

PHI 171
Problems of
Philosophy

Marcello Di Bello

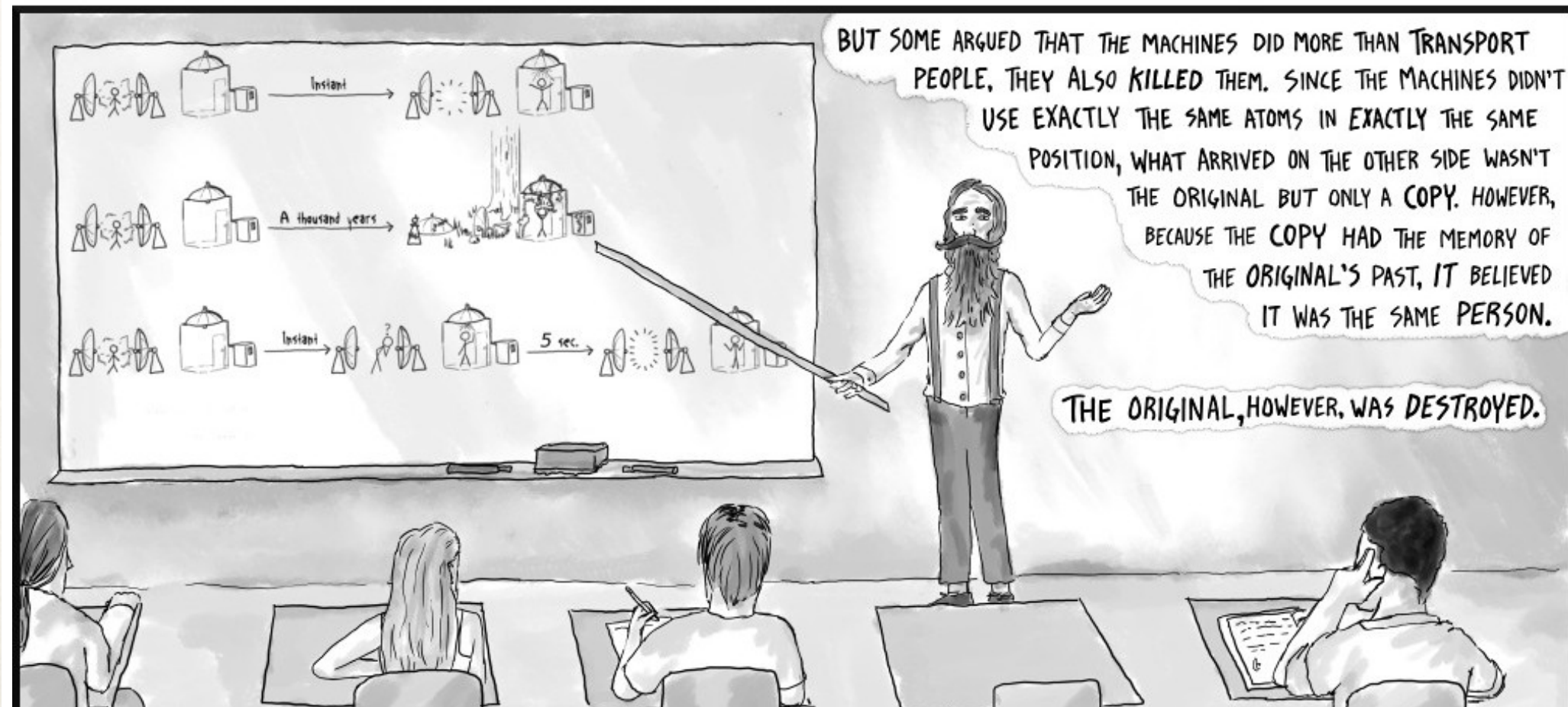
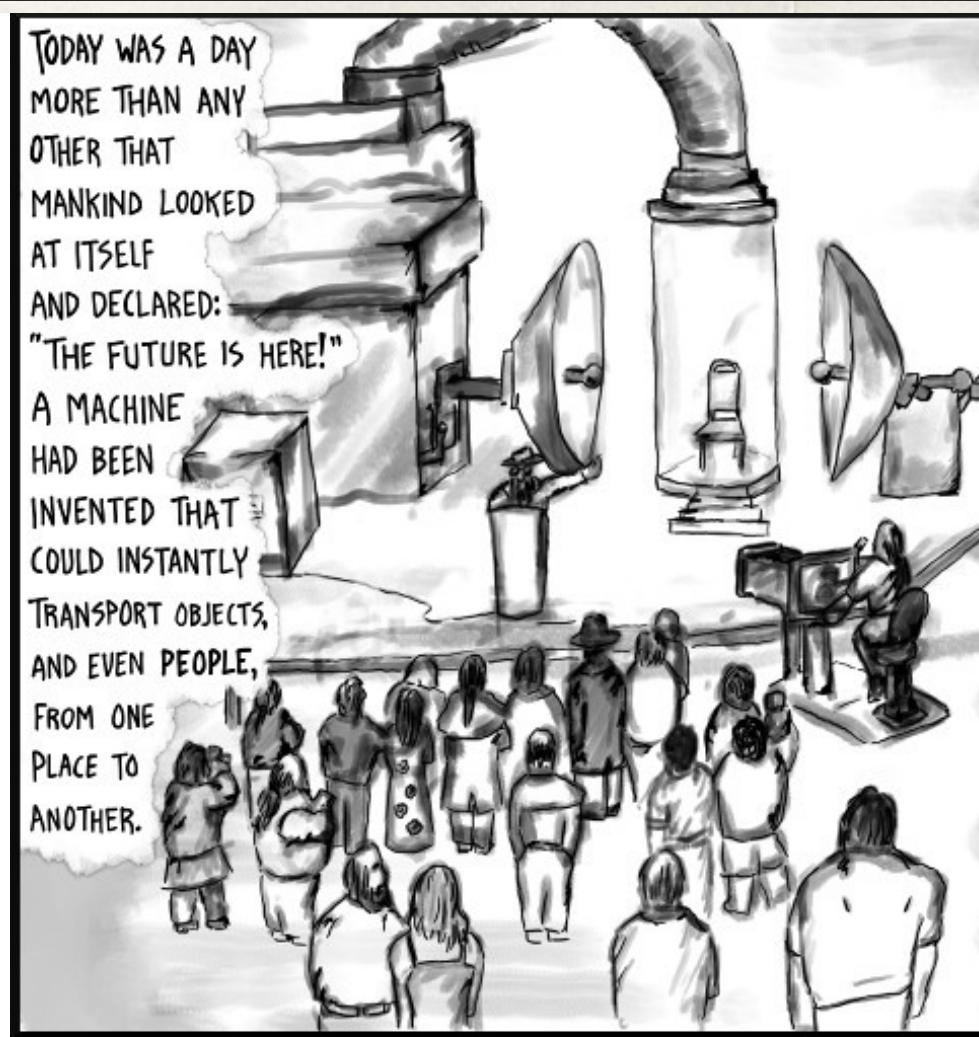
Lehman College
CUNY

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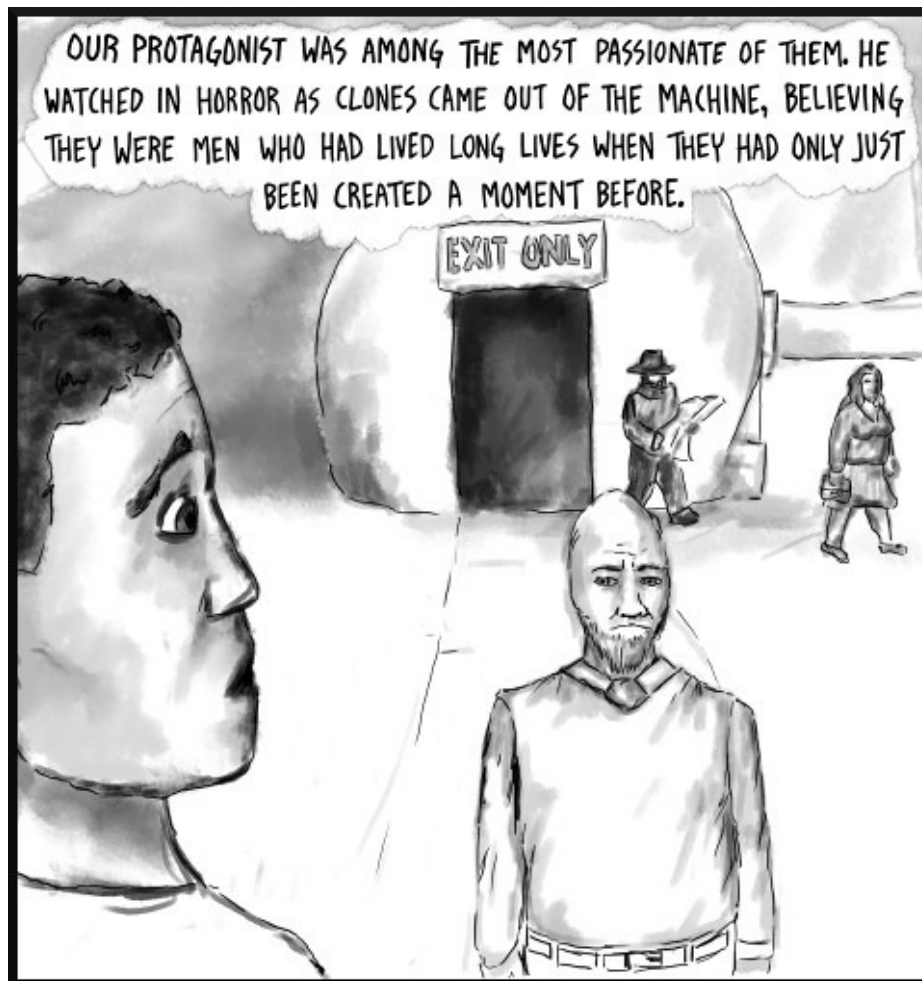
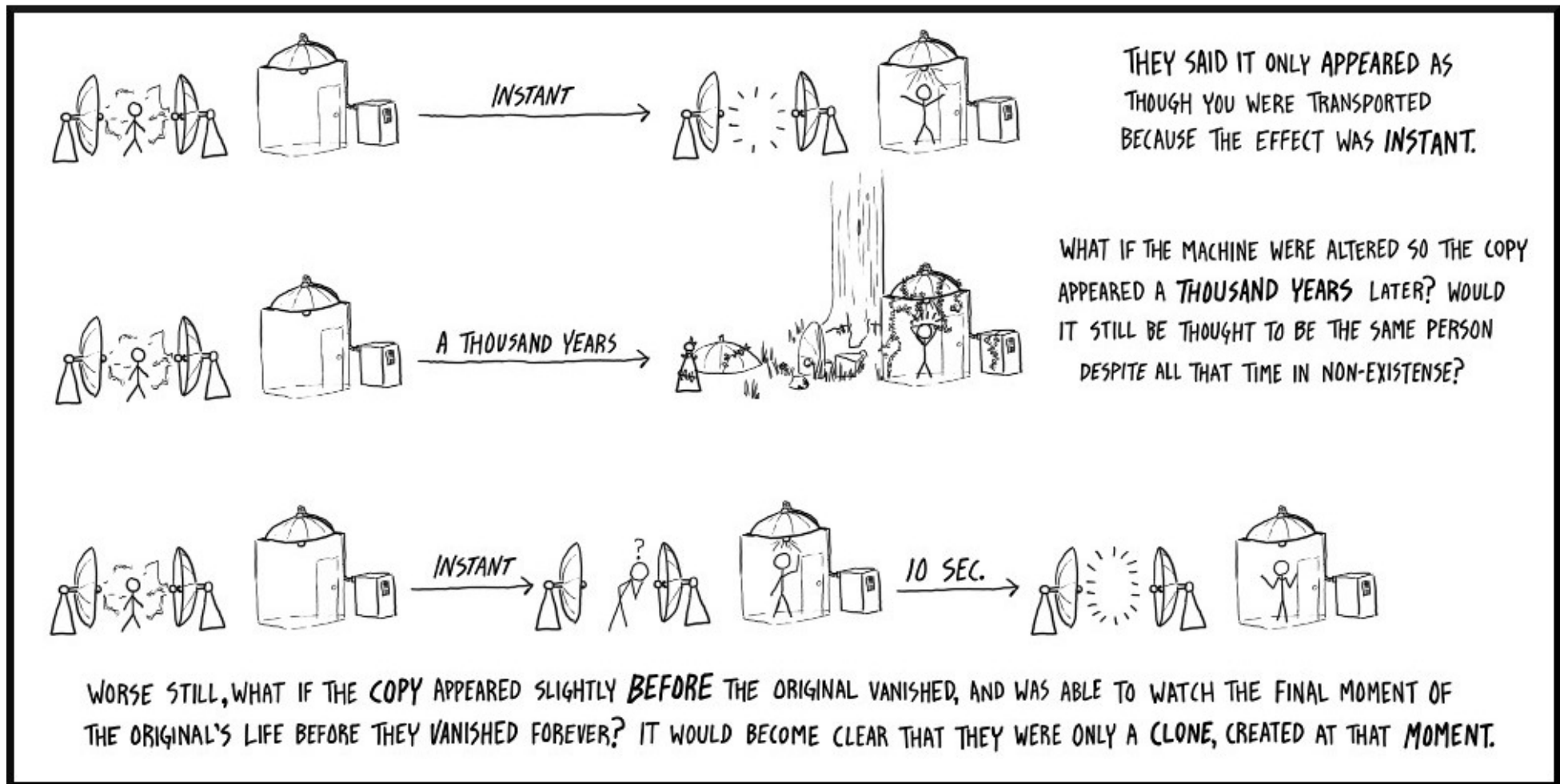


Let's Begin With Some Philosophy

Existential Comics (1)



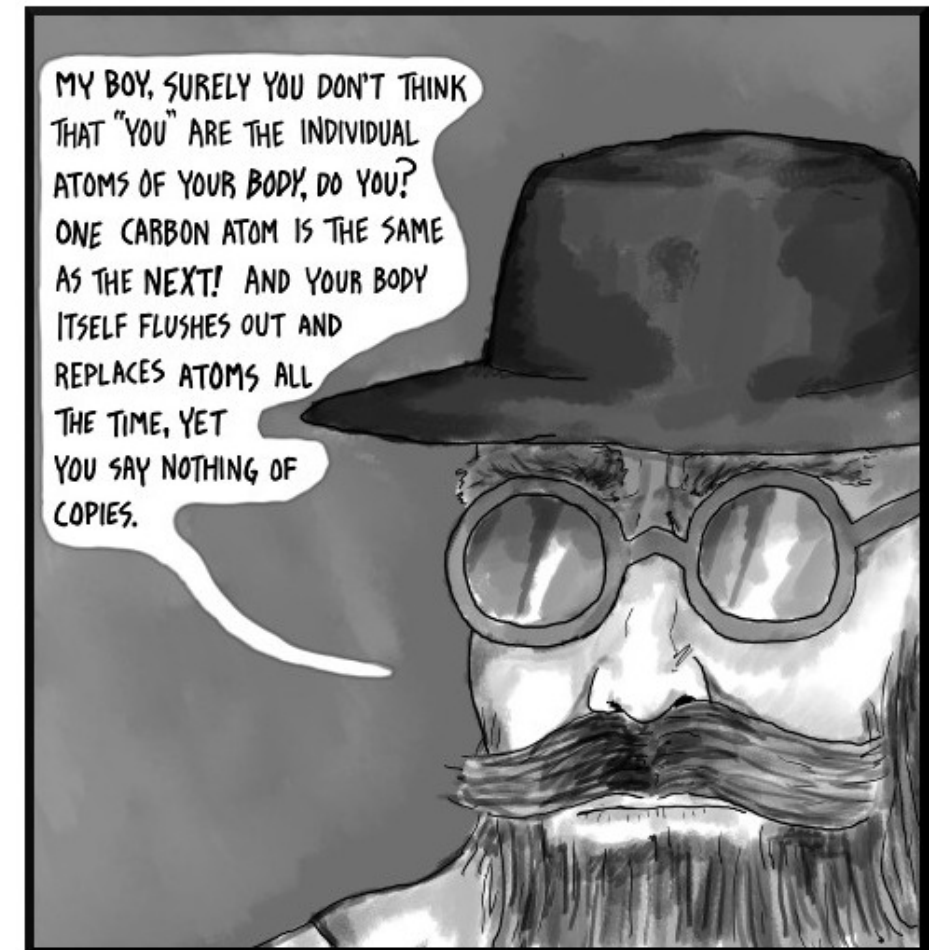
Existential Comics (2)



Existential Comics (3)



Existential Comics (4)



Existential Comics (5)



Class Exercise

- ❖ What is the philosophical question at issue?
- ❖ What are the two — or more? — possible answers?
- ❖ What arguments support a certain answer?
- ❖ What arguments support the opposite answer?

A Definition of Philosophy

“Philosophy is the ungainly attempt to tackle questions that come naturally to children using methods that come naturally to lawyers”

(David Hills)

What Is Philosophy for?

At the very least, it makes you a much better reasoner and problem solver

Most importantly, it helps you see the world in new ways

Lao-Tze

*Mastering others is strength.
Mastering yourself is true power.
By letting it go it all gets done. The
world is won by those who let it go.
But when you try and try. The world
is beyond the winning.
If you realize that all things change,
there is nothing you will try to hold
on to. If you are not afraid of dying,
there is nothing you cannot achieve.
Lao Tze, Tao Te Ching*



Philosophical Questions We Will Explore in This Course

PART 1 — God

Can we prove
that God exists?

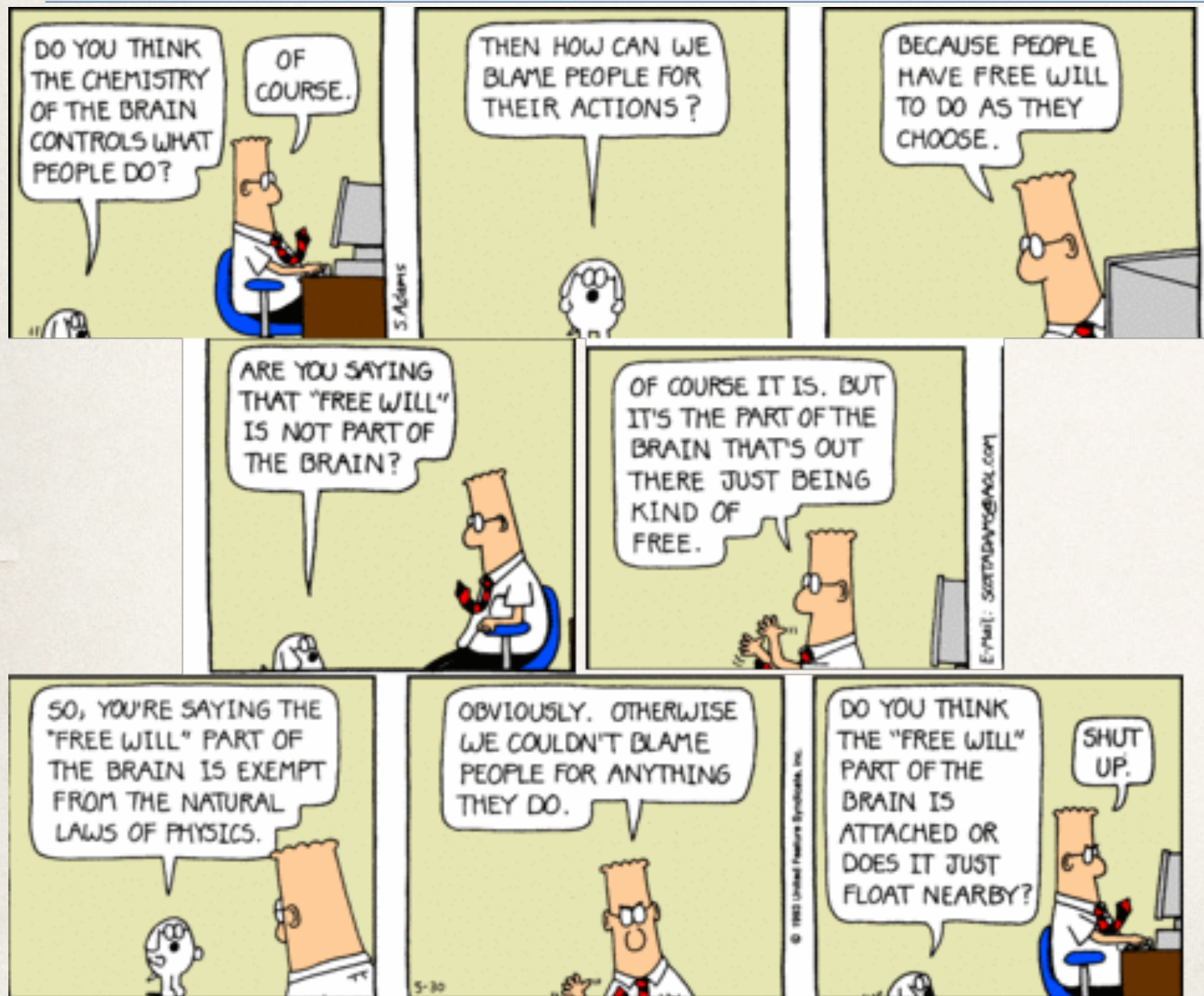
Can there be an
infinite regress
of causes
without a first
cause?

Does the concept
of God imply its
existence?



Bruegel the Elder, *Tower of Babel*

PART 2 — Free Will and Determinism



Is the future predetermined?

If the future is predetermined, do we still have free will?

If the future is predetermined, are we still morally responsible?

PART 3 — Mind, Body and Identity

What are we?
Are we spirit?
Are we matter?

Can physics
explain our
subjective
consciousness?

Do we persist
through time?



PART 4 — Time and Change

What are past, present and future? Do they exist?

Does time flow at the same speed everywhere?

Does the world change or is change just a construction of our minds?

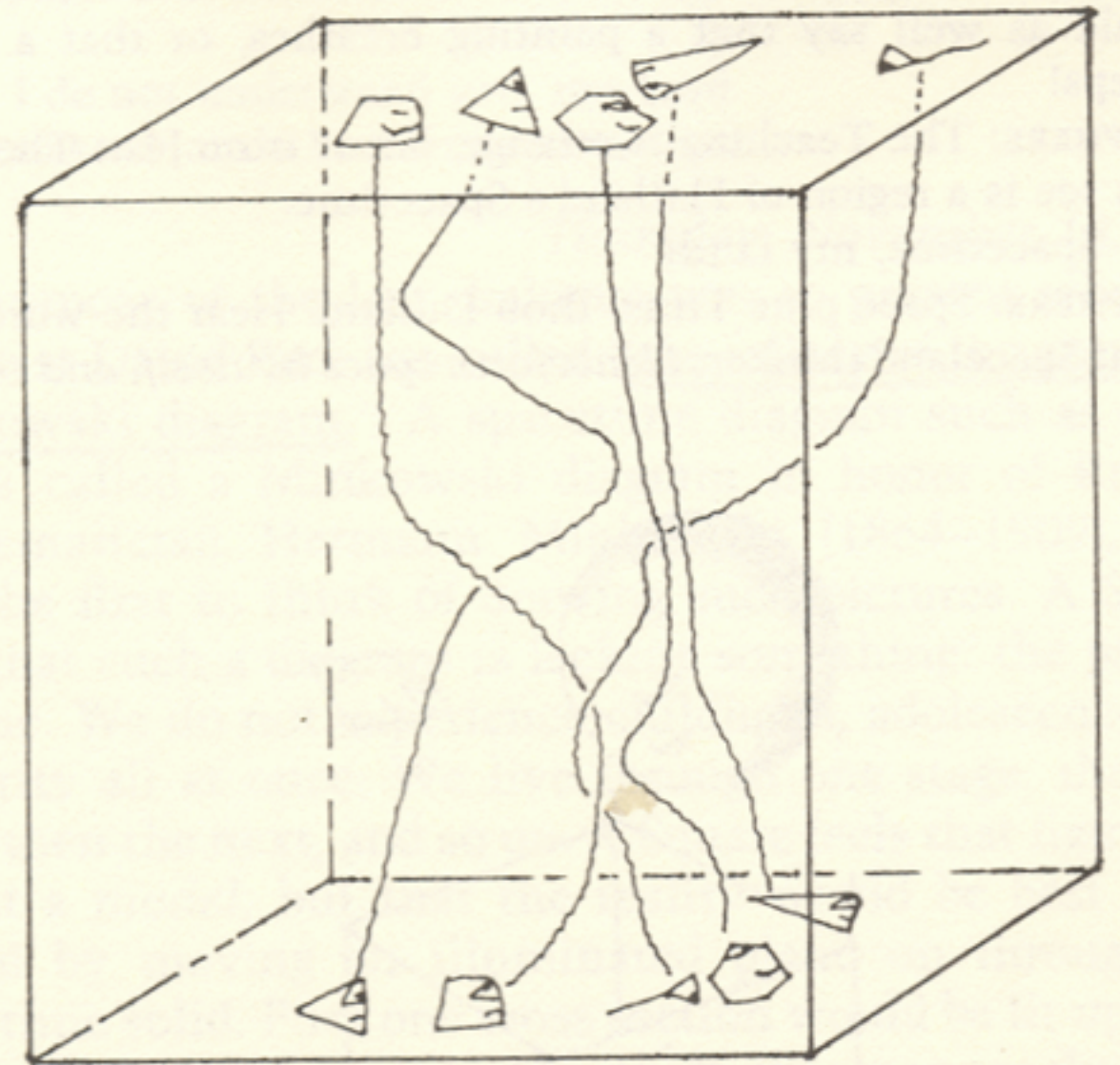


Fig. 140. A tangled tale.

