizing abortion, which had been decriminalized in 1973 in the United States. Eclipse of Reason was one of the most influential films that garnered public attention to the abortion debate in the US during the 1980s.

Subject
Abortion
Late-term abortion
Silent scream (Motion picture)
Nathanson, Bernard N., 1926-2011
National Abortion Rights Action League
Pro-life movement
Fetus
Documentary-style films
Obstetrics

Topic
Outreach
Religion

Publisher
Arizona State University. School of Life Sciences. Center for Biology and Society. Embryo Project Encyclopedia.

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Format
Articles

Last Modified
Wednesday, July 4, 2018 - 04:40

DC Date Accessioned
Sunday, February 12, 2017 - 01:10

DC Date Available
Sunday, February 12, 2017 - 01:10

DC Date Created
2017-02-11

DC Date Created Standard
Saturday, February 11, 2017 - 07:00

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