

PREVIEW EDITION

**THE MORE THAN
COMPLETE**

ACTION PHILOSOPHERS!



**FRED VAN LENTE
RYAN DUNLAVEY**

"OF THE *FIRST* PHILOSOPHERS," WRITES THE FIRST REAL *HISTORIAN* OF PHILOSOPHY, *ARISTOTLE*,
"MOST THOUGHT THE PRINCIPLES WHICH WERE OF THE NATURE OF *MATTER* WERE THE *ONLY* PRINCIPLES OF *ALL* THINGS."

IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WERE NO "*META*"-PHYSICS...
THE MATERIAL, IDEALISTIC, AND SPIRITUAL WORLDS ALL OBEYED *IDENTICAL* LAWS!

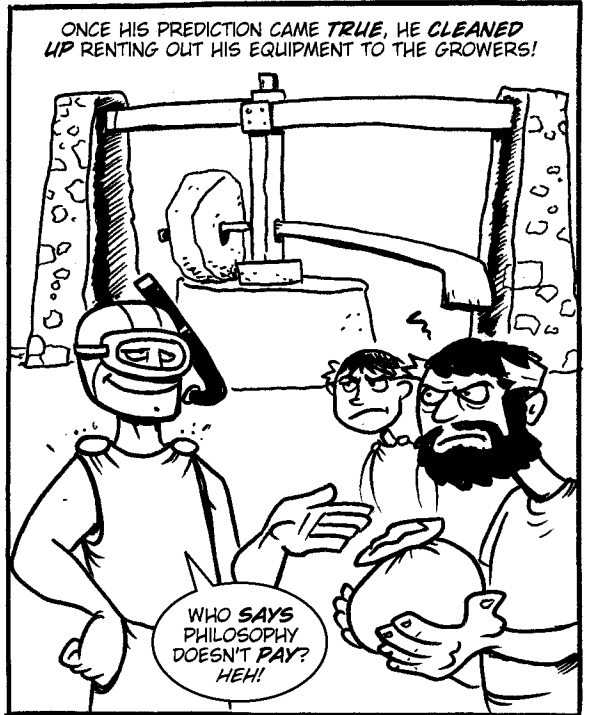
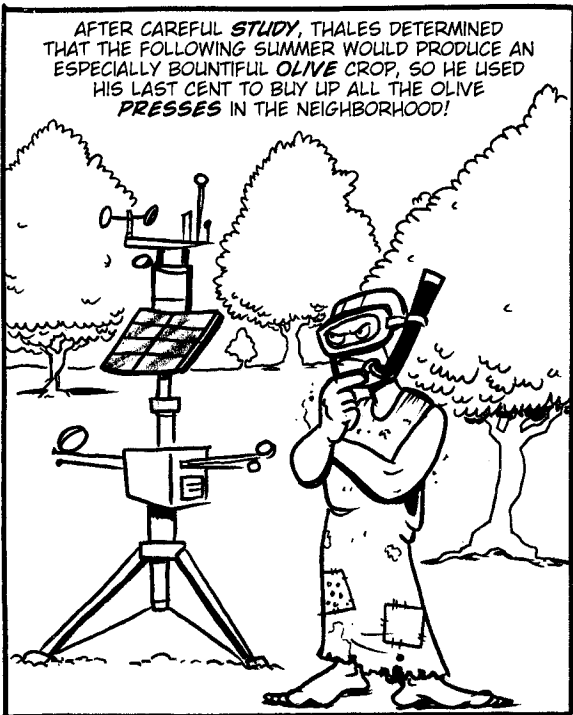
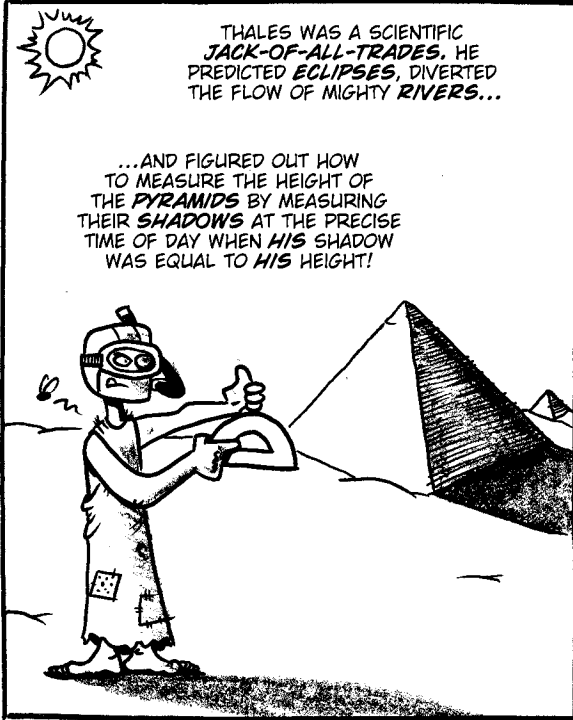
THESE THEORIES PREVAILED IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE FIRST *MEGA-STAR* PHILOSOPHER, *SOCRATES*,
SO THE THINKERS THAT EXPOUNDED THEM ARE KNOWN, COLLECTIVELY, AS *ACTION PHILOSOPHER(S)* #19...



THE PRE- SOCRATICS!

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF
THIS COMIC BOOK ARE
STORY
(BY FRED VAN LENTE)
AND ART
(BY RYAN DUNLAVEY)!

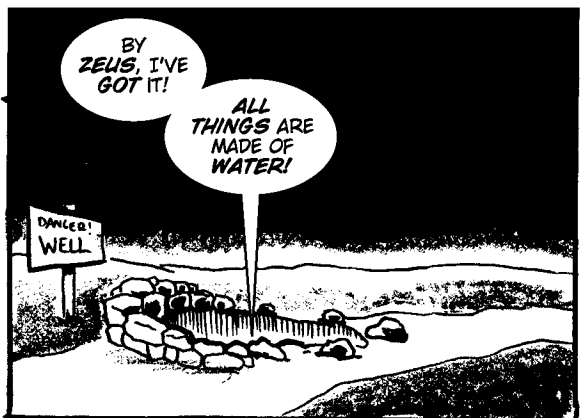
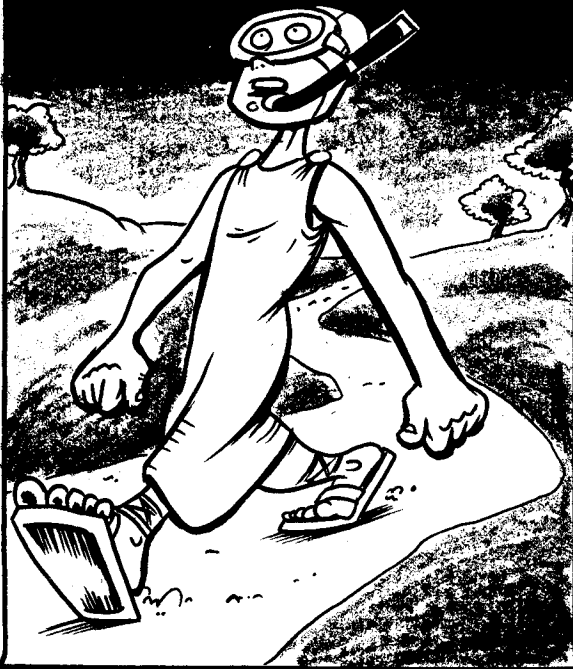
THALES OF MILETUS!



BUT FINANCIAL SUCCESS
COULD NOT SLAKE THALES'
THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE...

THERE
IS SUCH A
WONDROUS
VARIETY TO
THE THINGS IN THE
WORLD...CLOUDS,
STARS, MEN,
EARTH...

...YET I AM
CONVINCED THAT
THE MANY ARE RELATED
TO EACH OTHER BY A
SINGLE COMMONALITY--
THE ONE!

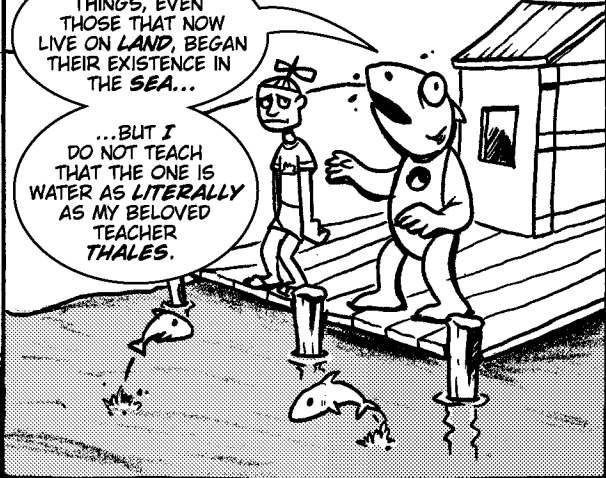


ANAXIMANDER!

THALES IS KNOWN AS THE *FIRST* PHILOSOPHER FOR DELVING, AS ARISTOTLE WOULD LATER PUT IT, INTO THE SCIENCE OF "*FIRST PRINCIPLES*". HE WOULD PASS HIS THEORIES ON TO *HIS* PUPIL, ANAXIMANDER...

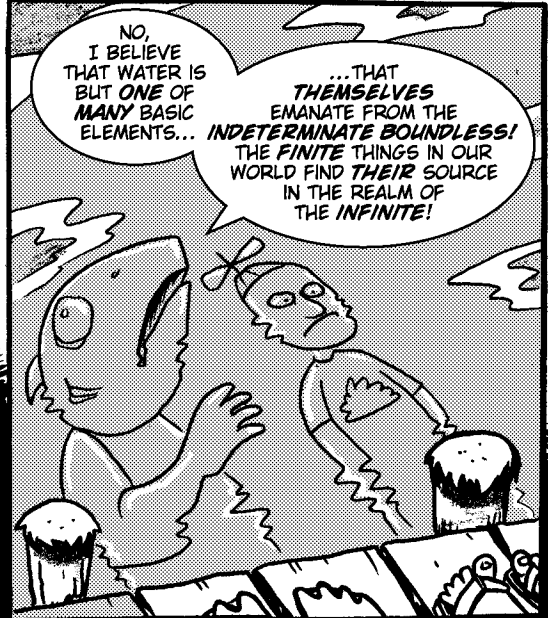
ALL LIVING THINGS, EVEN THOSE THAT NOW LIVE ON *LAND*, BEGAN THEIR EXISTENCE IN THE *SEA*...

...BUT I DO NOT TEACH THAT THE ONE IS WATER AS *LITERALLY* AS MY BELOVED TEACHER *THALES*.

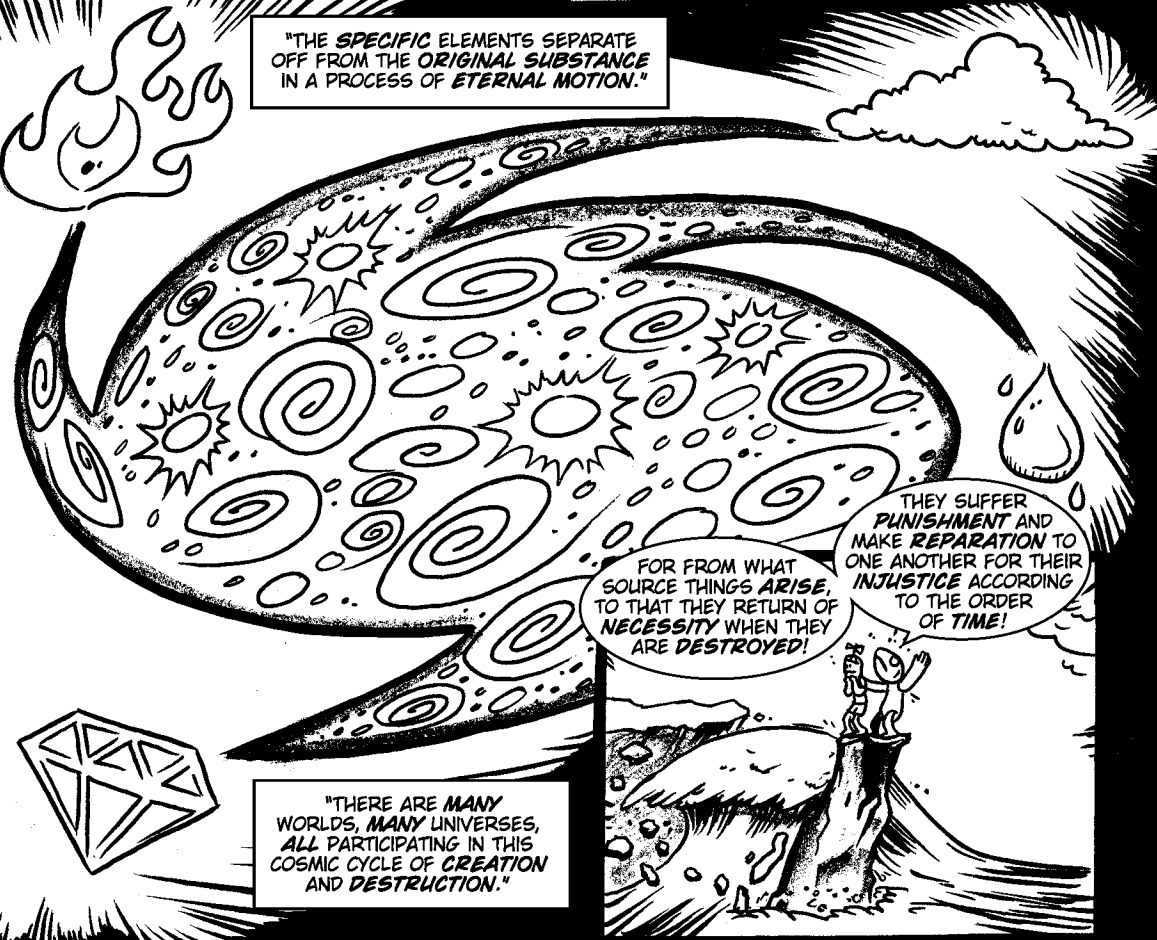


NO, I BELIEVE THAT WATER IS BUT *ONE* OF *MANY* BASIC ELEMENTS...

...THAT *THEMSELVES* EMANATE FROM THE *INDETERMINATE BOUNDLESS!* THE *FINITE* THINGS IN OUR WORLD FIND THEIR SOURCE IN THE REALM OF THE *INFINITE!*



"THE *SPECIFIC* ELEMENTS SEPARATE OFF FROM THE *ORIGINAL SUBSTANCE* IN A PROCESS OF *ETERNAL MOTION*."

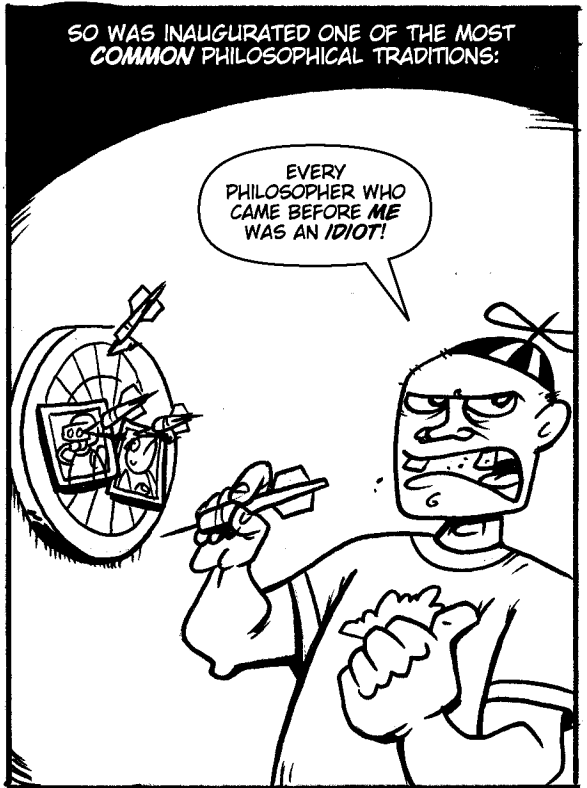
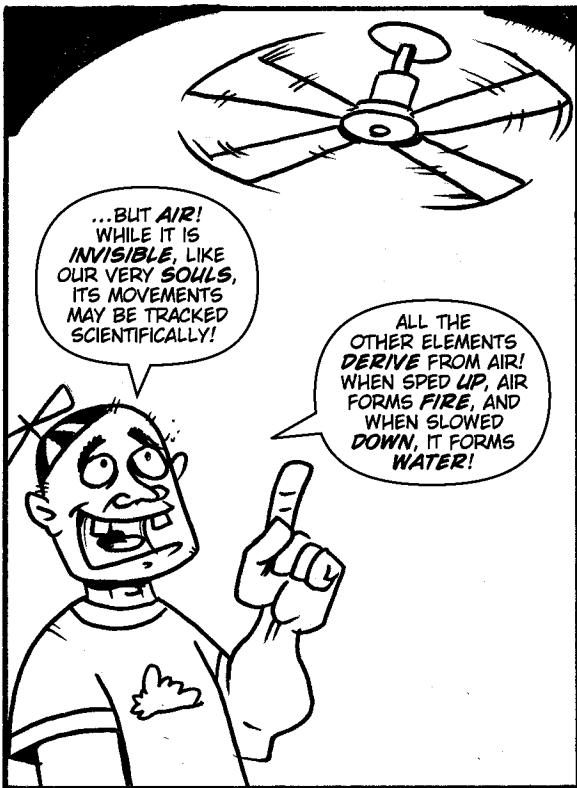


FOR FROM WHAT SOURCE THINGS *ARISE*, TO THAT THEY RETURN OF *NECESSITY* WHEN THEY ARE *DESTROYED!*

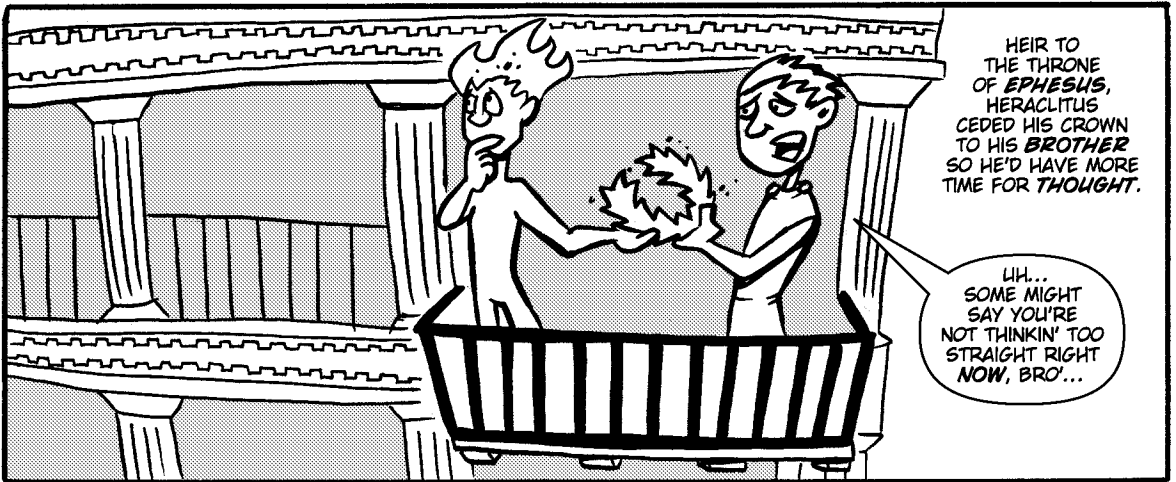
THEY SUFFER *PUNISHMENT* AND MAKE *REPARATION* TO ONE ANOTHER FOR THEIR *INJUSTICE* ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF *TIME!*

"THERE ARE *MANY* WORLDS, *MANY* UNIVERSES, ALL PARTICIPATING IN THIS COSMIC CYCLE OF *CREATION* AND *DESTRUCTION*."

ANAXIMENES!

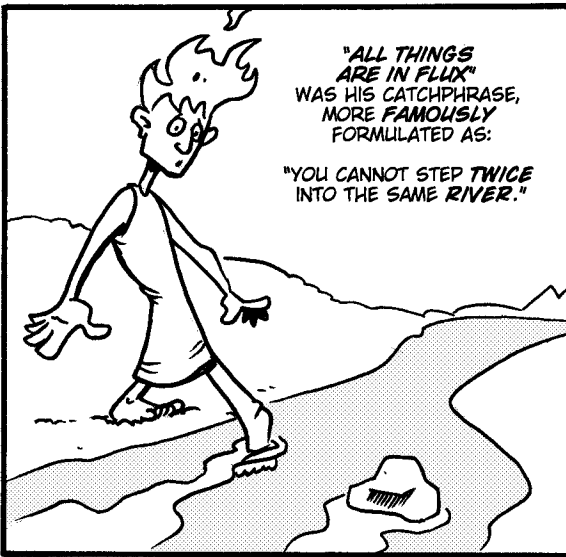


HERACLITUS!



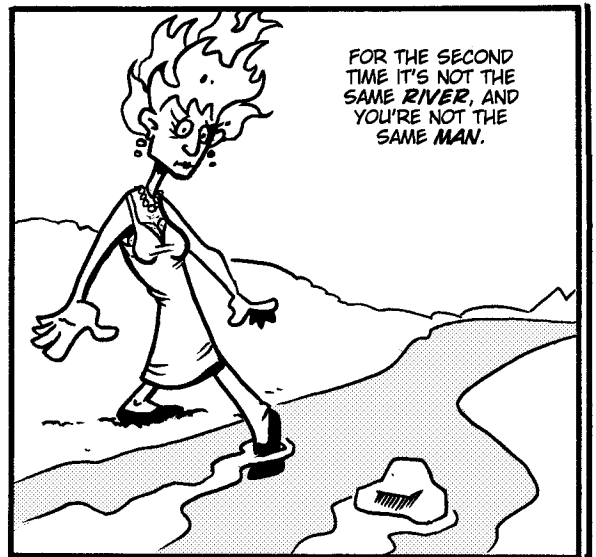
HEIR TO THE THRONE OF **EPHESUS**, HERACLITUS CEDED HIS CROWN TO HIS **BROTHER** SO HE'D HAVE MORE TIME FOR **THOUGHT**.

UH... SOME MIGHT SAY YOU'RE NOT THINKIN' TOO STRAIGHT RIGHT NOW, BRO'...

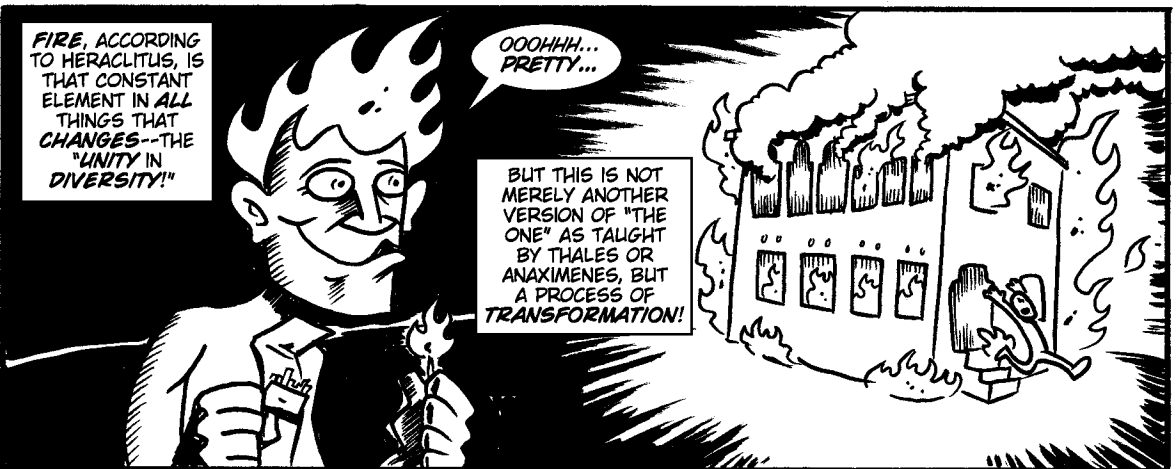


"ALL THINGS ARE IN FLUX" WAS HIS CATCHPHRASE, MORE FAMOUSLY FORMULATED AS:

"YOU CANNOT STEP TWICE INTO THE SAME RIVER."



FOR THE SECOND TIME IT'S NOT THE SAME RIVER, AND YOU'RE NOT THE SAME MAN.



FIRE, ACCORDING TO HERACLITUS, IS THAT CONSTANT ELEMENT IN ALL THINGS THAT **CHANGES**--THE "UNITY IN DIVERSITY!"

OOOHHH... PRETTY...

BUT THIS IS NOT MERELY ANOTHER VERSION OF "THE ONE" AS TAUGHT BY THALES OR ANAXIMENES, BUT A PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION!

THE WORLD IS, HERACLITUS SAYS, AN "EVER-LIVING FIRE" WHICH IS MAINTAINED BY "MEASURES OF IT KINDLING AND MEASURES GOING OUT."

"ALL THINGS ARE AN EXCHANGE FOR FIRE, AND FIRE FOR ALL THINGS, EVEN AS WARES FOR GOLD AND GOLD FOR WARES."



NOTHING IS EVER DESTROYED, BUT MERELY CONVERTS TO A DIFFERENT FORM! THIS NOTION IS REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO PHYSICS' NOTION OF THE CONSERVATION OF MATTER AND ENERGY.

OOOHHH... PRETTY...

HENCE WE HAVE STABILITY IN THE UNIVERSE NOT IN SPITE OF, BUT BECAUSE OF CONSTANT CHANGE!



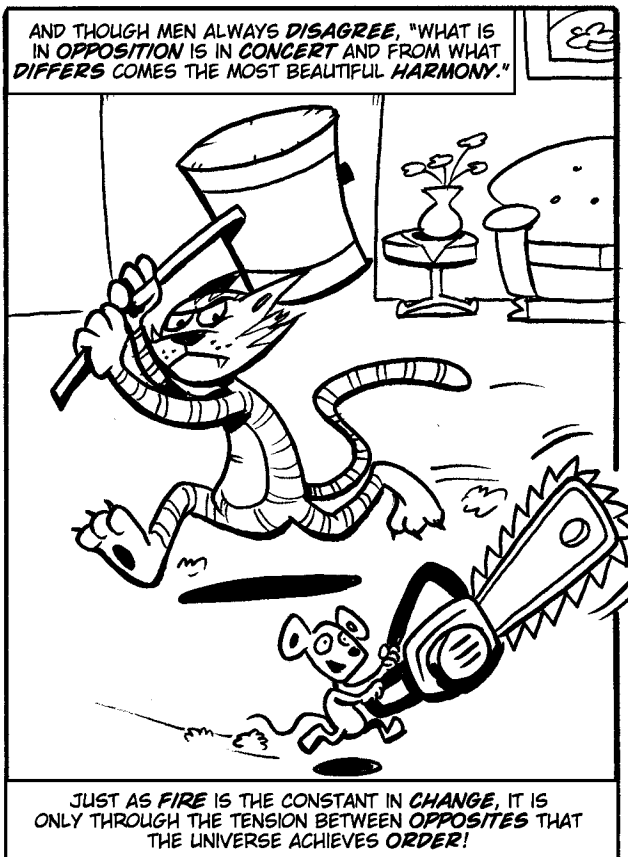
GOD IS FIRE, AND GOD-FIRE PERMEATES ALL THINGS--INCLUDING THE HUMAN SOUL!

REASON IS THE FIRE OF THE SOUL, FOR ONLY THROUGH IT CAN WE SEE THAT WHICH IS SHARED BY ALL THINGS!

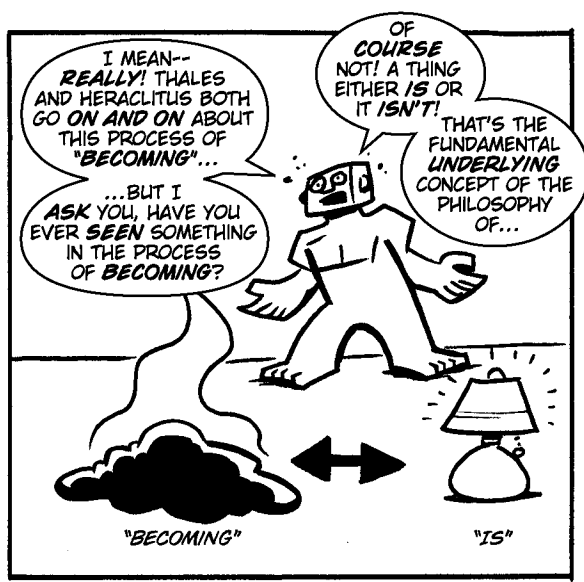
THUS, THOUGH MEN ARE ALL DIFFERENT, THEY ARE UNITED BY A SINGLE FLAME!



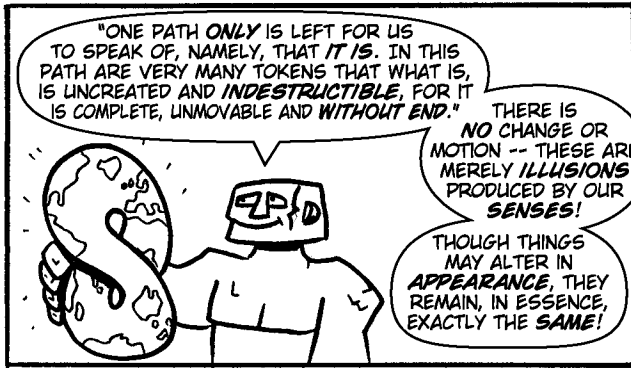
AND THOUGH MEN ALWAYS DISAGREE, "WHAT IS IN OPPOSITION IS IN CONCERT AND FROM WHAT DIFFERS COMES THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HARMONY."



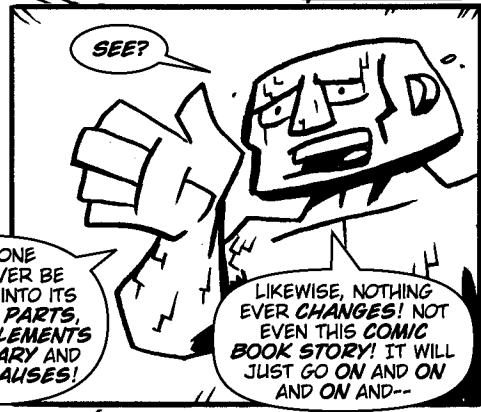
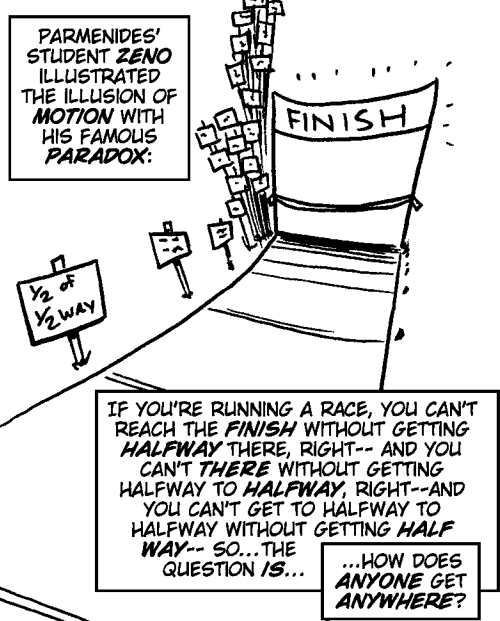
JUST AS FIRE IS THE CONSTANT IN CHANGE, IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE TENSION BETWEEN OPPOSITES THAT THE UNIVERSE ACHIEVES ORDER!



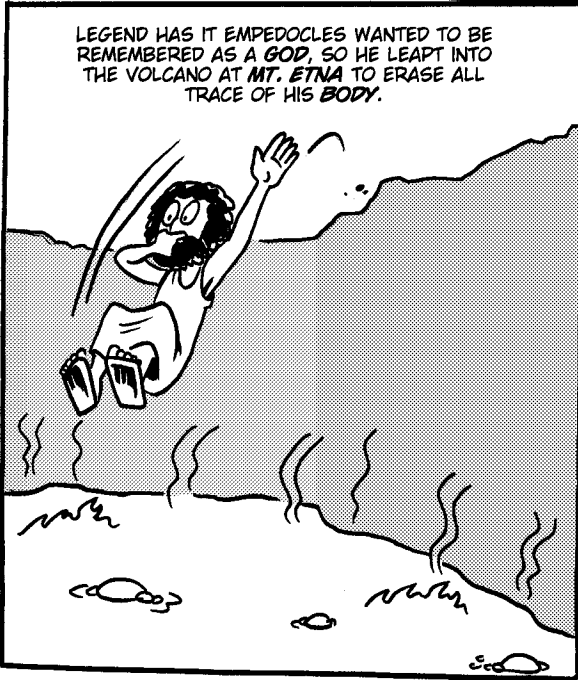
PARMENIDES!



PARMENIDES' STUDENT ZENO ILLUSTRATED THE ILLUSION OF MOTION WITH HIS FAMOUS PARADOX:



EMPEDOCLES!

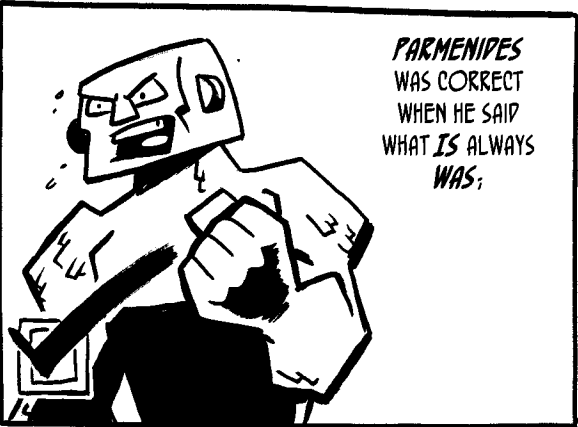


LEGEND HAS IT EMPEDOCLES WANTED TO BE REMEMBERED AS A **GOD**, SO HE LEAPT INTO THE VOLCANO AT **MT. ETNA** TO ERASE ALL TRACE OF HIS **BODY**.

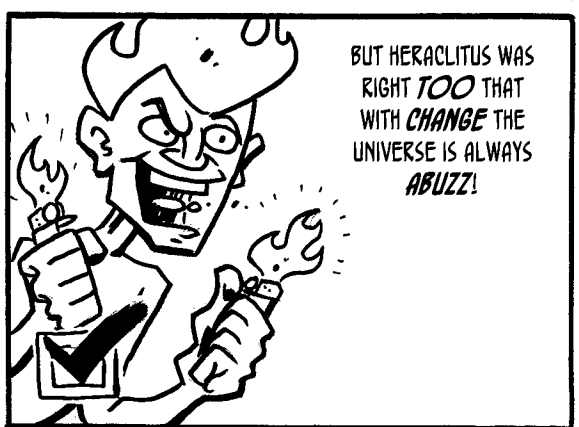


WHY CAN'T PHILOSOPHERS JUST GET **ALONG**?

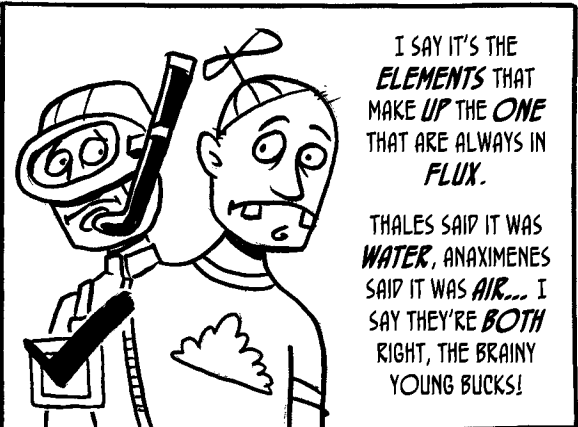
I FIGURED OUT A WAY **NONE** OF US CAN BE **WRONG!**



PARMENIDES WAS CORRECT WHEN HE SAID WHAT **IS** ALWAYS **WAS**;

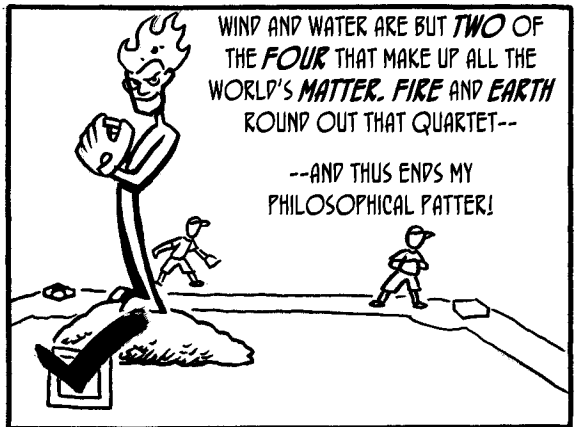


BUT **HERACLITUS** WAS RIGHT **TOO** THAT WITH **CHANGE** THE UNIVERSE IS ALWAYS **ABUZZ!**



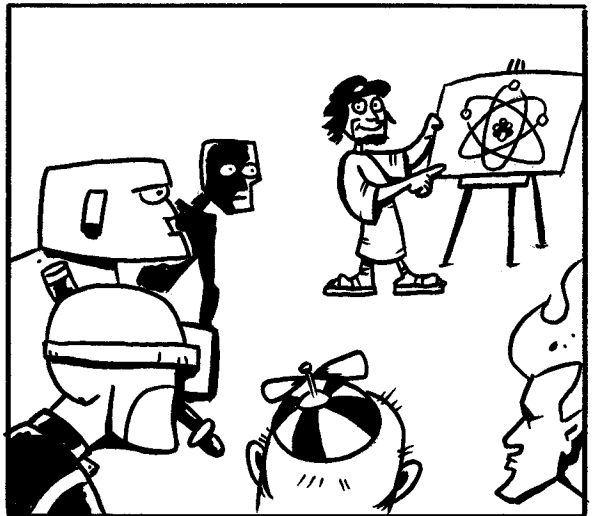
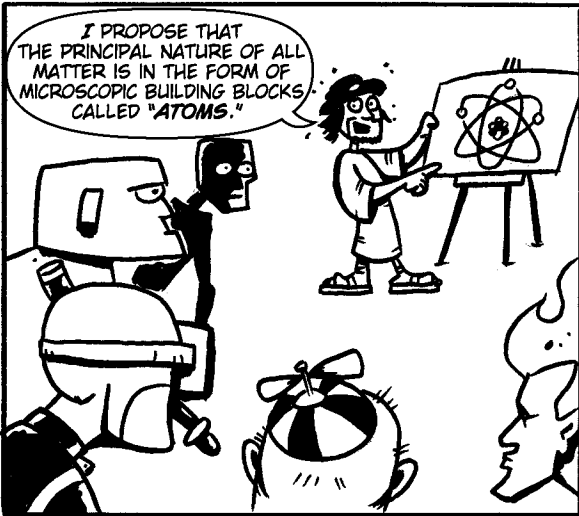
I SAY IT'S THE **ELEMENTS** THAT MAKE UP THE **ONE** THAT ARE ALWAYS IN **FLUX**.

THALES SAID IT WAS **WATER**, **ANAXIMENES** SAID IT WAS **AIR**... I SAY THEY'RE **BOTH** RIGHT, THE BRAINY **YOUNG BUCKS!**



WIND AND **WATER** ARE BUT **TWO** OF THE **FOUR** THAT MAKE UP ALL THE WORLD'S **MATTER**. **FIRE** AND **EARTH** ROUND OUT THAT **QUARTET--**

--AND THUS ENDS MY **PHILOSOPHICAL PATTERN!**



LADIES AND GENTS! WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU, WE'RE PROUD TO PRESENT
THE FATHER OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY...

ACTION PHILOSOPHER #13...

RENÉ DESCARTES!

FRED VAN LENTE
WRITES &
RYAN DUNLAVEY
DRAWS,
THEREFORE
THEY ARE!

RENÉ?

RENNY-
BABY?

C'MON OUT
AND KNOCK 'EM
DEAD, SON!

I'M
OVER
HERE.

LIIH ... THEN WHY DON'T
YOU COME OUT? W-WE GOT
->HEH<- PAYING CUSTOMERS
WHO SLAPPED DOWN GOOD
MONEY FOR THIS HERE
PHILOSOPHY COMIC...

...AND THE SHOW
MUST GO ON,
TO COIN A CLICHE!
->HEH!<-

IT'S JUST...
THERE'S A
SLIGHT
PROBLEM...

...I AM HERE TO EXPLICATE THE FOUNDATIONS OF MY PHILOSOPHY, OUI?

THAT'S WHY YOU GET THE **BIG BUCKS, BABY!**

W-WELL, **CENTRAL** TO MY METHOD IS **HYPERBOLIC DOUBT...**

...A RIGOROUS CRITIQUING OF **EVERYTHING** I PREVIOUSLY HELD TO BE TRUE! A DISCARDING OF **ALL** IDEAS THAT CANNOT BE PROVEN BY IRONCLAD REASON AND **LOGIC!**

OKAY...

SO... AS A RESULT OF ALL THIS DOUBTING...

... I DOUBT WHETHER I ACTUALLY **EXIST!**

WHAAAAAT? THAT'S **CRAZY TALK!**

USE YOUR **EYES!** YOU CAN **SEE** THAT YOU **EXIST!**

BUT I CANNOT TRUST MY SENSES **ALONE**, FOR THEY ARE SO EASILY **DECEIVED!**

SEE? DOES THIS PANEL DEPICT A **VASE** OR A PAIR OF **FACES?**

HOW DO I KNOW THIS EXCHANGE IS REALLY TAKING PLACE?

FOR ALL I KNOW, I COULD BE ASLEEP AND **DREAMING** IT!

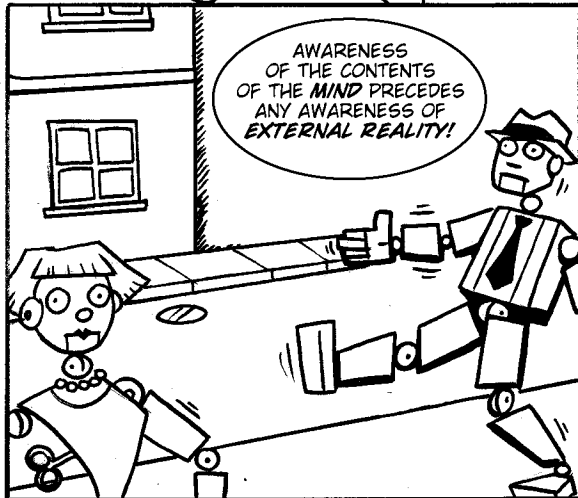
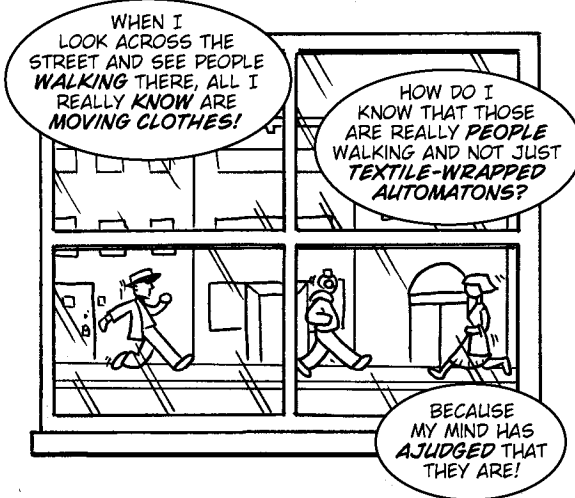
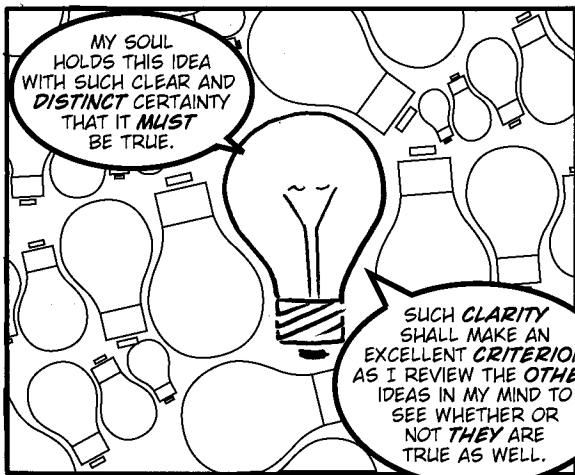
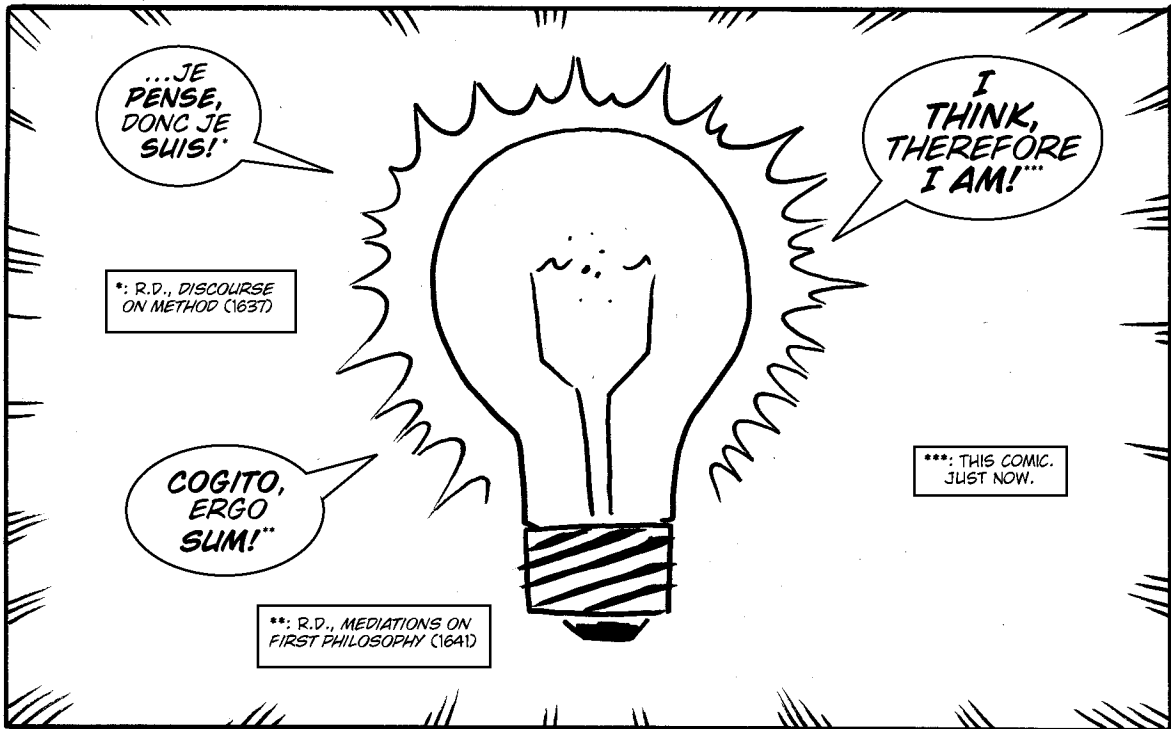
GOD HIMSELF COULD BE A CRUEL DECEIVER, PURPOSEFULLY FLOODING MY SENSES WITH **MISINFORMATION!**

heh, heh. what a **maroon...**

BUT ... DOESN'T THE FACT YOU **DOUBT** YOUR OWN EXISTENCE COUNT FOR **ANYTHING?**

I MEAN ... THAT MODE OF **THOUGHT** IS REAL, AND MUST THEREFORE EMANATE FROM SOME **ACTUAL ENTITY?**

SACRE BLEU... YOU ARE **RIGHT...**



AN INVENTORY OF MY MIND'S CONTENTS REVEALS THREE DISTINCT TYPES OF IDEAS:



FICTITIOUS IDEAS, WHICH THE MIND INVENTS...

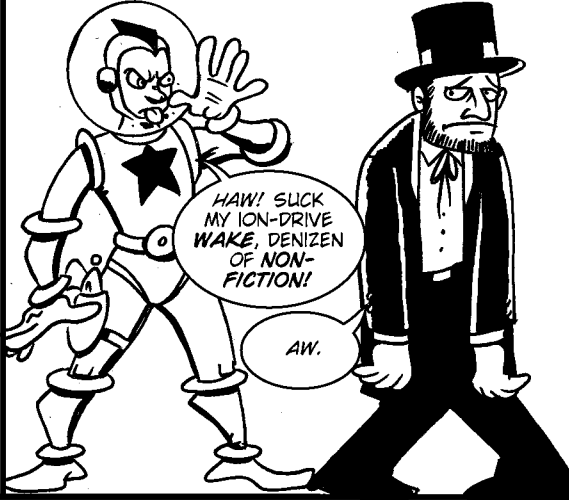


...ADVENTITIOUS IDEAS, WHICH THE MIND RECEIVES FROM THE EXTERNAL WORLD...

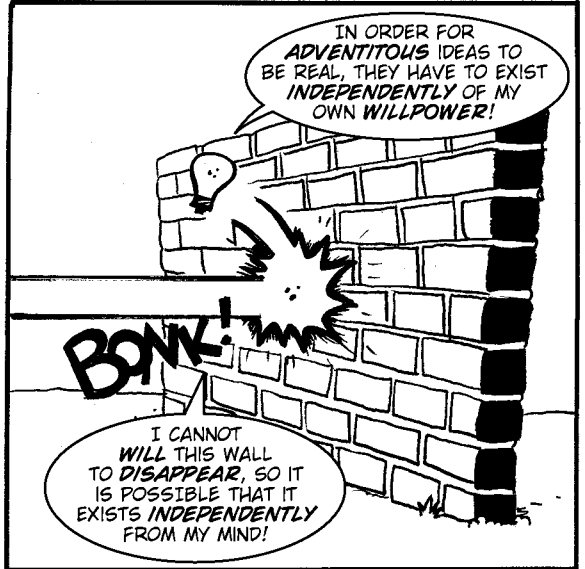


...AND INATE IDEAS, WHICH ARE BORN WITH THE MIND!

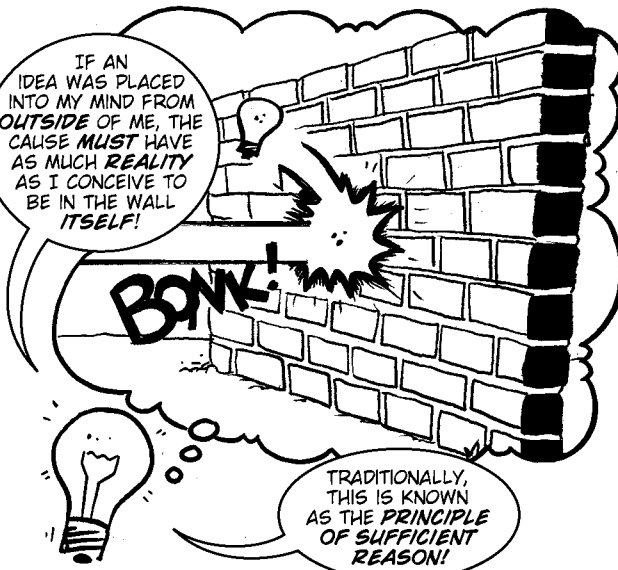
IRONICALLY, THE ONLY CATEGORY I CAN BE SURE EXISTS IS FICTION, SINCE IT PRESUPPOSES THE EXISTENCE OF MY MIND (WHICH IS ALL I HAVE PROVEN EXISTS)!



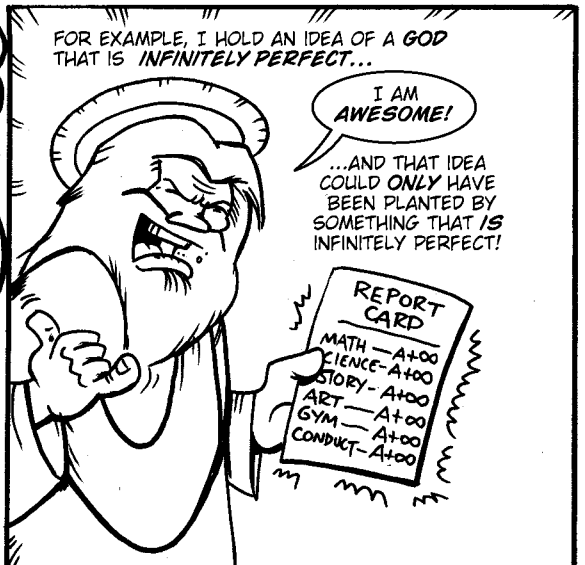
IN ORDER FOR ADVENTITIOUS IDEAS TO BE REAL, THEY HAVE TO EXIST INDEPENDENTLY OF MY OWN WILLPOWER!



IF AN IDEA WAS PLACED INTO MY MIND FROM OUTSIDE OF ME, THE CAUSE MUST HAVE AS MUCH REALITY AS I CONCEIVE TO BE IN THE WALL ITSELF!



FOR EXAMPLE, I HOLD AN IDEA OF A GOD THAT IS INFINITELY PERFECT...

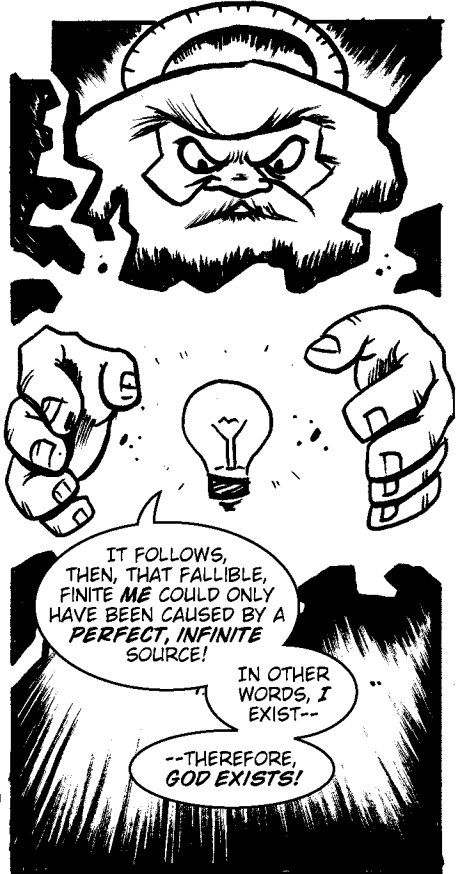




NOR CAN A CAUSE CREATE AN EFFECT THAT IS MORE PERFECT THAN ITSELF!

(EVEN THOUGH I CAN IMAGINE THE FICTITIOUS IDEA OF THE "PERFECT WOMAN," I CANNOT ACTUALIZE THE PERFECT WOMAN MYSELF!)

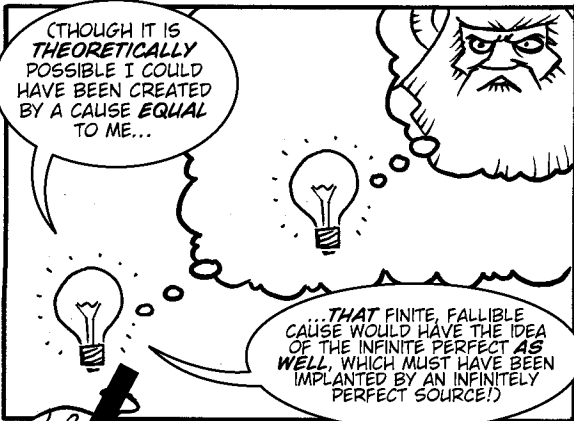
SIGH... BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD...



IT FOLLOWS, THEN, THAT FALLIBLE, FINITE ME COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A PERFECT, INFINITE SOURCE!

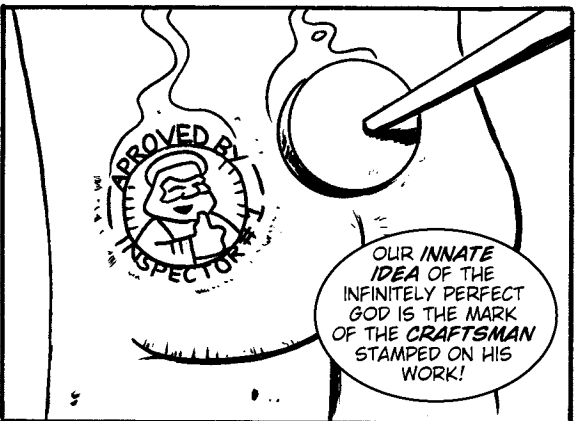
IN OTHER WORDS, I EXIST--

--THEREFORE, GOD EXISTS!



(THOUGH IT IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE I COULD HAVE BEEN CREATED BY A CAUSE EQUAL TO ME...

...THAT FINITE, FALLIBLE CAUSE WOULD HAVE THE IDEA OF THE INFINITE PERFECT AS WELL, WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN IMPLANTED BY AN INFINITELY PERFECT SOURCE!)



OUR INNATE IDEA OF THE INFINITELY PERFECT GOD IS THE MARK OF THE CRAFTSMAN STAMPED ON HIS WORK!



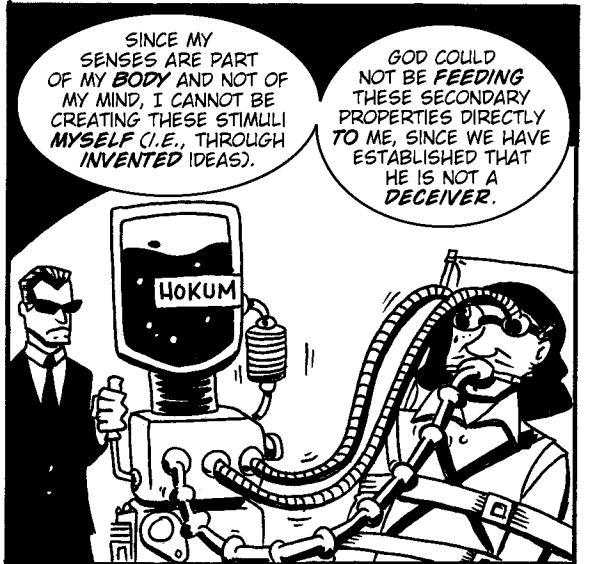
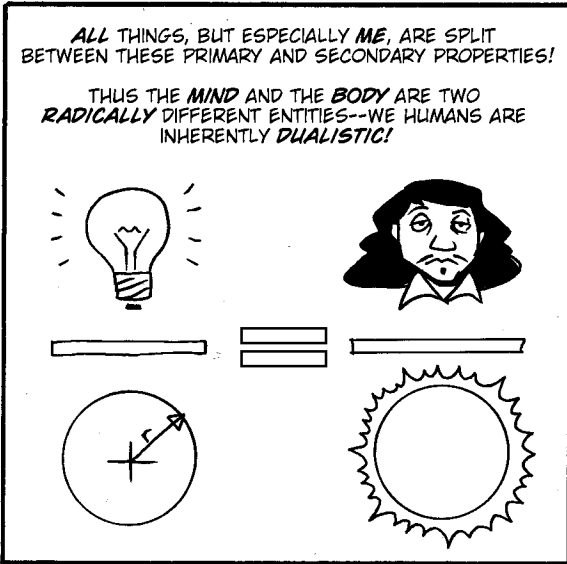
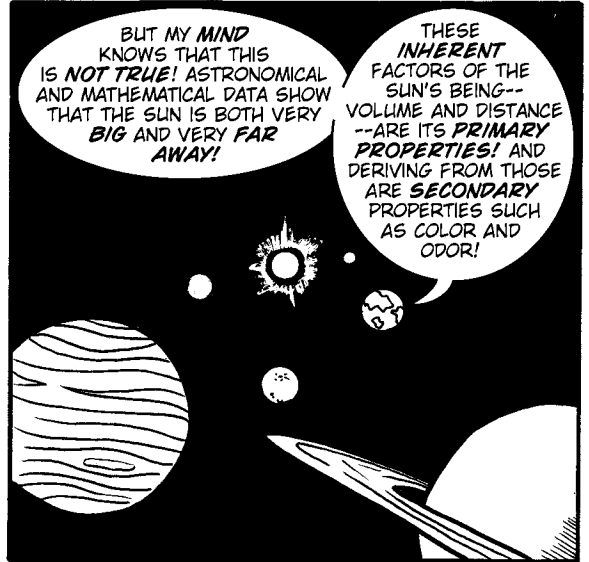
IF GOD IS PERFECT, IT FOLLOWS THAT HE IS NOT A DECEIVER!

ONE DISSEMBLES ONLY TO PROTECT VULNERABILITIES, WHICH A PERFECT BEING WOULD NOT HAVE!



AND SINCE GOD CREATED MY SENSES, MEMORY, AND OTHER INTELLECTUAL FACILITIES, AND SINCE HE IS NOT A DECEIVER...

...THEN MY SENSES, ON THE WHOLE, CAN BE TRUSTED!



You're A Good Man, John Stuart Mill

VAN LENTE · DUNLAUEY

PSYCHIATRIC HELP \$4

THE ALIENIST IS IN

THE DOCTRINE OF WHAT IS CALLED PHILOSOPHICAL NECESSITY WEIGHS ON MY EXISTENCE LIKE AN INCUBUS

THE ALIENIST

SOMETIMES I WORRY THAT I AM SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN TO BE THE HELPLESS SLAVE OF ANTECEDENT CIRCUMSTANCES

THE ALIENIST

THAT MY CHARACTER AND THAT OF ALL OTHERS HAS BEEN FORMED FOR US BY AGENCIES BEYOND OUR CONTROL!

THE ALIENIST

THOUGH OUR CHARACTER IS FORMED BY CIRCUMSTANCES, OUR OWN DESIRES CAN DO MUCH TO SHAPE THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES

THE ALIENIST

WHAT IS REALLY ENNOBLING IN THE DOCTRINE OF FREEWILL IS THE CONVICTION THAT WE HAVE REAL POWER OVER THE FORMATION OF OUR CHARACTER, JOHN STUART MILL!

THE ALIENIST

THAT OUR WILL, BY INFLUENCING SOME OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, CAN MODIFY OUR FUTURE HABITS OR CAPABILITIES OF WILLING!

THE ALIENIST

PSYCHIATR HELP \$4

WOW ... MY STOMACH FEELS BETTER ALREADY!

THE ALIENIST

PSYCHIATR HELP \$4

GLAD I COULD HELP. TEN PENCE, PLEASE.

BUT-- YOUR SIGN SAYS--

THE ALIENIST

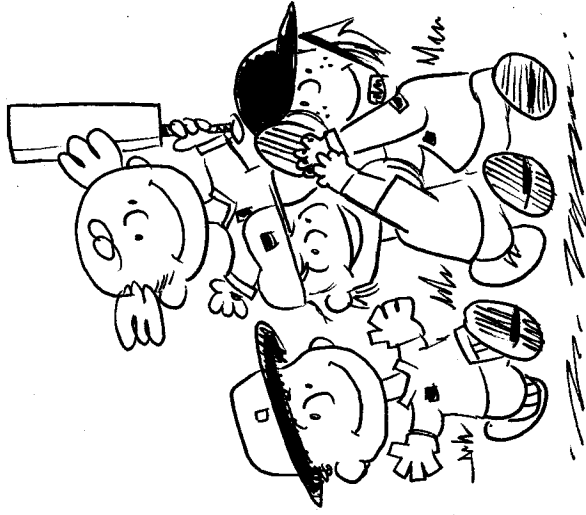
HEY! NOBODY MADE YOU COME DOWN HERE, FREEWILL BOY!!!

MILL WAS BORN IN LONDON IN 1806.

HOME-SCHOOLED AS AN "EDUCATIONAL EXPERIMENT" BY HIS DOMINEERING FATHER, HE SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AT AGE TWENTY.

THIS DISCOVERY OF ROMANTIC POETRY HELPED HIM OUT OF HIS DEPRESSION AND FUELED THE COMPASSIONATE HUMANISM OF HIS LATER PHILOSOPHY.

The Greatest Happiness Principle is...



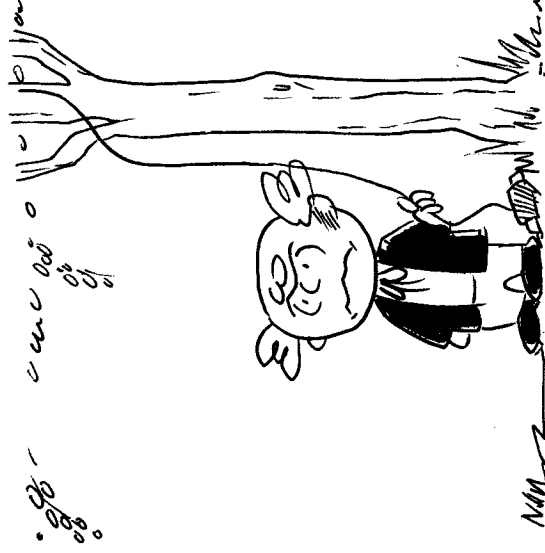
...“actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness, wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness.”

Happiness is...



...“intended pleasure, and the absence of pain.”

Unhappiness is...



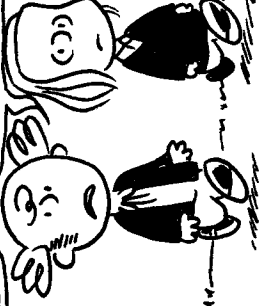
...“pain, and the privation of pleasure.”

— John Stuart Mill,
“Utilitarianism” (1863)

You're A Good Man, John Stuart Mill

THE PROBLEM WITH YOUR SYSTEM OF UTILITARIANISM, BENTHAM, WAS THE INSISTENCE THAT MORALITY SHOULD BE EQAATED WITH QUANTITIES OF PLEASURE.

OUR CRITICS CAN ACCUSE US OF MORAL RELATIVISM... ACCORDING TO US, THEY SAY, EACH PERSON'S SUBJECTIVE OPINION DETERMINES THE GOOD, NOT ANY ETHICAL STANDARD.



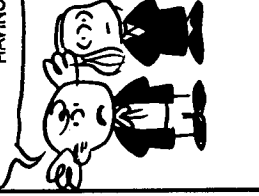
AND A HIGHLY ENDOUED BEING WILL ALWAYS FEEL THAT ANY HAPPINESS WHICH HE CAN LOOK FOR IS IMPERFECT.



THOUGH MEN OFTEN MAKE THEIR ELECTION FOR THE NEARER GOOD, THIS IS BECAUSE INFERIOR PLEASURES ARE THE ONLY ONES THEY HAVE ACCESS TO.

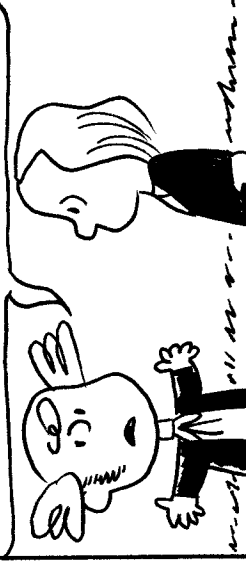


IT IS INDISPUTABLE THAT THE BEING WHOSE CAPACITIES OF ENJOYMENT ARE LOW HAS THE GREATEST CHANCE OF HAVING THEM FULLY SATISFIED.

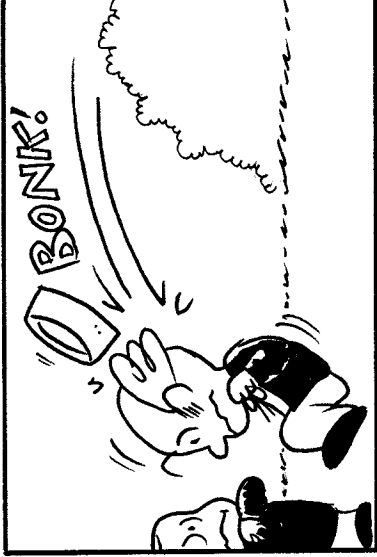
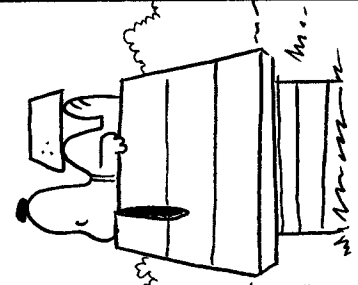
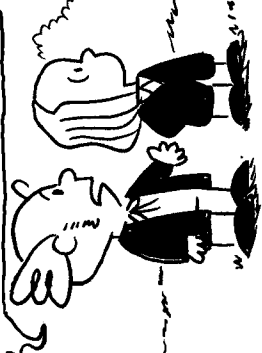


ENGLISH PHILOSOPHER JEREMY BENTHAM (1748-1832), THE INVENTOR OF UTILITARIANISM, WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF MILL'S STRONGEST INTELLECTUAL INFLUENCE.

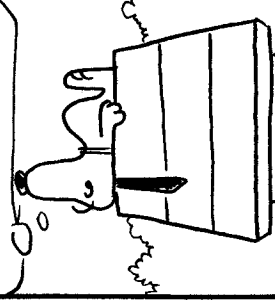
NO PERSON OF FEELING AND CONSCIENCE IS HABITUALLY SELFISH AND BASE, EVEN THOUGH HE MAY BE PERSUADED THAT THE DUNCE AND THE RASCAL ARE BETTER SATISFIED WITH THEIR LOT.




IT IS BETTER TO BE SOCRATES DISSATISFIED THAN A FOOL SATISFIED... BETTER TO BE A HUMAN BEING DISSATISFIED THAN A DOG SATISFIED.



THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE!



You're A
Good Man,
John Stuart
Mill

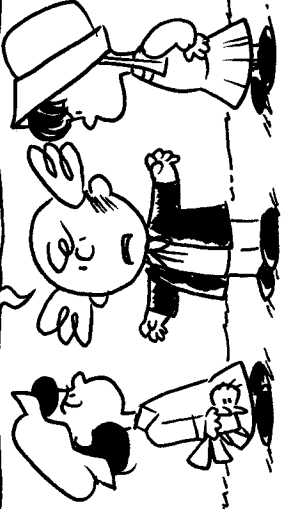


YOU'VE HAD IT
LONG ENOUGH! LET ME
HOLD IT NOW!

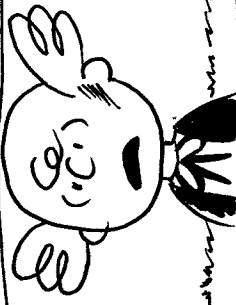
BUT IT'S
MINE!



YOU SEE HOW SELFISHNESS DOES NOT BRING HAPPINESS?
IN THE GOLDEN RULE OF JESUS OF NAZARETH, WE
READ THE COMPLETE SPIRIT OF THE ETHICS OF UTILITY



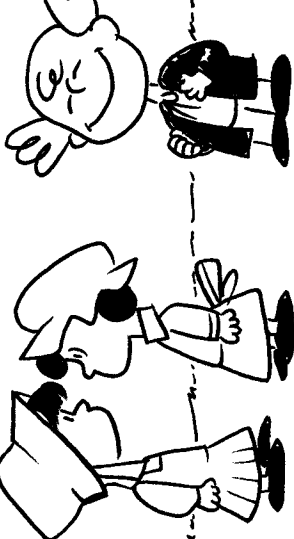
JUST AS KANT PROPOUNDS THE FUNDAMENTAL
PRINCIPLE OF MORALS: "SO ACT THAT THY
RULE OF CONDUCT MIGHT BE ADOPTED
AS LAW BY ALL RATIONAL BEINGS."




TO GIVE ANY MEANING TO KANT'S PRINCIPLE, THE
SENSE PUT UPON IT MUST BE THAT WE OUGHT TO
SHAPE OUR CONDUCT BY A RULE WHICH ALL RATIONAL
BEINGS MIGHT ADOPT ...




...WITH BENEFIT TO THEIR COLLECTIVE INTEREST! FOR
THE SOCIAL STATE IS AT ONCE SO NATURAL, SO
NECESSARY, AND SO HABITUAL TO MAN THAT HE
NEVER CONCEIVES HIMSELF OTHERWISE THAN AS A
MEMBER OF A BODY!

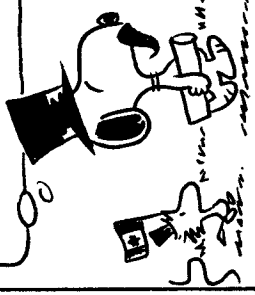
POMO!



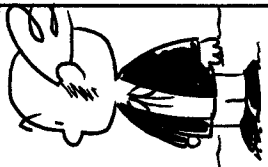
AND WE CONCEIVE
YOU TO BE THE HEEL!



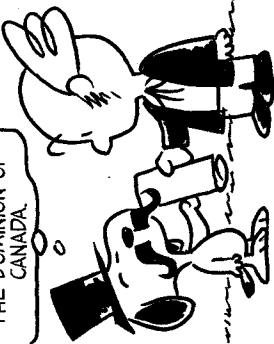
THE AUGUST CANADIAN DELEGATION APPROACHES THE PARLIAMENTARIAN WITH THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT



You're A Good Man, John Stuart Mill



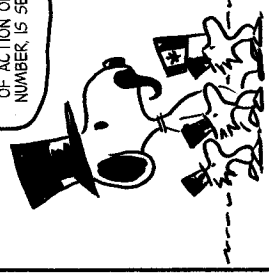
THE B.N.A. WOULD UNITE THE PROVINCES INTO THE DOMINION OF CANADA.



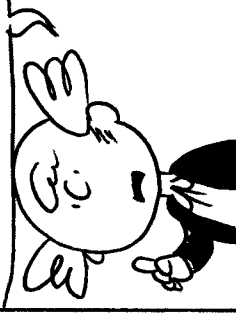
THE DELEGATES ANXIOUSLY AWAIT THE M.P.'S REPLY...



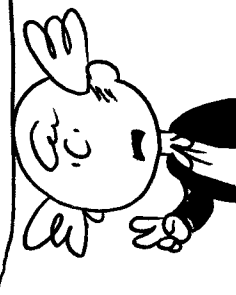
MY FRIENDS, THE SOLE END FOR WHICH MANKIND IS WARRANTED IN INTERFERING WITH THE LIBERTY OF ACTION OF ANY OF THEIR NUMBER IS SELF-PROTECTION.



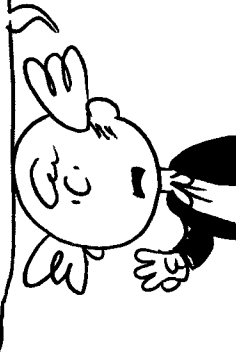
NO GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTERFERE WITH ITS SUBJECTS, FIRSTLY WHEN THE ACTION CAN BE DONE BETTER BY PRIVATE PERSONS



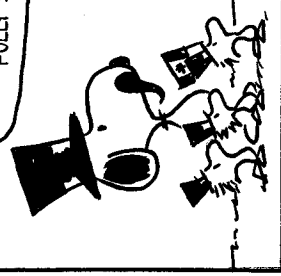
SECONDLY WHEN IT IS DESIRABLE FOR PRIVATE PERSONS TO DO IT FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



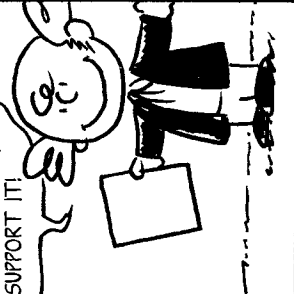
AND THIRDLY, WHEN THERE IS DANGER THAT TOO MUCH POWER WILL UNNECESSARILY ACCRUE TO THE GOVERNMENT.



ACCORDING TO CANADIAN GOVERNOR LORD DURHAM, MILL'S MANIFESTO IN SUPPORT OF CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE "MIGHT BE DESCRIBED THE ALMOST TRIUMPHAL RECEPTION WHICH HE ENJOINED UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND"



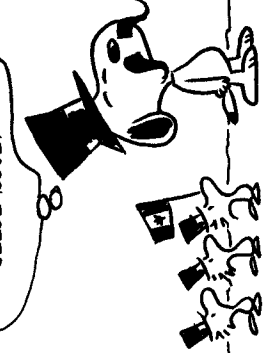
AS CANADA'S MOVE TOWARD SELF-GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CAUSE HARM TO OTHERS, I FULLY SUPPORT IT!



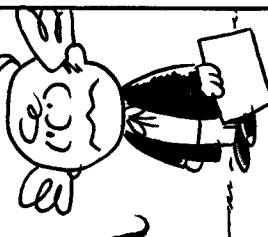
GOOD GRIEF!



THAT'S NICE BUT WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THE CANADIAN GEESE ISSUE?



GOOD GRIEF!



You're A Good Man, John Stuart Mill

THEY'RE BEATING US TWENTY
THOUSAND TO ONE, AND IT'S
ONLY THE THIRD OVER.

YOU'RE CAPTAIN, JOHN
STUART MILL. WHAT
SHOULD WE DO?

TEAM MEETING!

"IF ALL MANKIND MINUS ONE WERE OF ONE OPINION,
AND ONLY ONE PERSON WERE OF THE CONTRARY OPINION,
'MANKIND WOULD BE NO MORE JUSTIFIED IN SILENCING THAT
ONE PERSON THAN HE, IF HE HAD THE POWER, WOULD BE
JUSTIFIED IN SILENCING MANKIND.'"¹

ON THAT PRINCIPLE, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW
THAT ALL OPINIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR
'WHATSOEVER CRUSHES INDIVIDUALITY IS DESPOTISM,
BY WHATEVER NAME IT MAY BE CALLED.'"²

OH, COME ON, NOW! 'THE WORTH OF A
STATE, IN THE LONG RUN, IS THE WORTH
OF THE INDIVIDUALS COMPOSING IT!'

THANKS FOR NOT
OPPRESSING OUR
'APATHY,' CAP.

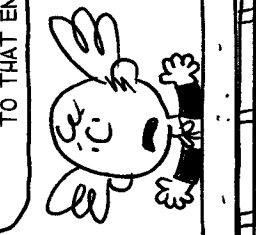
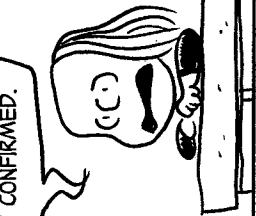
¹ - JOHN STUART MILL, LIBERTY (1859)

² - IBID

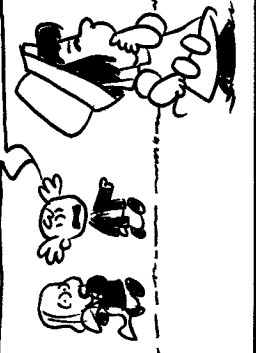
You're A Good Man, John Stuart Mill

OUR CRITICS SAY THAT THE GREATEST HAPPINESS PRINCIPLE CANNOT BE EMPIRICALLY CONFIRMED.

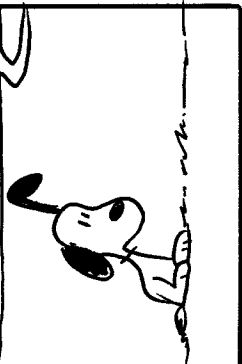
QUITE THE CONTRARY! HAPPINESS IS DESIRABLE, AND THE ONLY THING DESIRABLE, AS AN END-- ALL OTHER THINGS BEING ONLY DESIRABLE AS MEANS TO THAT END.



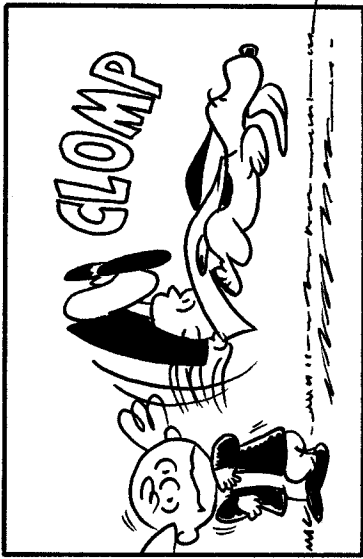
THE ONLY PROOF CAPABLE OF BEING GIVEN THAT AN OBJECT IS VISIBLE IS THAT PEOPLE SEE IT--AND SO OF THE OTHER SOURCES OF OUR EXPERIENCE.



IN LIKE MANNER I APPREHEND THE SOLE EVIDENCE TO PRODUCE THAT ANYTHING IS DESIRABLE IS THAT PEOPLE DO ACTUALLY DESIRE IT.



GLOMP



WAIT, WAIT ... LET US APPLY THE PRINCIPLE...



BAD DOG! THAT IS BENTHAM'S BLANKET. BAD DOG!



SEE? IT IS BY ASSOCIATING THE RIGHT THING WITH PLEASURE, OR THE DOING WRONG WITH PAIN, THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO CALL FORTH THAT WILL TO BE VIRTUOUS...



...WHICH, WHEN CONFIRMED, ACTS WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT TO PLEASURE OR PAIN, FOR VIRTUE LEADS TO HIGHEST HAPPINESS AND IS THEREFORE THE MOST DESIRABLE.



GLOMP



You're A Good Man, John Stuart Mill

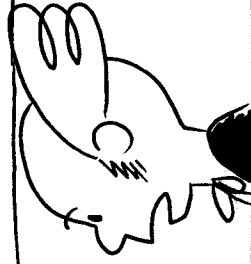
INTEREST IN THE COMMON GOOD IS
AT PRESENT SO WEAK A MOTIVE IN
THE GENERALITY, NOT BECAUSE IT
CAN NEVER BE OTHERWISE



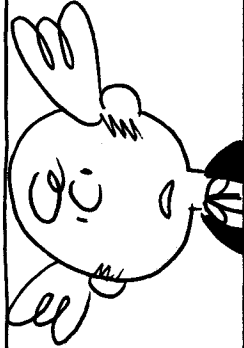
BUT BECAUSE
THE MIND IS NOT
ACCUSTOMED TO
DUELL ON IT AS IT
DUELLS FROM
MORNING 'TIL NIGHT
ON THINGS WHICH
TEND ONLY TO
PERSONAL
ADVANTAGE



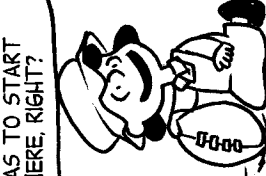
THE DEEP-ROOTED SELFISHNESS WHICH FORMS THE
GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE EXISTING STATE OF
SOCIETY IS SO DEEPLY ROOTED ONLY BECAUSE THE
COURSE OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS TENDS TO
FOSTER IT.



I AM NOW CONVINCED THAT NO GREAT IMPROVEMENTS
IN THE LOT OF MANKIND ARE POSSIBLE UNTIL A GREAT
CHANGE TAKES PLACE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL
CONSTITUTION OF THEIR MODES OF THOUGHT.



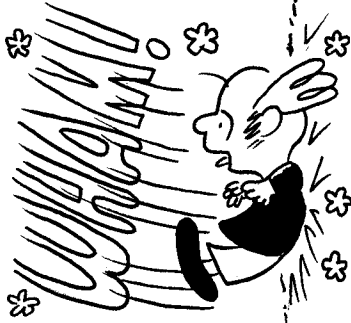
I COULDN'T AGREE MORE,
JOHN STUART MILL! AND THAT
CHANGE HAS TO START
SOMEWHERE, RIGHT?



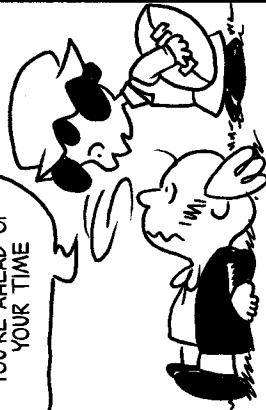
PRECISELY!
I'M GLAD YOU SEE
MY MEANING!



AAUGH!



BUT YOUR
PROBLEM IS
YOU'RE AHEAD OF
YOUR TIME



IN 1909, THE STILL-OBSCURE DR. SIGMUND FREUD WAS ASKED TO GIVE A SERIES OF LECTURES AT *CLARK UNIVERSITY* IN WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

BURDENED BY A LIFELONG *TRAVEL PHOBIA* ONLY RECENTLY CONQUERED, FREUD ASKED HIS CLOSEST PROTEGE TO ACCOMPANY HIM.

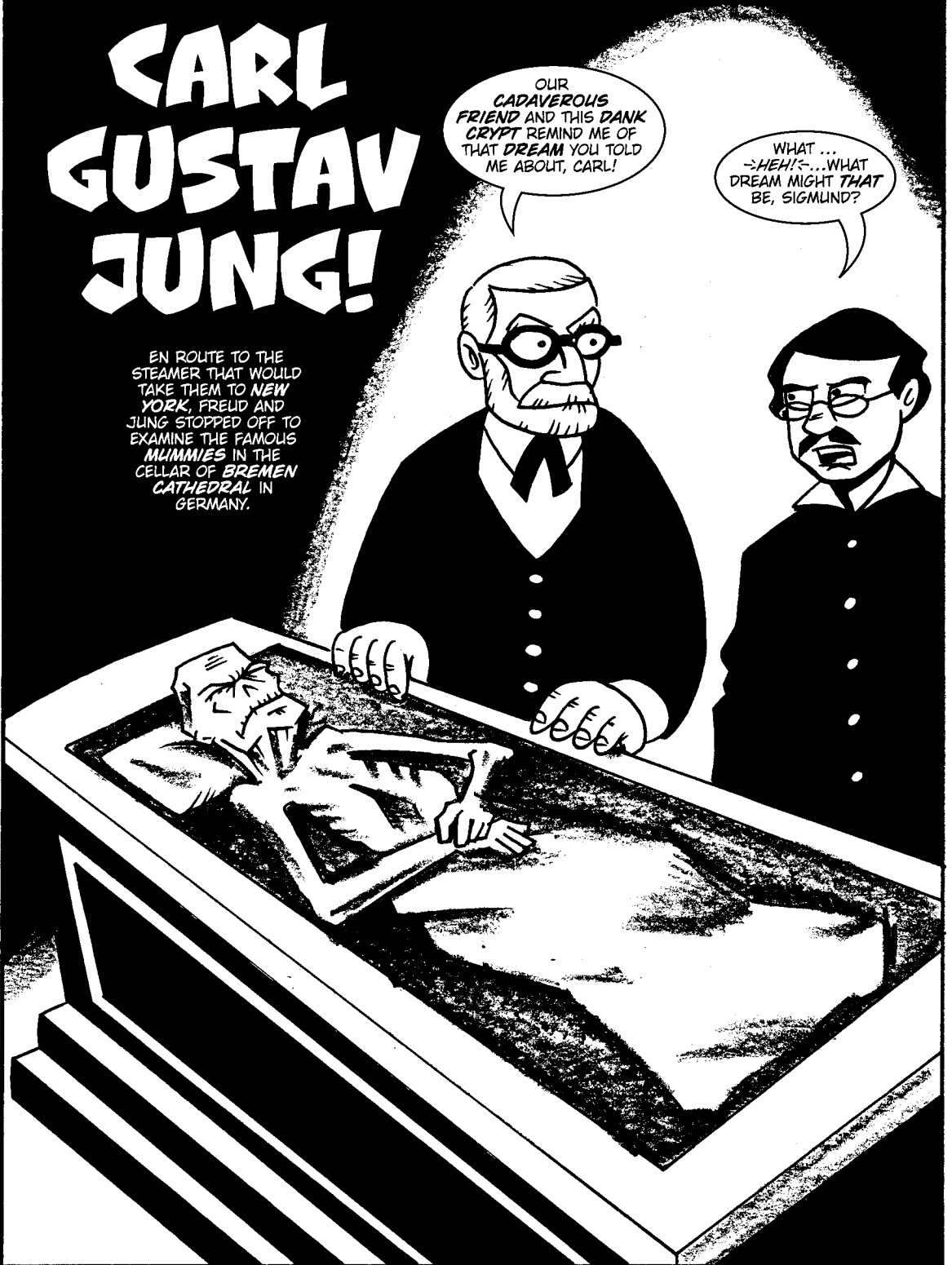
A MAN WHO WOULD SOON BECOME *ACTION PHILOSOPHER #8...*

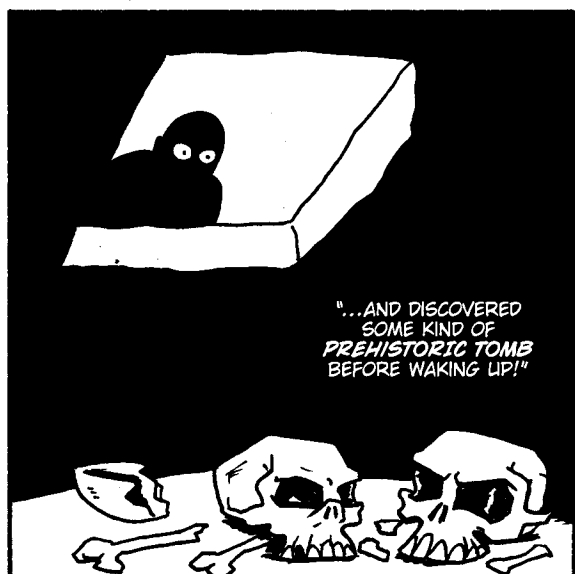
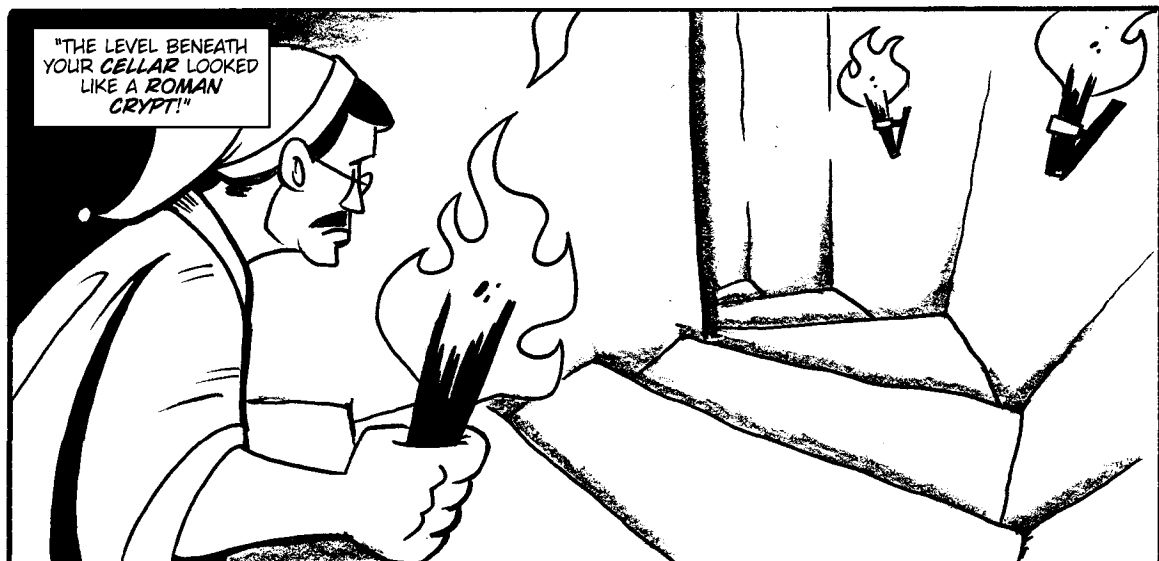
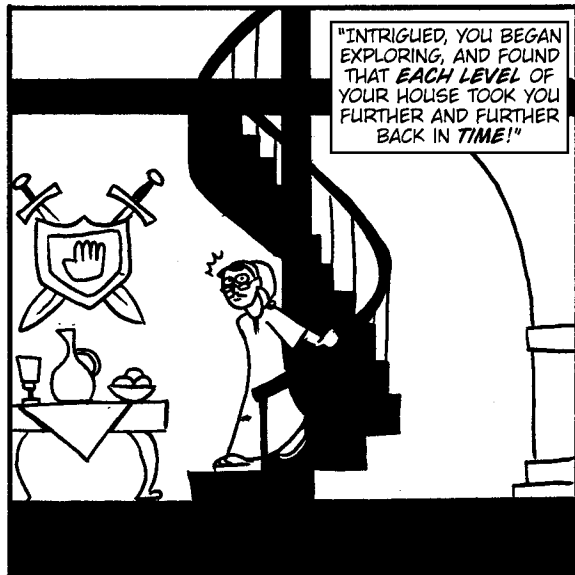
CARL GUSTAV JUNG!

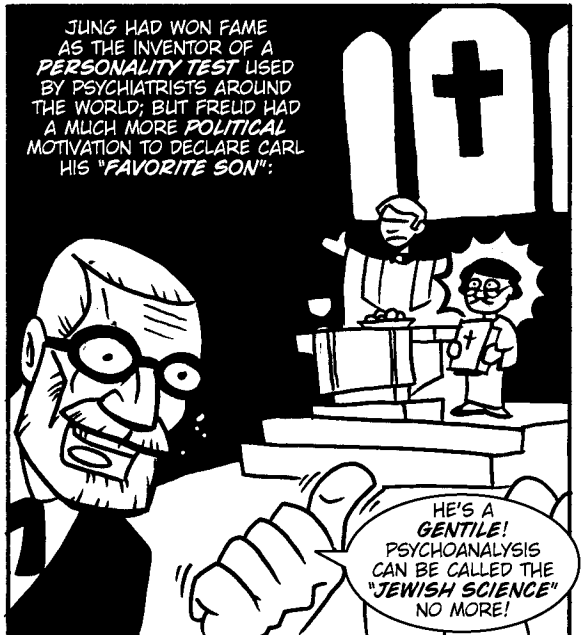
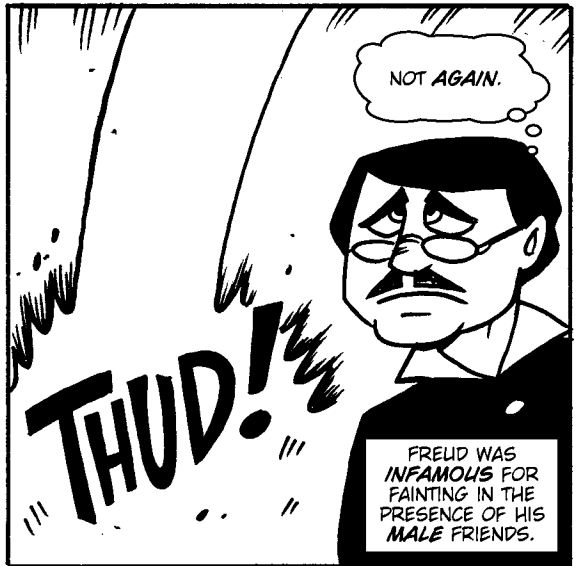
EN ROUTE TO THE STEAMER THAT WOULD TAKE THEM TO NEW YORK, FREUD AND JUNG STOPPED OFF TO EXAMINE THE FAMOUS MUMMIES IN THE CELLAR OF BREMEN CATHEDRAL IN GERMANY.

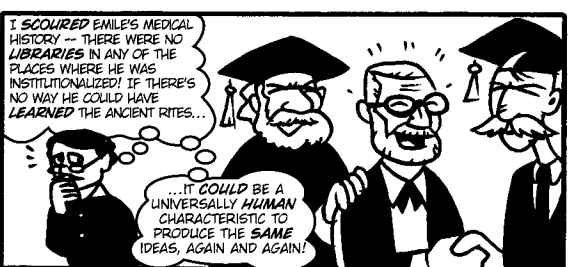
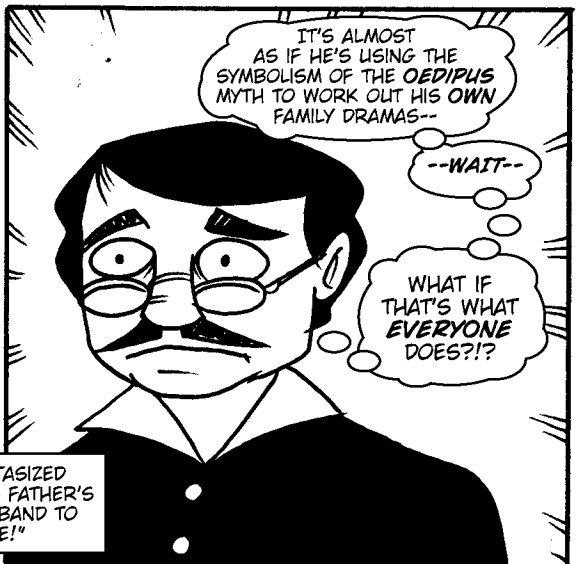
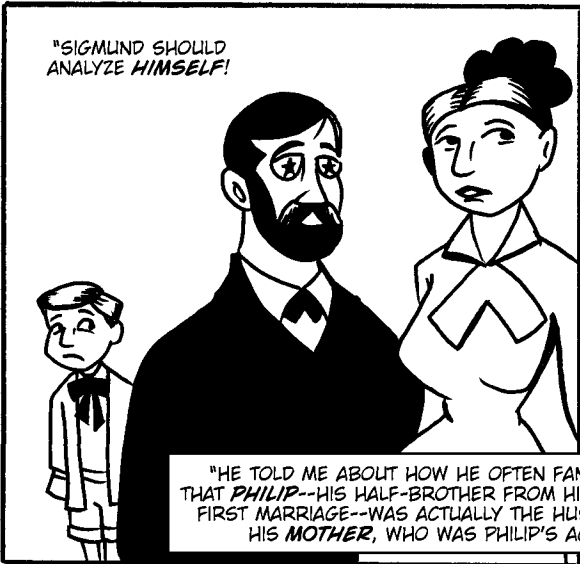
OUR CADAVEROUS FRIEND AND THIS DANK CRYPT REMIND ME OF THAT DREAM YOU TOLD ME ABOUT, CARL!

WHAT ... ->HEH!<-...WHAT DREAM MIGHT THAT BE, SIGMUND?









JUNG'S NEO-PLATONIC THEORY CALLED THESE UNIVERSAL PSYCHICAL FORMS "ARCHETYPES"...

...AND, IN A MAJOR BREAK FROM FREUD, THE PLACE FROM WHICH THEY EMANATED, THE "COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS!"

AFTER ALL, JUNG WROTE, "CONSCIOUSNESS IS A VERY RECENT ACQUISITION OF NATURE..."

OOH! OOH!

"...AND IT IS STILL IN AN EXPERIMENTAL STATE!"

WHAT IF THE UNCONSCIOUS IS JUST AS ACTIVE AS THE CONSCIOUS MIND?

EXCEPT THAT WHILE CONSCIOUSNESS REACTS TO ACTIVE EXTERNAL STIMULI--

--THE UNCONSCIOUS REGISTERS *SUBLIMINAL*, EMOTIONAL IMPULSES FOR WHICH THERE IS NO ROOM IN CONSCIOUSNESS!

"THE GENERAL FUNCTION OF DREAMS IS TO TRY TO RESTORE OUR PSYCHOLOGICAL BALANCE BY PRODUCING DREAM MATERIAL THAT RE-ESTABLISHES, IN A SUBTLE WAY, THE TOTAL PSYCHIC EQUILIBRIUM."

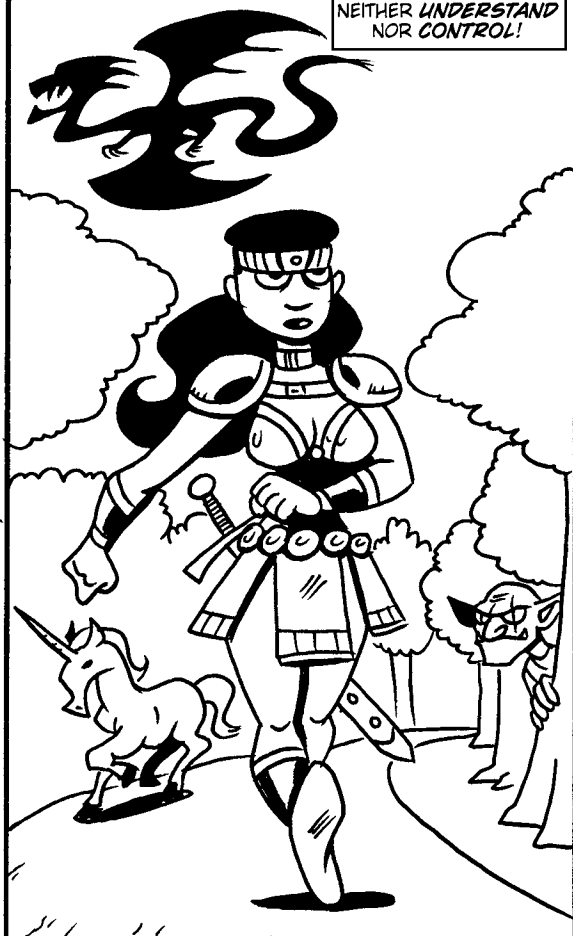
"THUS, A DREAM CANNOT PRODUCE A DEFINITE THOUGHT. IF IT BEGINS TO DO SO, IT CEASES TO BE A DREAM BECAUSE IT CROSSES THE THRESHOLD OF CONSCIOUSNESS!"

BUT: "ELEMENTS OFTEN OCCUR IN A DREAM THAT ARE NOT INDIVIDUAL AND THAT CANNOT BE DERIVED FROM THE DREAMER'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE."

THESE PRIMORDIAL IMAGES HAVE BEEN INHERITED BY MAN FROM THE FIRST DAYS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS!

IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE HUMAN PSYCHE WAS MORE RECONCILED TO THESE SEEMINGLY INEXPLICABLE IMAGES AND IMPULSES.

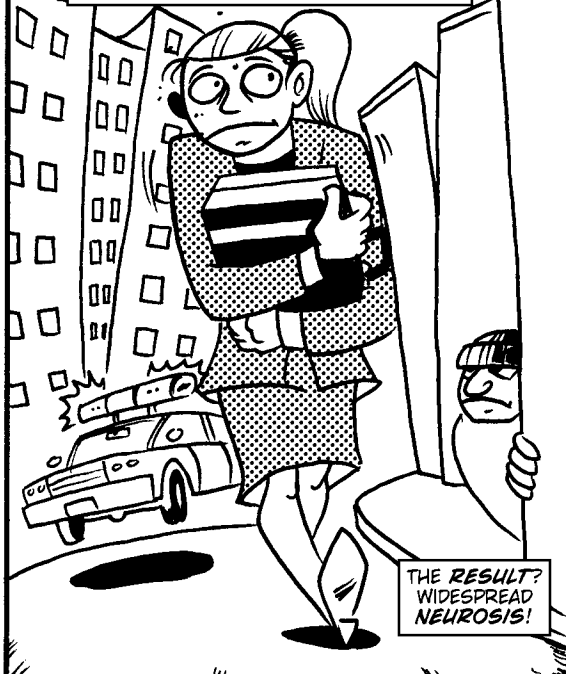
WHILE UNFOUNDED SUPERSTITION MAY HAVE BEEN PERVERSIVE, HUMANS SIMPLY ACCEPTED THAT THEY WERE SURROUNDED BY FORCES THEY COULD NEITHER UNDERSTAND NOR CONTROL!



OUR MODERN-DAY DEPENDENCE ON SCIENCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS GIVEN US AN ILLUSORY SENSE OF OMNIPOTENCE THAT HAS LEFT US ALIENATED FROM THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS! JUNG WRITES:



"MODERN MAN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH HIS 'RATIONALISM' (WHICH HAS DESTROYED HIS CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO NUMINOUS SYMBOLS AND IDEAS) HAS PUT HIM AT THE MERCY OF THE PSYCHIC 'UNDERWORLD'!"



THE RESULT? WIDESPREAD NEUROSIS!

"OF COURSE! THE MEANING OF MY DREAM IS SO CLEAR, NOW!"

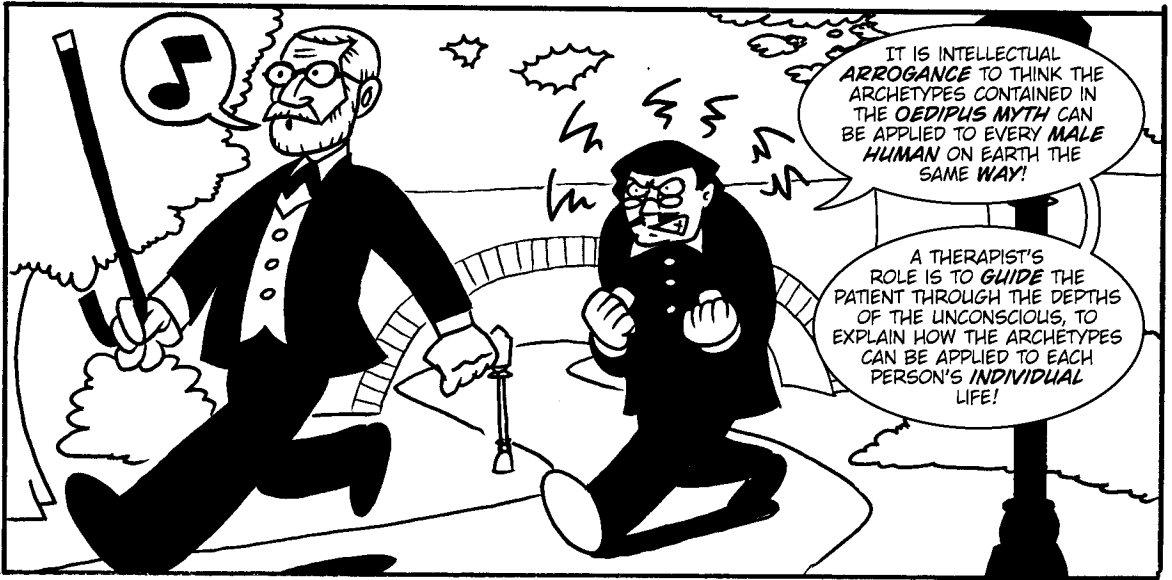
"I AM LEAVING THE 18TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHERS OF MY SCHOOLING ... THE MEDIEVAL IDEAS OF MY PASTOR PARENTS ..."



"MY DESTINY IS TO GO AS FAR BACK IN TIME AS I CAN--TO PLUMB THE FURTHEST DEPTHS OF THE UNCONSCIOUS ITSELF!"

"IT'S MY DREAM, ABOUT MY LIFE AND MY WORLD! IT CAN ONLY BE INTERPRETED BY ME!"





IT IS INTELLECTUAL ARROGANCE TO THINK THE ARCHETYPES CONTAINED IN THE OEDIPUS MYTH CAN BE APPLIED TO EVERY MALE HUMAN ON EARTH THE SAME WAY!

A THERAPIST'S ROLE IS TO GUIDE THE PATIENT THROUGH THE DEPTHS OF THE UNCONSCIOUS, TO EXPLAIN HOW THE ARCHETYPES CAN BE APPLIED TO EACH PERSON'S INDIVIDUAL LIFE!



WHAT IF THE UNCONSCIOUS ISN'T JUST A DUMP FOR MORAL REFUSE? HOW CAN YOU APPLY ARBITRARY INTERPRETATIONS TO A DREAMER'S INDIVIDUAL VISIONS?

ARBITRARY?! ARBITRARY?! YOU WOULD DARE CALL THE TENSION BETWEEN THE DIPHASIC ONSET AND LATENCY PERIOD OF SEXUALITY ARBIT--



HA! LOOK! BEING CONTRADICTED SO UPSETS YOU, YOU'VE PISSED YOURSELF!



THIS IS A PSYCHOGENIC NEUROSI BECAUSE YOU--YOU--YOU HAVE THE WRONG ATTITUDE!

I WILL GET AROUND IT, I WILL ANALYZE YOU!

I WOULD BE OVERJOYED! GOOD! SO, DO TRY IT THEN!*



JUNG CLAIMED THAT, BACK AT THEIR NEW YORK HOTEL, HE ANALYZED FREUD'S DREAMS UNTIL FREUD COULD TAKE IT NO LONGER:

MY DEAR BOY, I...I...

...I CANNOT RISK MY AUTHORITY.

*: ACTUAL EXCHANGE!

THE RIFT BETWEEN THEM ONLY **WORSENE**D UPON THEIR RETURN FROM AMERICA.

"THE PSYCHIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE **INDIVIDUAL** IS A SHORT REPETITION OF THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE **RACE**."

NO!
"THE **INDIVIDUAL** IS THE **ONLY** REALITY. THE FURTHER WE MOVE... TOWARD **ABSTRACT** IDEAS ABOUT **HOMO SAPIENS**, THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO FALL INTO **ERROR!**"

FREUD'S THEORIES SOON BECAME THE **WORLDWIDE** STANDARD IN PSYCHOLOGY!

BY 1912, HOWEVER, FREUD AND JUNG HAD STOPPED **SPEAKING**. THE FINAL BREAK BETWEEN TWO OF THE 20TH CENTURY'S GREATEST **GENIUSES** WAS DISHEARTENINGLY **JUVENILE**:

NONETHELESS, FREUD'S "**CLARK LECTURES**", PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AS **FIVE LECTURES ON PSYCHOANALYSIS** (1910), BECAME THE **TURNING POINT** IN THE TECHNIQUE'S ACCEPTANCE!

JUNG WAS **IRKED** THAT FREUD VISITED A **SICK FRIEND** IN **KREUZLINGEN**, SWITZERLAND, AND DID NOT STOP BY TO SEE HIM.

JUNG'S BRANCH OF THE DISCIPLINE BECAME KNOWN AS **ANALYTICAL PSYCHOLOGY** AND HE GATHERED HIS **OWN** FOLLOWERS. THEY AND THE **FREUDIANS** ENGAGED IN VICIOUS **INTELLECTUAL TURF WARS** THAT CONTINUE TO **THIS DAY!**

THE **FREUDIANS** CONSTANTLY **ATTACKED** JUNG FOR HIS ALLEGED **MYSTICISM** - HE TURNED OUT PAPER AFTER PAPER ON THE "**PSYCHIC UNDERWORLD**":

THE **OCCULT** ... **ALCHEMY** ... **PARAPSYCHOLOGY** ... JUNG EVEN THOUGHT **UFOS** WERE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE **COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS!**

STILL, HE ATTRACTED A LONG LIST OF **FAMOUS** AND **WEALTHY** PATIENTS. **MARY MELLON**, WIFE TO THE HEIR OF THE **MELLON FINANCIAL FORTUNE**, FOUNDED A **NON-PROFIT PUBLISHER** TO RELEASE THE **JUNG CAREER OEUVRE** IN AMERICA!

I'M CALLING IT THE **BOLLINGEN FOUNDATION**, AFTER YOUR **TOWER ON LAKE ZURICH!**

THIS ENSURING THE **BATTLE** BETWEEN THE **FREUDIANS** & THE **JUNGIAN**S WOULD GO ON...AND ON... AND ON...



THEY THOUGHT IT - WE DREW IT!

ACTION PHILOSOPHERS is the award-winning, critically praised comic book series detailing the lives and thoughts of history's A-list brain trust in a hip and humorous way that proves that philosophy is not just the province of boring tweed-clad college professors. Collected here in a single volume for the first time, writer Fred Van Lente and artist Ryan Dunlavey's twisted series has been remastered into a complete chronological comic book history of philosophy, from the Pre-Socratics through Jacques Derrida, including four all-new stories exclusive to this edition.

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-Library Journal



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Written by Fred Van Lente
Illustrated by Ryan Dunlavey

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