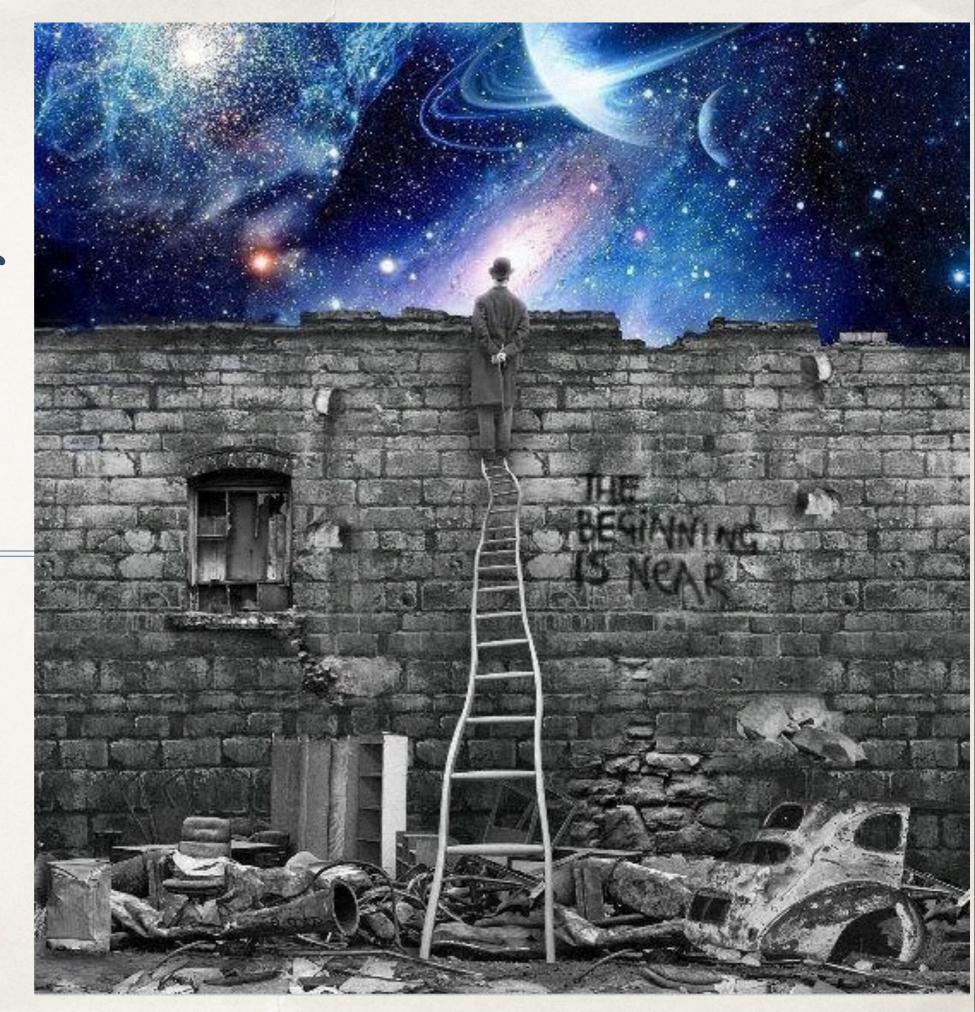
PHI 171 **Problems of Philosophy**

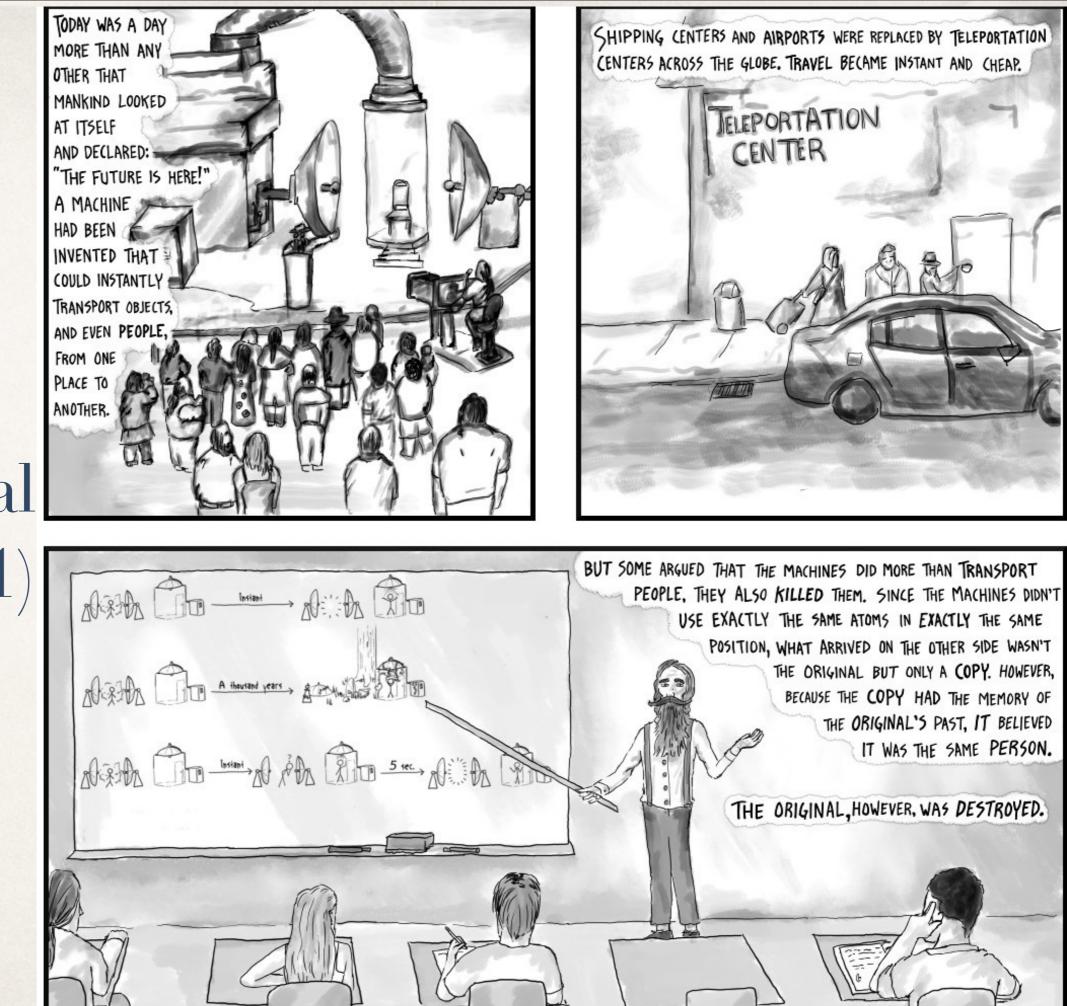
Marcello Di Bello

Lehman College CUNY

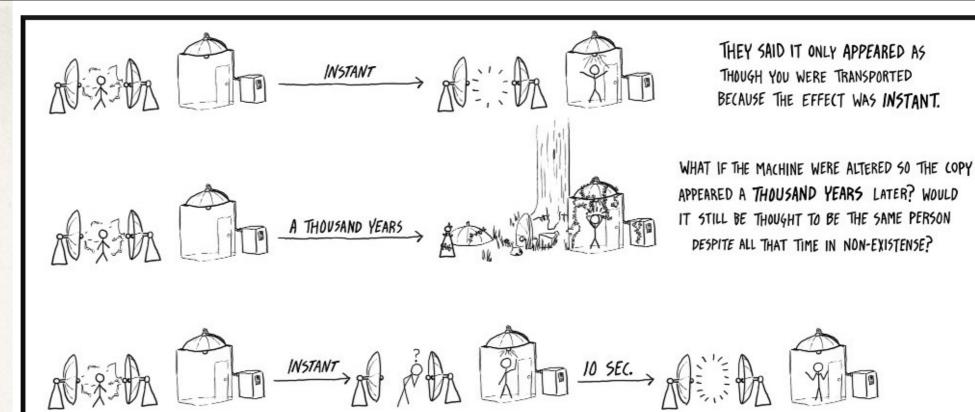
Fall 2015



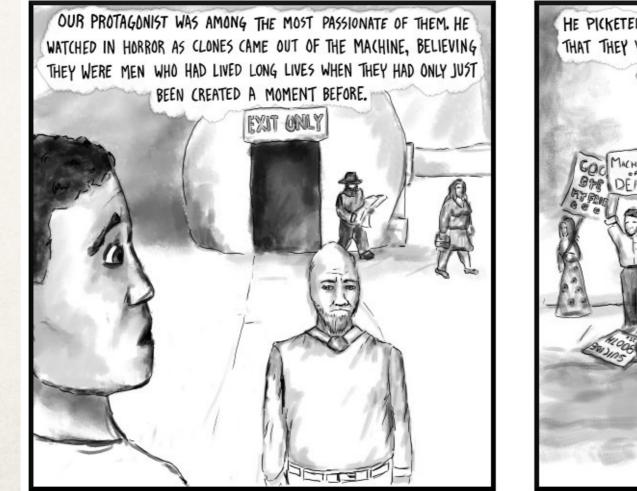
Let's Begin With Some Philosophy



Existential Comics (1)

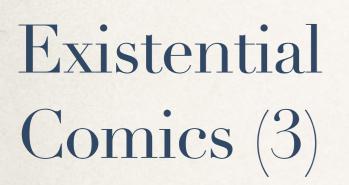


WORSE STILL, WHAT IF THE COPY APPEARED SLIGHTLY BEFORE THE ORIGINAL VANISHED, AND WAS ABLE TO WATCH THE FINAL MOMENT OF THE ORIGINAL'S LIFE BEFORE THEY VANISHED FOREVER? IT WOULD BECOME CLEAR THAT THEY WERE ONLY A CLONE, CREATED AT THAT MOMENT.





Existential Comics (2)









THEN BY CHANCE AN EXTRAODINARY THING HAPPENED. THERE HE WAS: THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

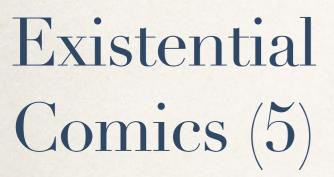
Existential Comics (4)











"YOU" ARE NOT THE ATOMS IN YOUR BODY BUT THE PATTERN OF THE ATOMS. YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS AN EMERGENT FEATURE OF THAT PATTERN, NOT OF ANY PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL ATOMS, AND IT IS THE PATTERN WHICH IS TRANSPORTED AND MAINTAINED.









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?

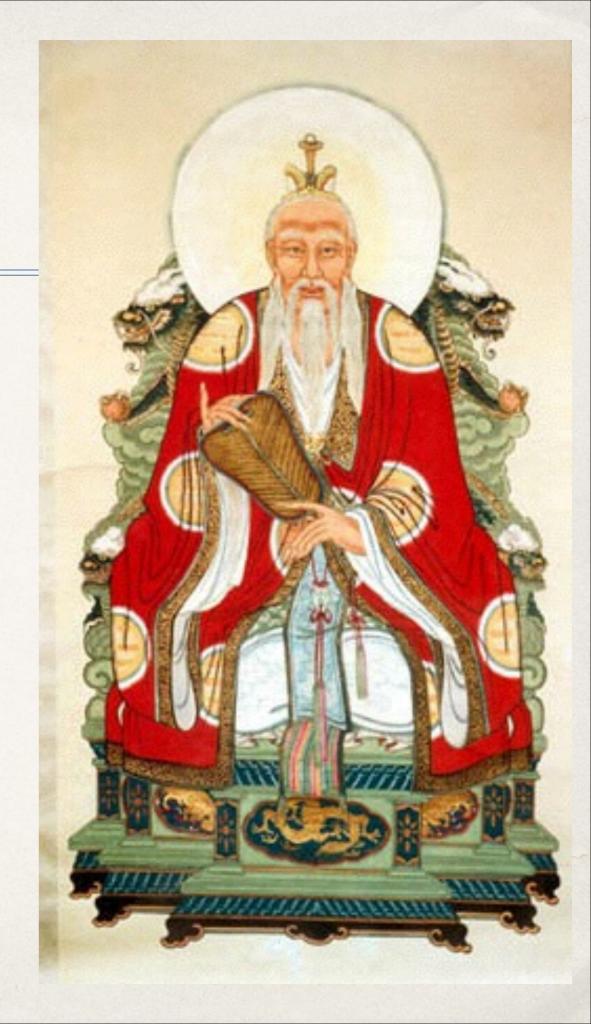
At the very least, it makes you a much better reasoner and problem solver

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?

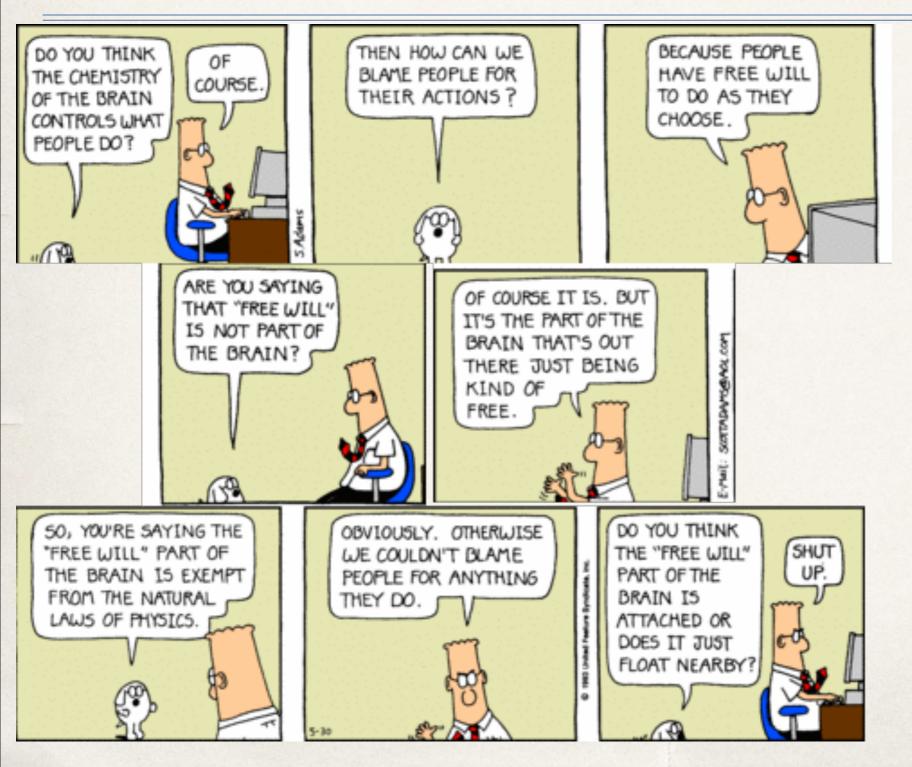
Can there be an infinite regress of causes without a first cause?

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?

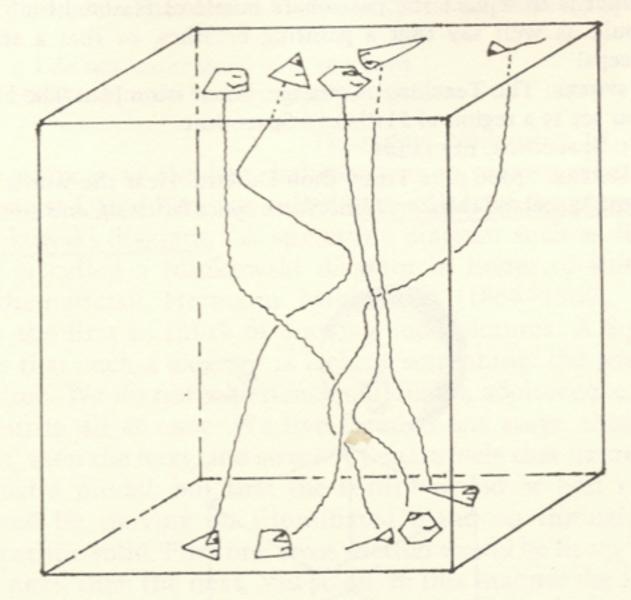


Fig. 140. A tangled tale.

