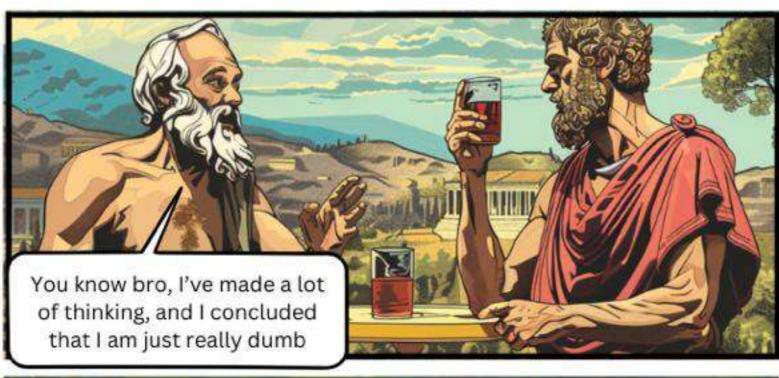
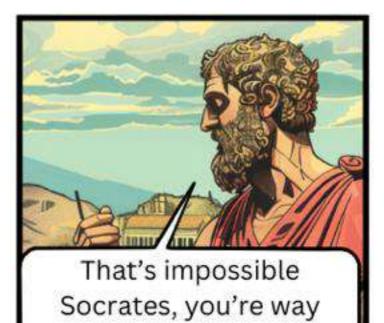
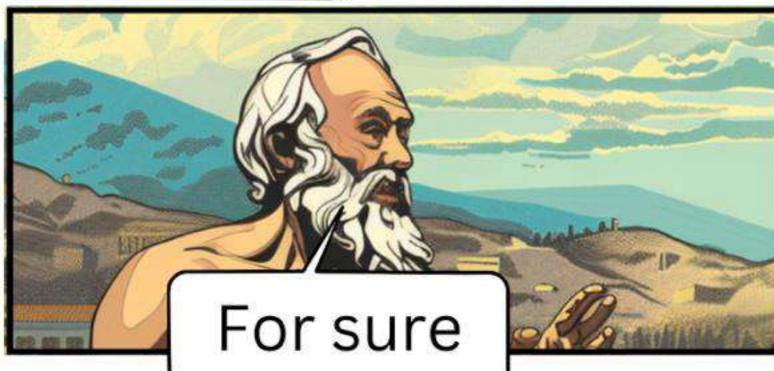
Dumb and dumber

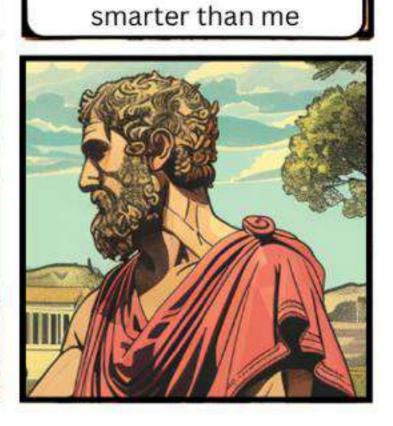
feat. Socrates

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney









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one hundred year anniversary

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney





understanding what people say

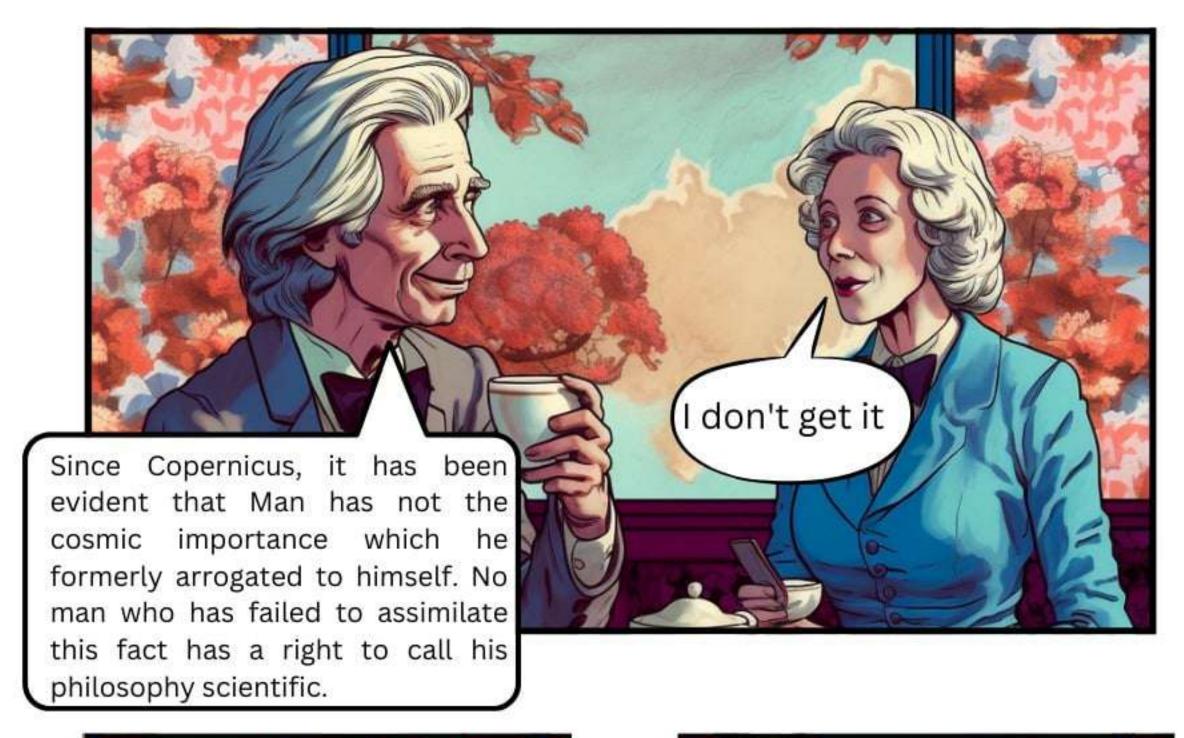
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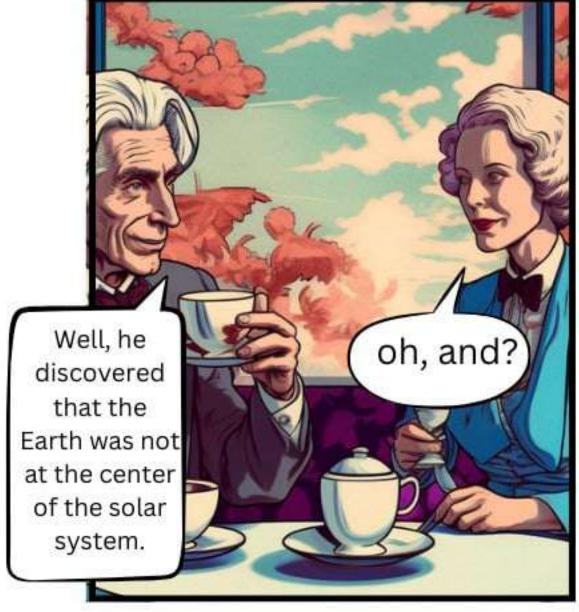
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The center of attention

feat. Bertrand Russell







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Panel 1 is a quote from B. Russell *The History of Western Philosophy* (1945, Marx)

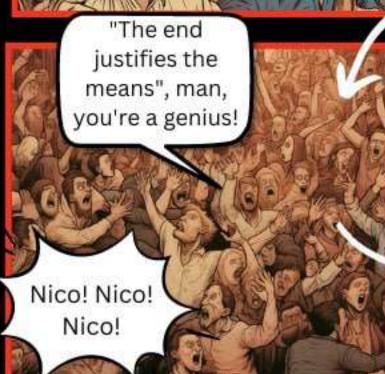
Dead Philosophers in Hell: Machiavelli

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney





Okay, guys, you seem like very nice people, but I think there is some misunderstanding here.







I wrote *The*Prince ironically!

It serves to show

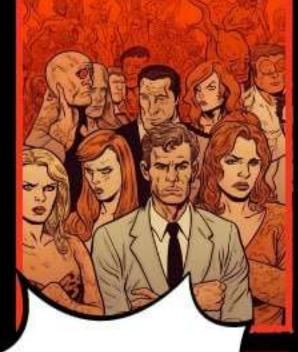
what a prince

should not do!



It's obvious
when you look at
my other books
such as The
Discourses on
Livy!







What a genius!

Please let me touch him, just once!



He even has a cover story!

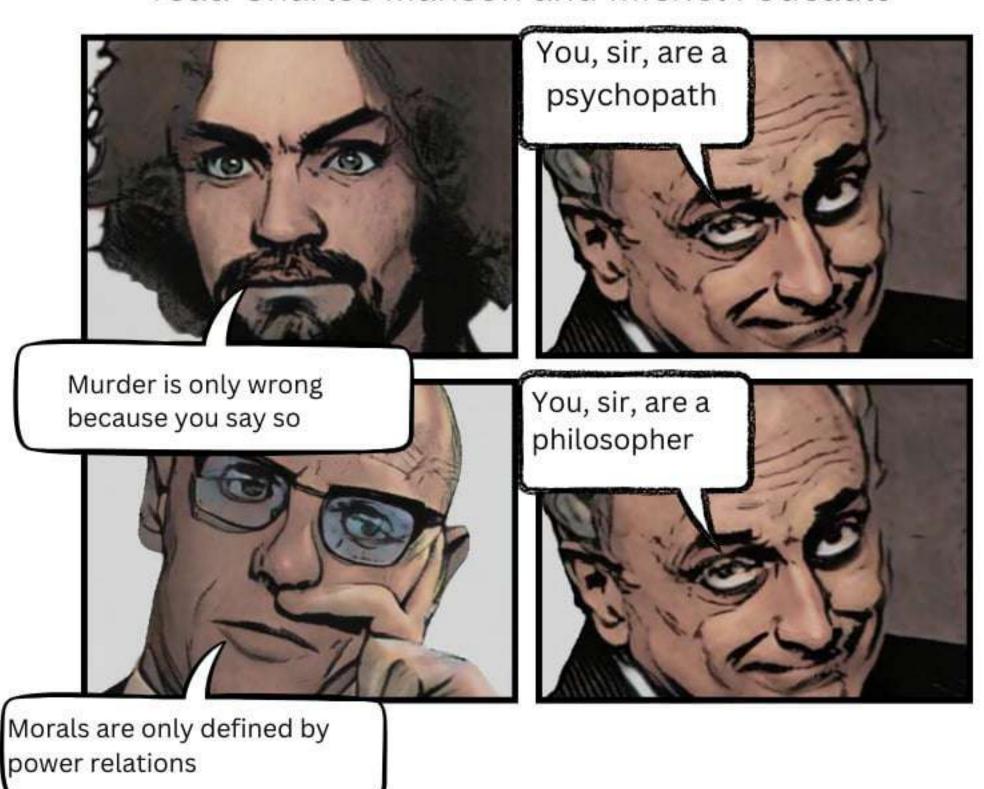
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psychopathic

feat. Charles Manson and Michel Foucault

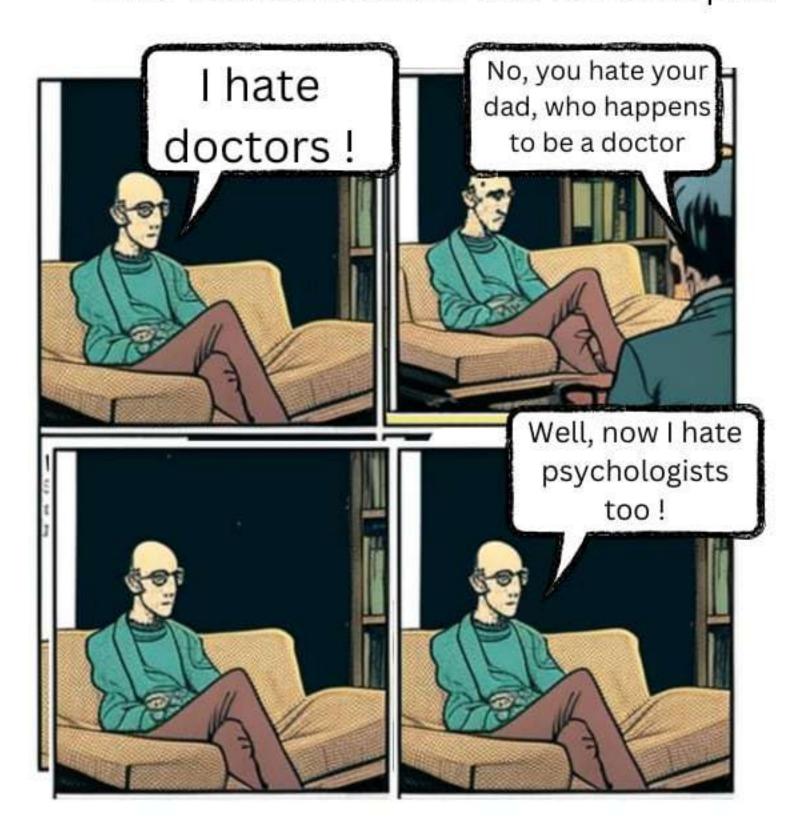


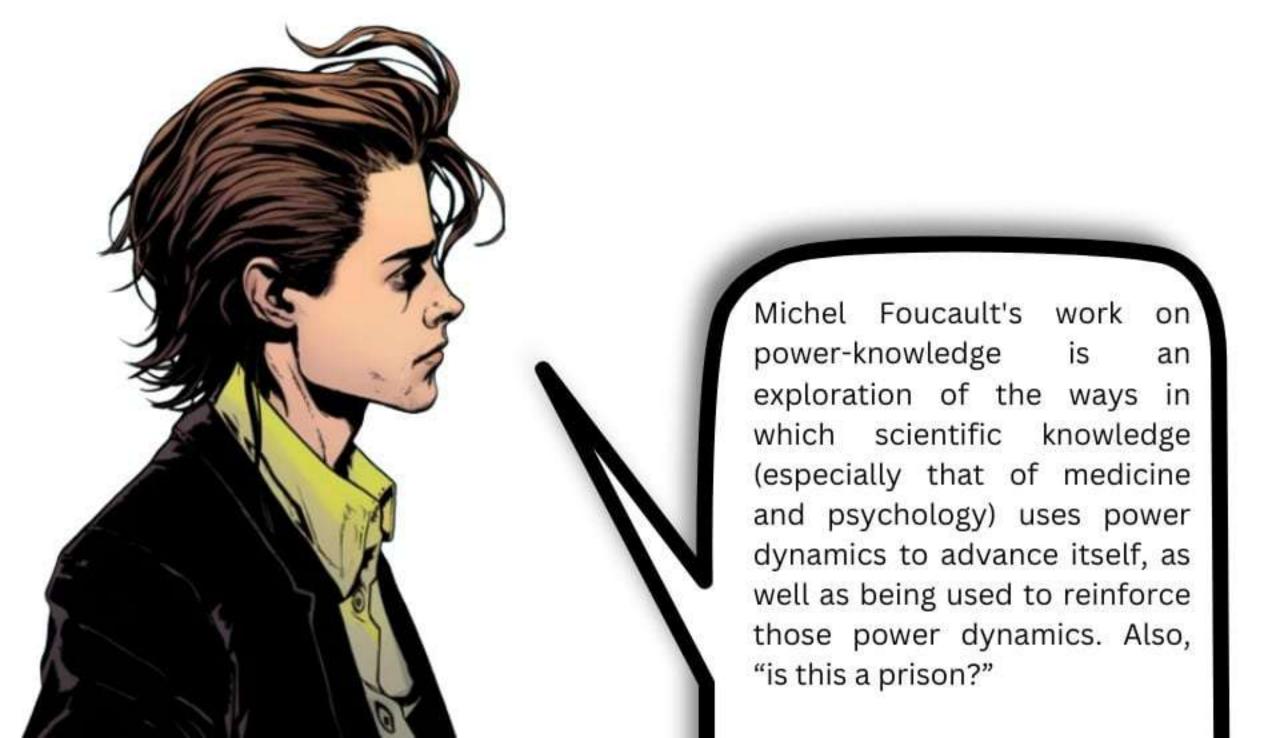
When the proletariat takes power, it may be quite possible that the proletariat will exert towards the classes over which it has just triumphed, a violent, dictatorial and even bloody power. I can't see what objection one could make to this (...) It seems to me that the idea of justice in itself is an idea which in effect has been invented and put to work in different types of societies as an instrument of a certain political and economic power or as a weapon against that power. But it seems to me that, in any case, the notion of justice itself functions within a society of classes as a claim made by the oppressed class and as justification for it.

-Michel Foucault, Justice vs Power, the Foucault-Chomsky debate (1971)

Oedipus Rex

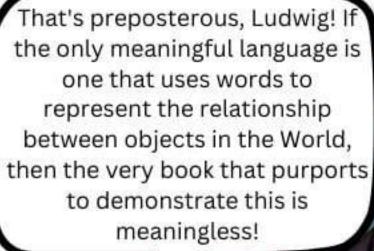
feat. Michel Foucault and his therapist





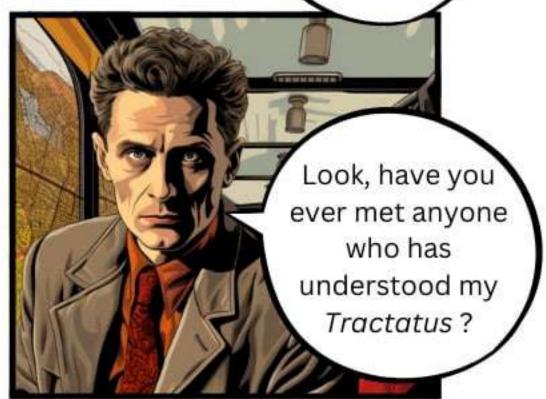
Meaningless, III

feat. Ludwig Wittgenstein and his buddy











So unless you've already thought these thoughts yourself, you just won't get it





A lecture on Pragmatism, II

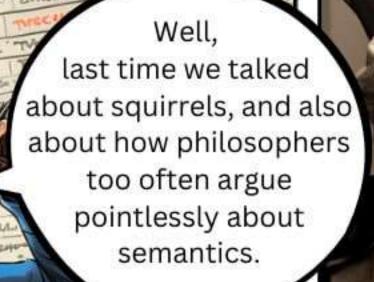
feat. William James





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Before I go any further, I'll give you a simple example using my mentor C. S. Pierce's views on nominalism and realism.

Throughout the history of philosophy, we've had a recurring debate between two "schools" of thought about how science works.



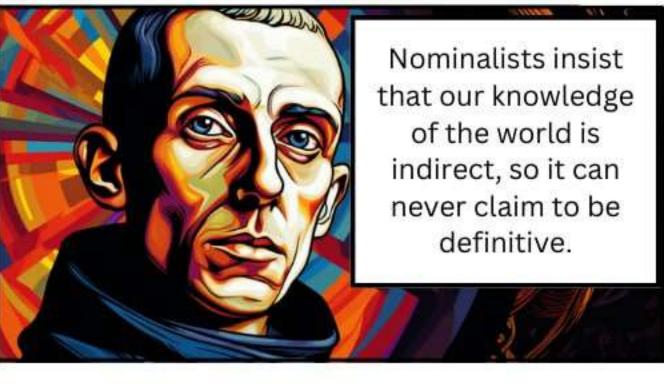


experiences.



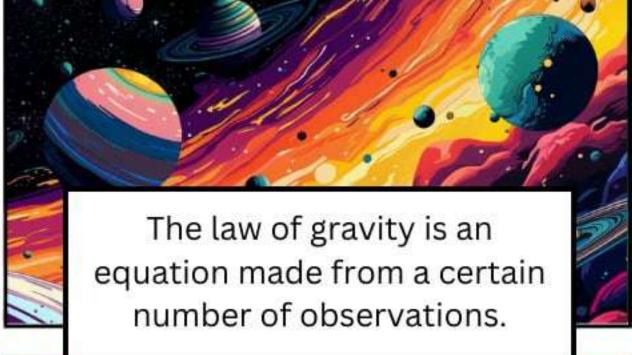
So, do they invent or do they discover? who is right?

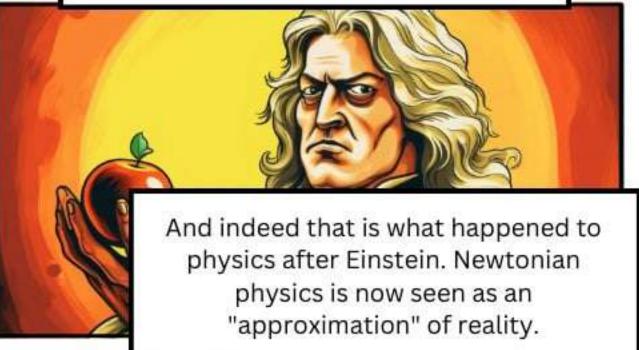
We can show that both views are correct if we understand that they're just not talking about the same aspect of science.

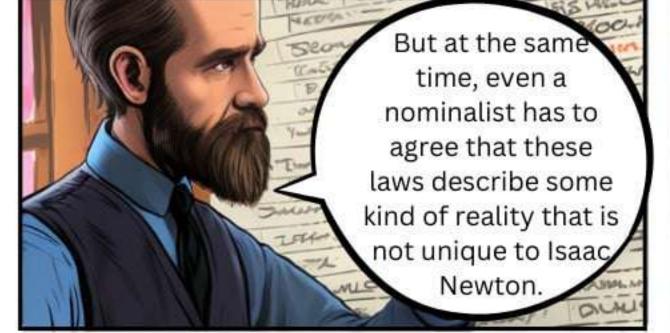


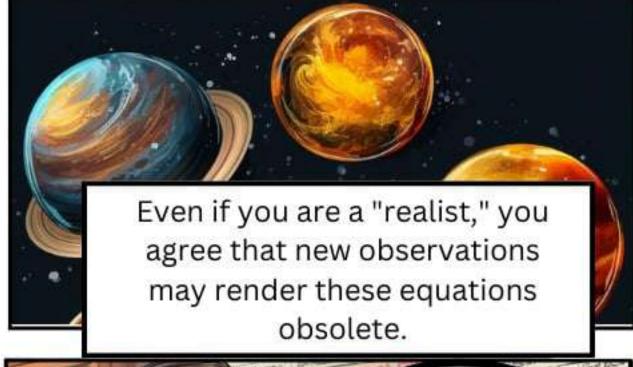


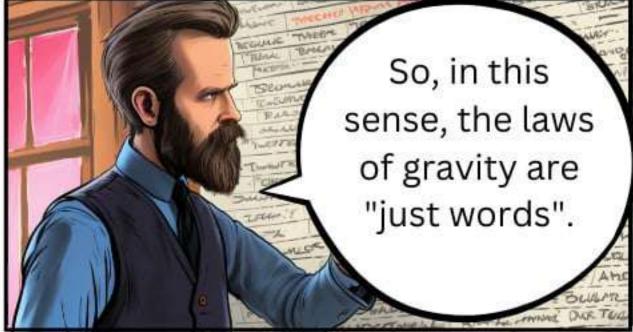
So imagine that I have observed a phenomenon a thousand times and that I have expressed this phenomenon as an equation.

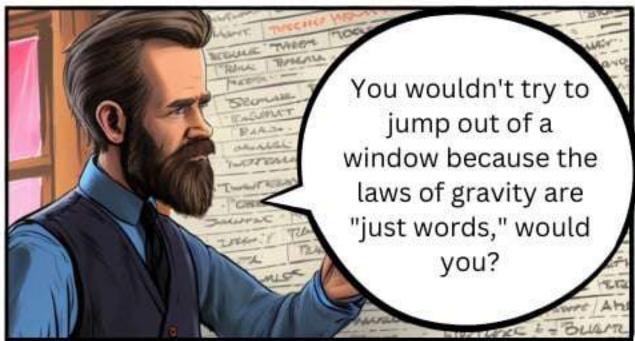














Dead Philosophers in Hell: Marx, II - The theses on Feurbach



later that day, in Satan's legal team offices

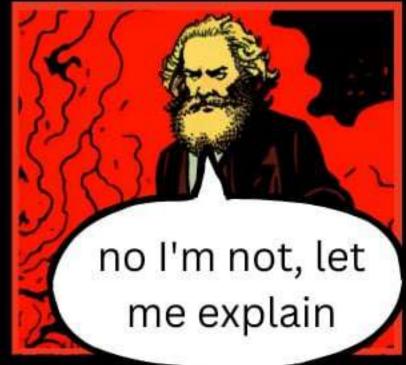
here.

I have a written confession from Marx in which he admits his role in all this chaos! Oh, that will save us a shitload of money for his prosecution, good job, Satan!

Dead Philosophers in Hell: Marx

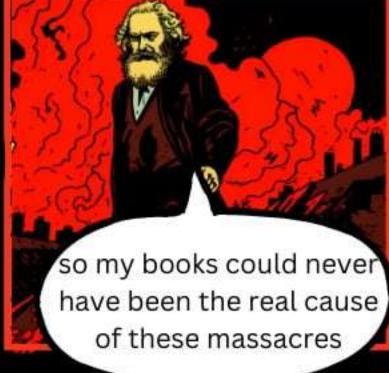






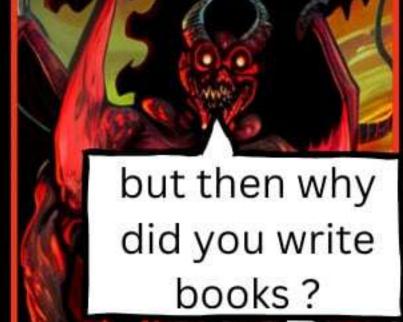


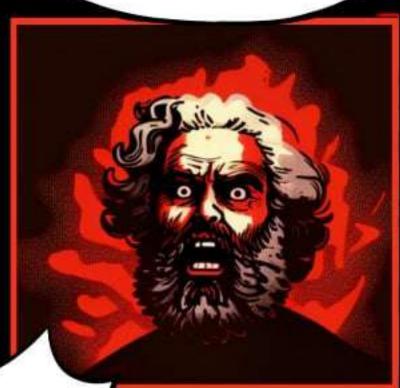
History is not
governed by ideas, but
by material forces.
Everything that happens is a
product of forces of
productions and relations of
production; dominant ideas
only reflect the
economic infrastructure
of the time



because ideas do not affect History!











HELP!
Schopenhauer's
gone berserk
again!

Panel 4-6 refer to Historical Materialism. Panel 9 refers to Hegel's *Philosophy of History*. Panel 10 refers to Schopenhauer deep disdain for Hegel (see e.g. *The World as a Will and as a Representation*)

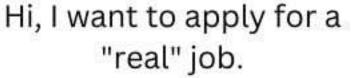
The Magician (based on a true story)

feat. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

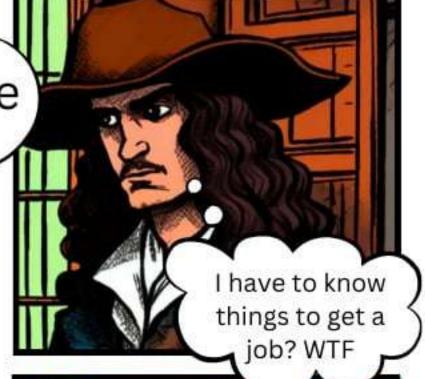




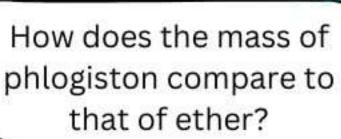




Do you know anything about alchemy?



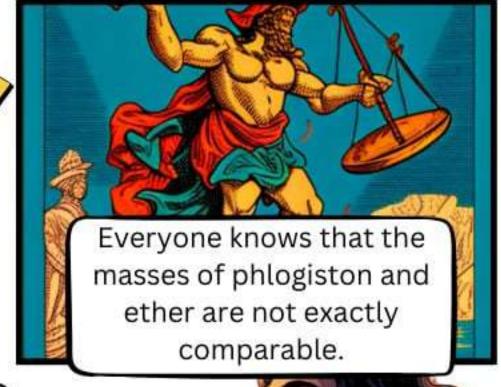












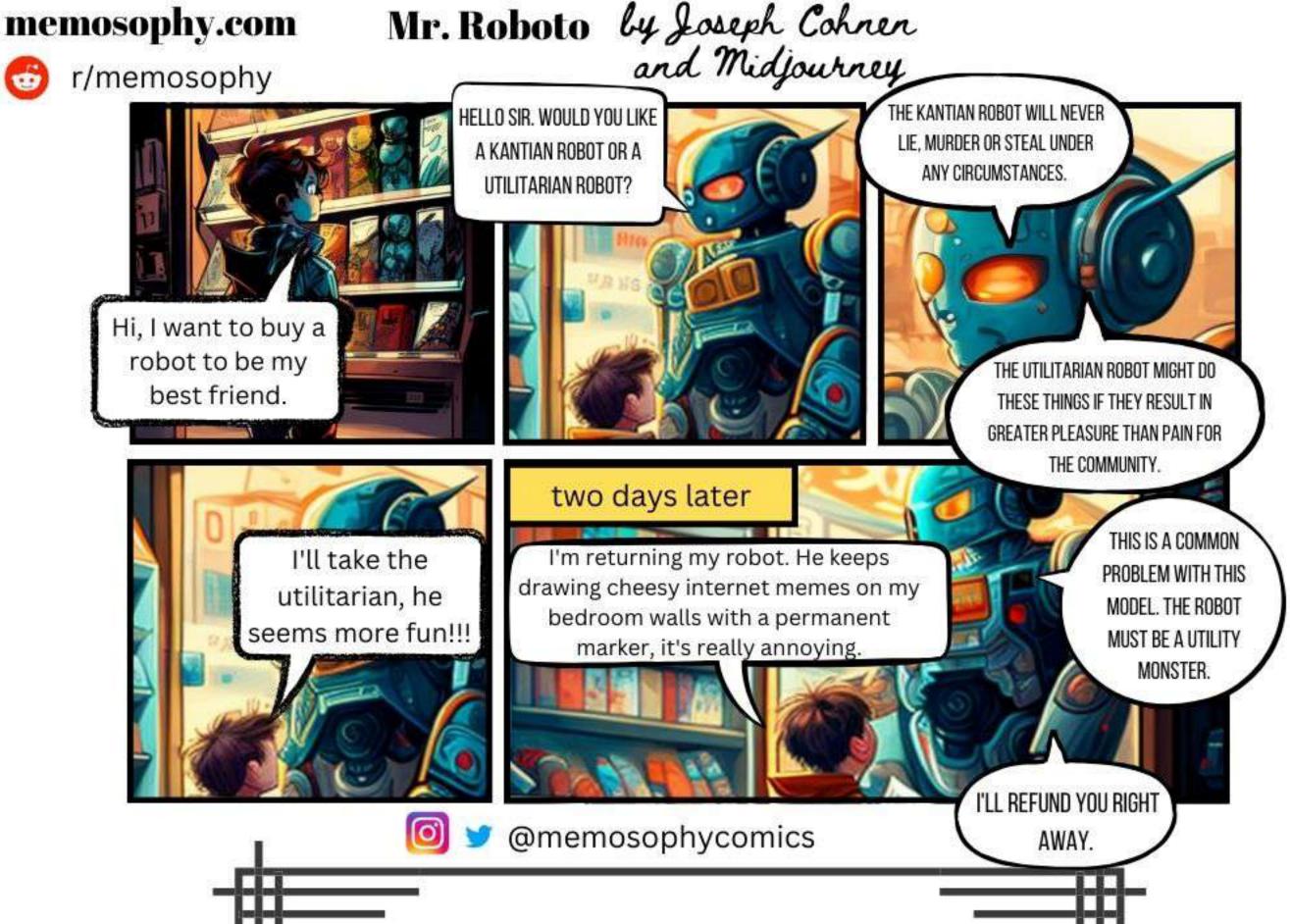


While the mass of ether cannot be accurately weighted during such a stellar alignment.



Later that day, in the Secret Society of Dunces





Utilitarian theory is
embarrassed by the possibility
of utility monsters who get
enormously greater sums of
utility from any sacrifice of
others than these others lose ...
the theory seems to require that
we all be sacrificed in the
monster's maw, in order to
increase total utility.
-Robert Nozick. Anarchy, State
and Utopia (1974)

memosophy.com by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney **Machine Learning** r/memosophy feat. Pythagoras I think I finally @memosophycomics understood to power of mathematics my friend. So I stopped eating animals 'm sorry but you don't make any sense... care to explain more? You eat vegan souvlakis now Pythagoras? what sure happened to you? ...we will one day create contraptions which will rival us in power and in intelligence the universe is made of mathematics... which mean that with enough mastery of and since I'd rather not be eaten by them, I won't mathematics... teach them it's ok to eat those who are not as these "machines" will learn smart as you. using human data, and that means they will inherit all of our biases . so you're telling

For speculations on Pythagoras meat-free diet see and Porphyry, *Life of Protagoras*. However, the reasoning given here is not supposed to be accurate.

these contraptions will

even draw comics like the

one you are reading right

now

me studying

mathematics made

you into some kind

of hippie now?

love is all

you need,

man

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney Dead Philosophers in Hell: Sartre







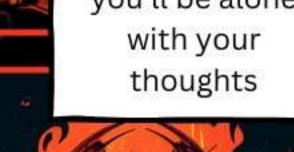






praise you.







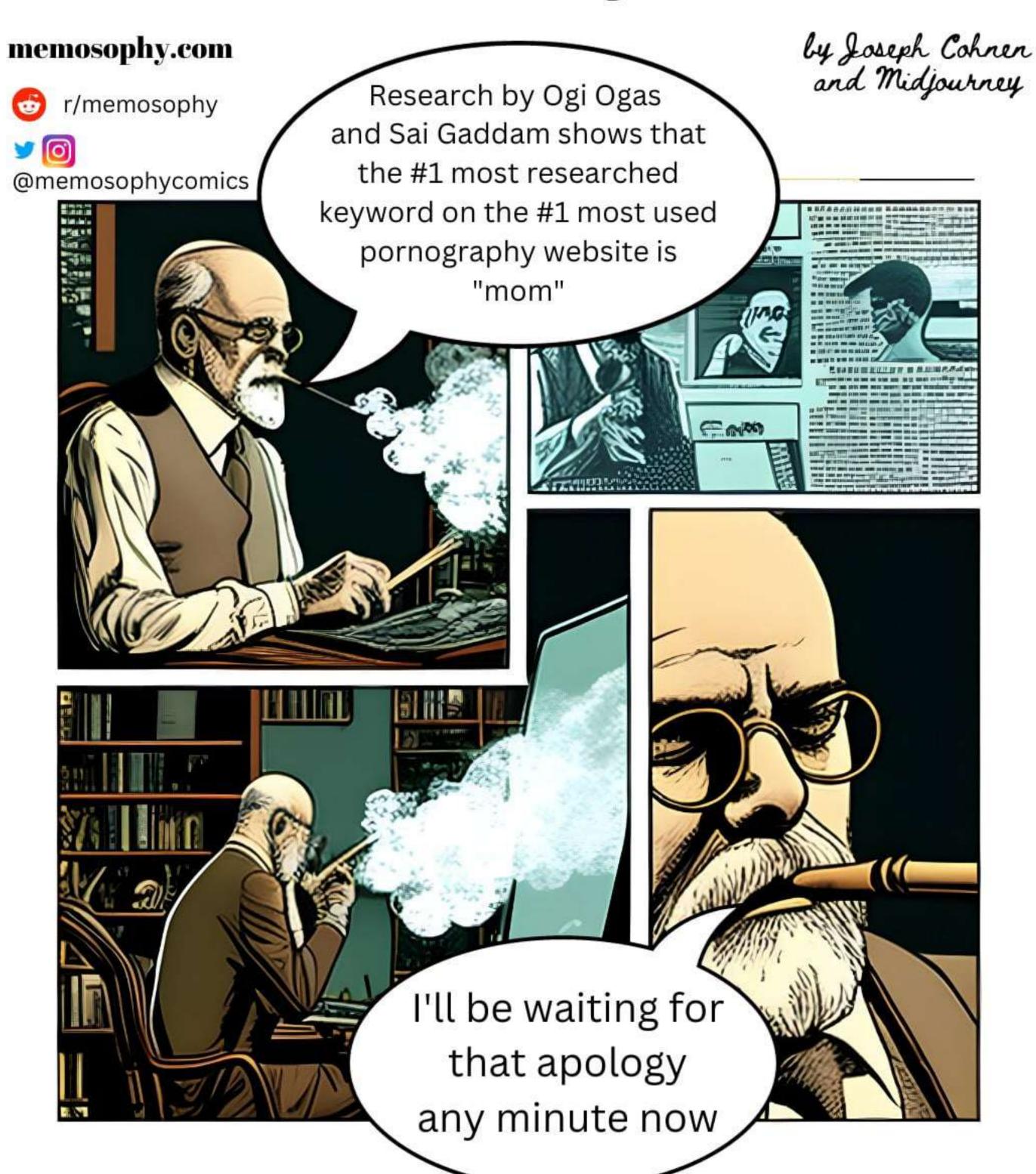


WAIT!!! When I said, "Hell is other people", I meant people who don't like me.

At least tell me that you like me, Crab-Person!



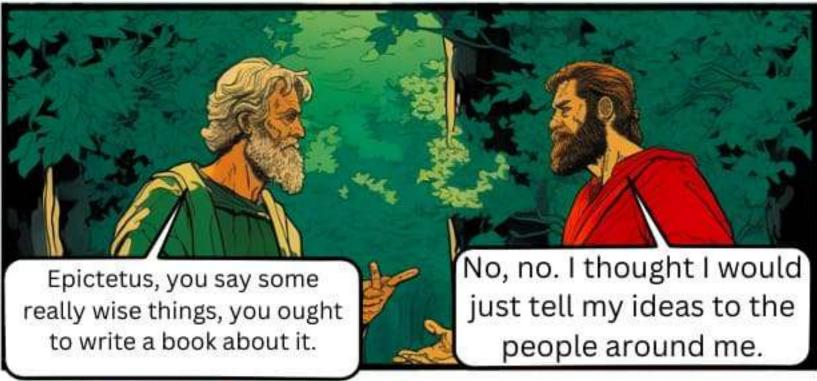
What if Freud had lived through the internet era?

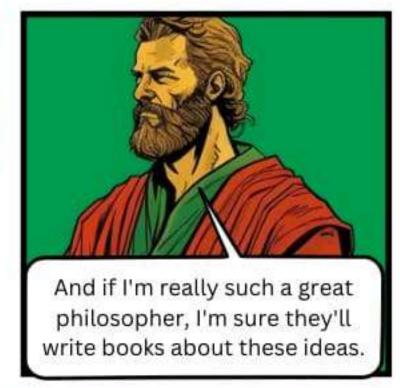


Panel 1 refers to O. Ogas and S. Gaddam, A Billion Wicked Thoughts: What the Internet Tells Us About Sexual Relationships (2012, ch. 2)

The No Books club

feat. Epictetus







Other famous philosophers who have never written any books include Socrates (470–399 BCE), Pyrrho (365-275 BCE) - the founder of pyrrhonism and first greek skeptic philosopher, Arcesilaus (315–241 BCE) - the founder of "academic skepticism", as well as his follower Carneades (214–129 BCE).

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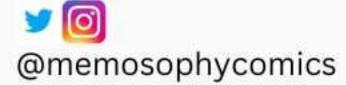


I GOT 99 PROBLEMS



BUT THE MIND-BODY

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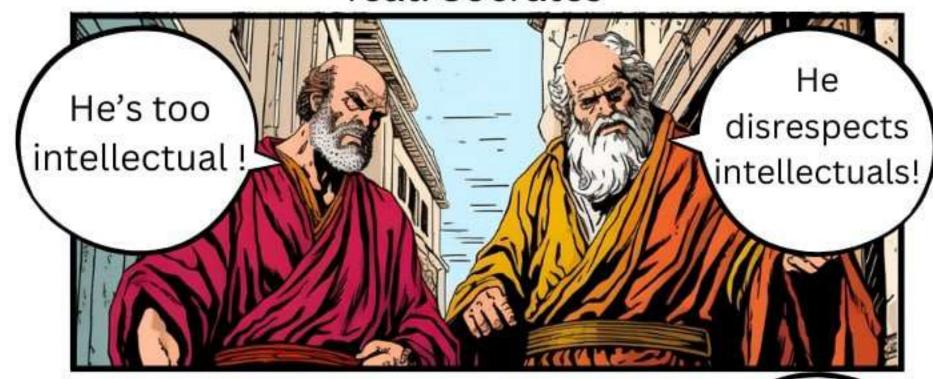
PROBLEM



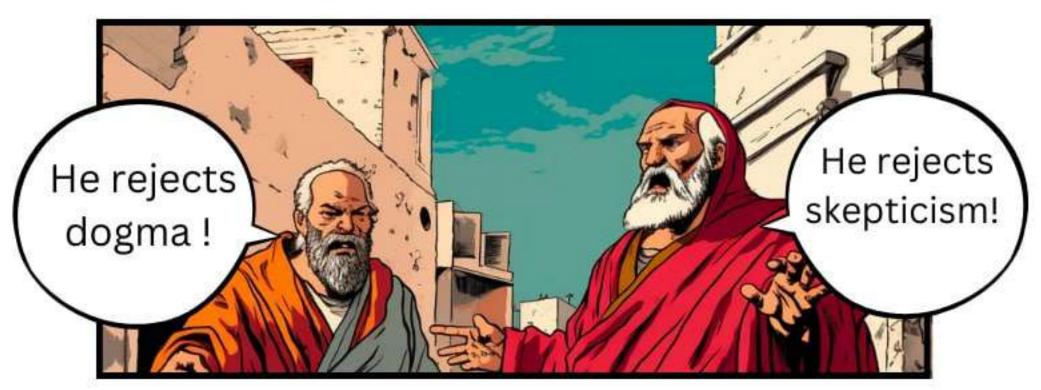
AIN'T ONE OF 'EM

Right in the middle

feat. Socrates







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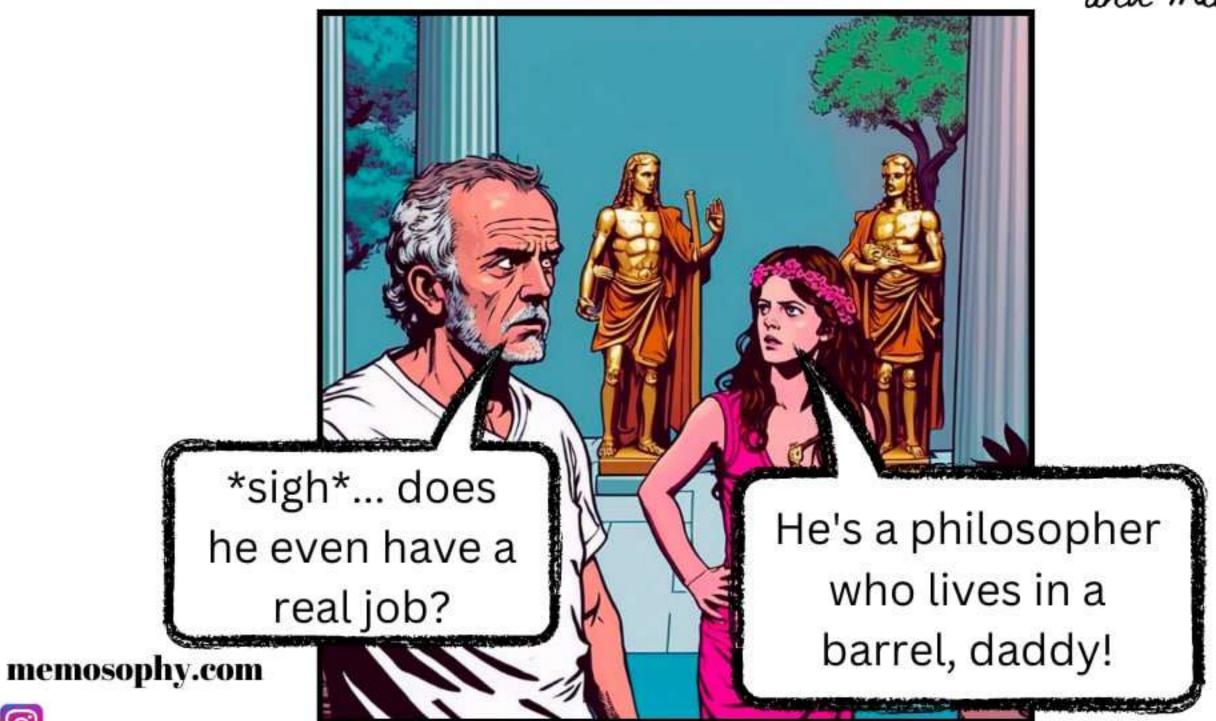


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Diogenes' fiancée

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney



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According to Britannica, Diogenes, (born, Sinope, Paphlygonia-died c. 320 BCE, probably at Corinth, Greece), is the archetype of the Cynics, a Greek philosophical sect that stressed stoic self-sufficiency and the rejection of luxury. He is credited by some with originating the Cynic way of life, but he himself acknowledges an indebtedness to Antisthenes, by whose numerous writings he was probably influenced. It was by personal example rather than any coherent system of thought that Diogenes conveyed the Cynic philosophy. His followers positioned themselves as watchdogs of morality.

Also tons of memes online with a featherless chicken.



Proof of an external world

feat. G. E. Moore

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney









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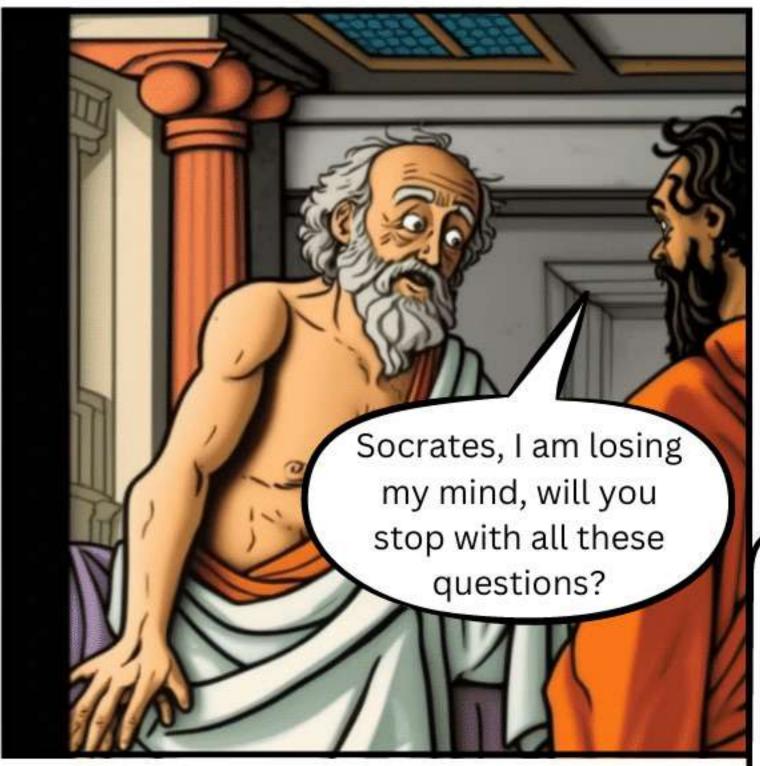


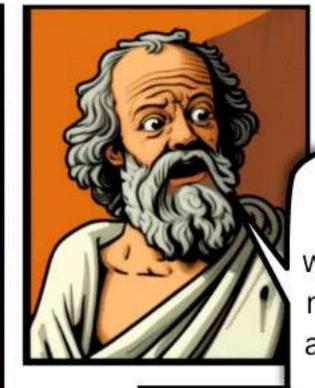
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This comics is based on "Proof of an external world" (1939), from which this quote is taken :

"But did I prove just now that two human hands were then in existence?.. (1) The premise which I adduced in proof was quite certainly different from the conclusion, for the conclusion was merely Two human hands exist at this moment'; but the premise was something far more specific than this - something which I expressed by showing you my hands, making certain gestures, and saying the words 'Here is one hand, and here is another'. It is quite obvious that the two were different, because it is quite obvious that the conclusion might have been true, even if the premise had been false. In asserting the premise I was asserting much more than I was asserting in asserting the conclusion. (2) I certainly did at the moment know that which I expressed by the combination of certain gestures with saying the words There is one hand and here is another'. I knew that there was one hand in the place indicated by combining a certain gesture with my first utterance of 'here' and that there was another in the different place indicated by combining a certain gesture with my second utterance of 'here'. How absurd it would be to suggest that I did not know it, but only believed it, and that perhaps it was not the case! You might as well suggest that I do not know that I am now standing up and talking - that perhaps after all I'm not, and that it's not quite certain that I am! And finally (3) it is quite certain that the conclusion did follow from the premiss. This is as certain as it is that if there is one hand here and another here now, then it follows that there are two hands in existence now."

The midwife feat. Socrates





Don't worry, my mother is a midwife

and finding the truth is just like giving birth to a baby:





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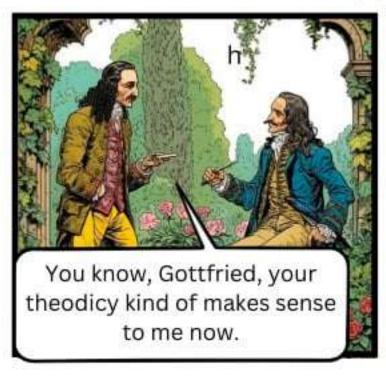


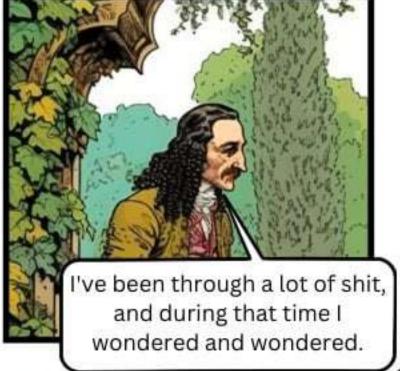


The Best Possible World

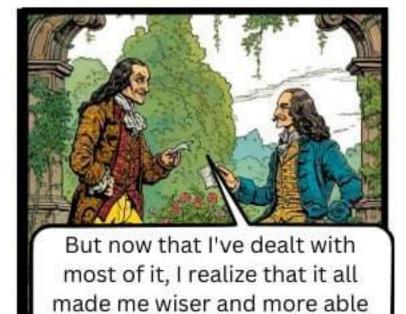
feat. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney





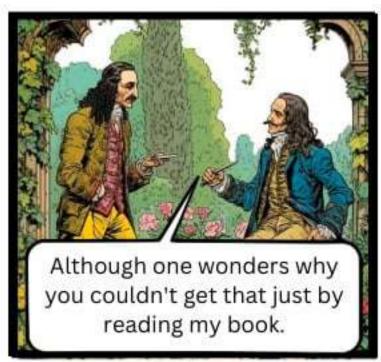




to help my fellow man.



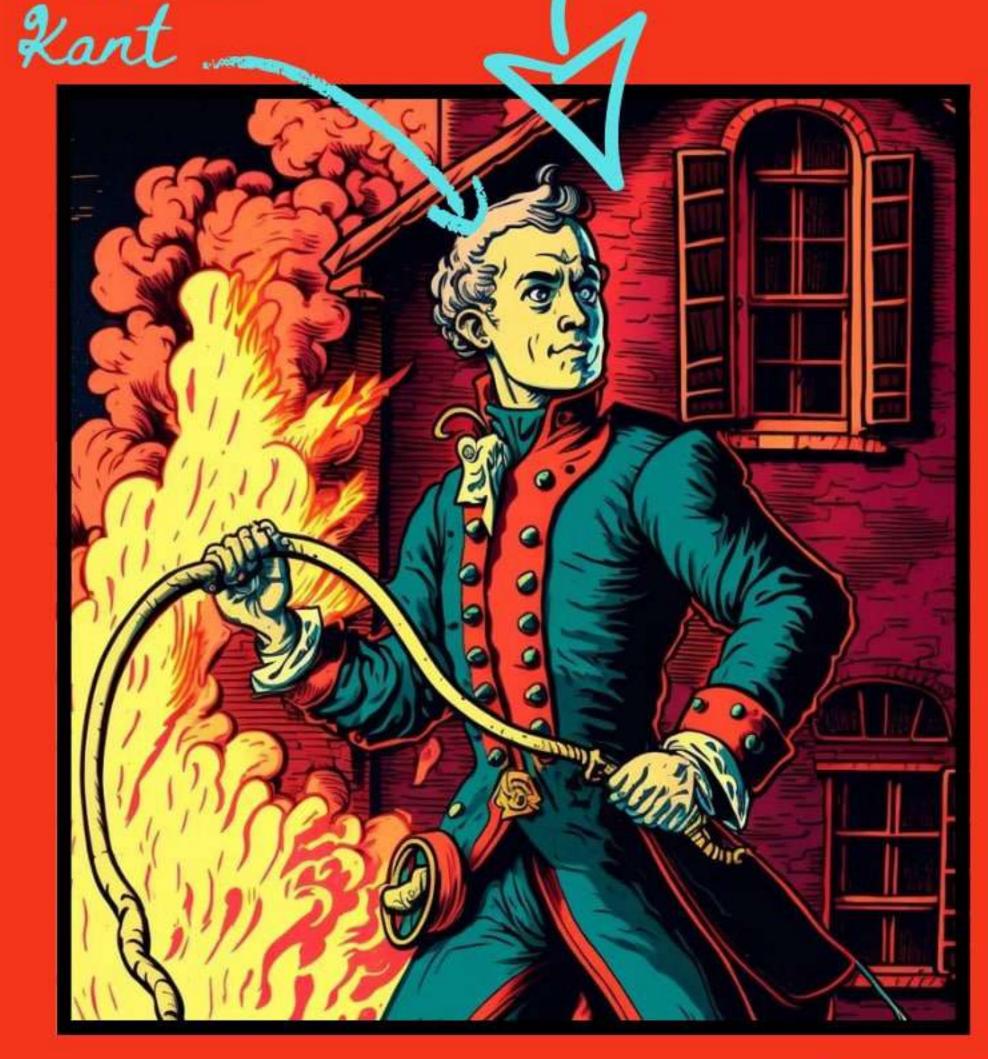






The Critique of Pure Reason

Immanuel Metaphysics



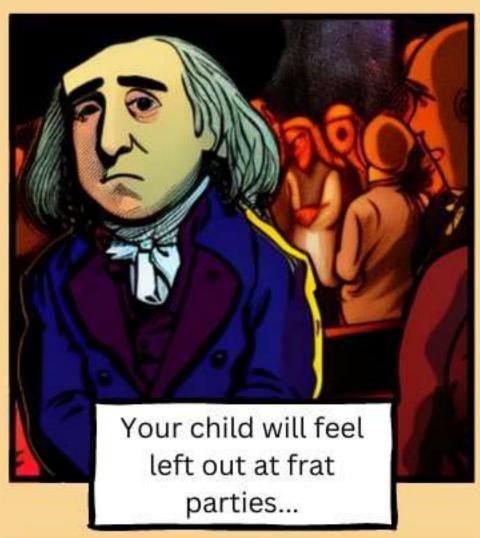
David Hune



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: DON'T HAVE YOUR CHILD SKIP SIX

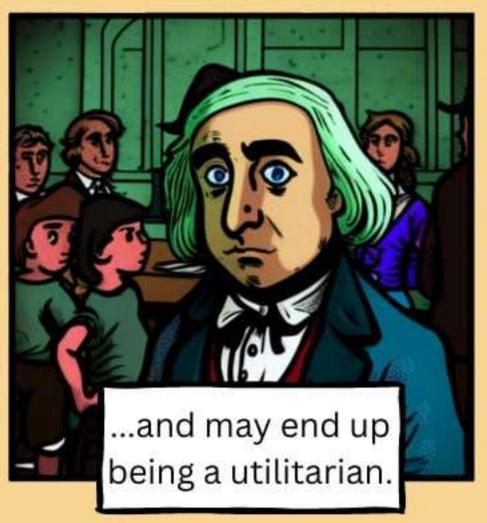
GRADE LEVELS feat. Jeremy Bentham, 12 years old, sophomore at Oxford

old, sophomore at Oxford University









YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED



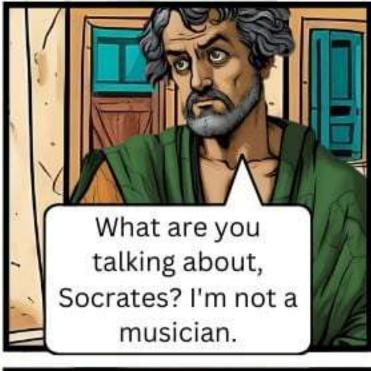
Flute players

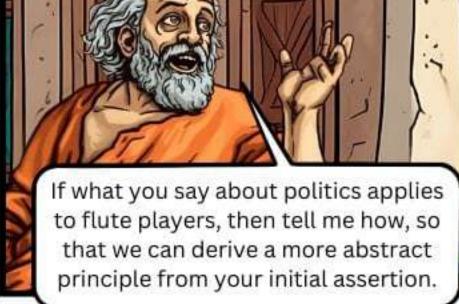
feat. Socrates

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

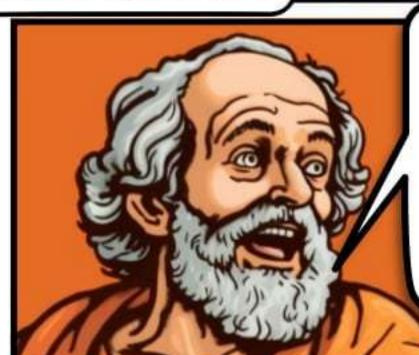












Then how do I have any assurance that you are not just making up this argument for your own purposes?

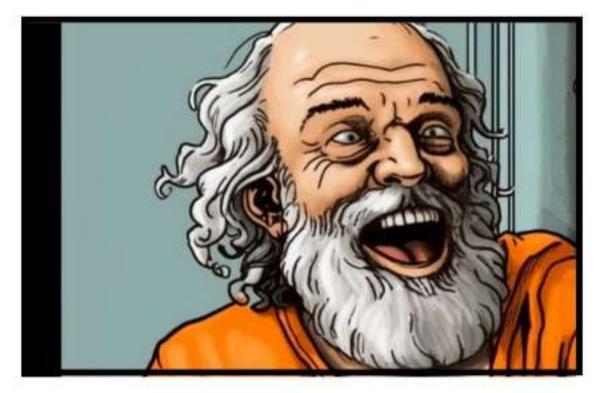
You'd at least have to tell me how politics differs enough from playing the flute that your argument about politics doesn't apply there.











Meaningless, II

feat. Ludwig Wittgenstein

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney





What?

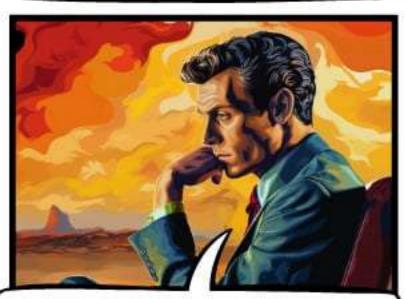


You can't hit the kids in the

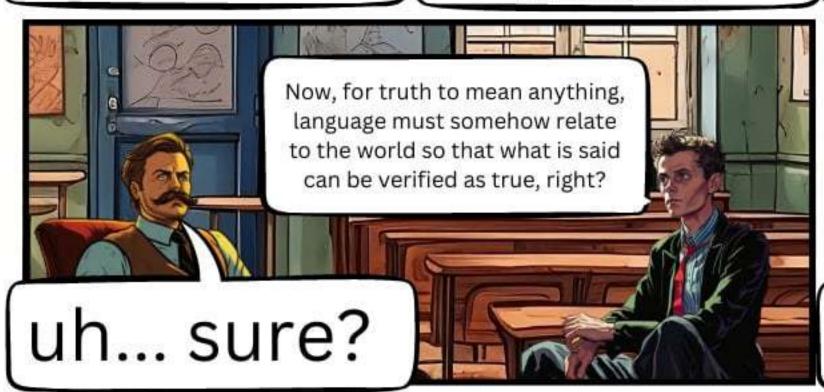
Well, you see, the world is made of objects.



And if you know what all these objects are and how they relate to each other...

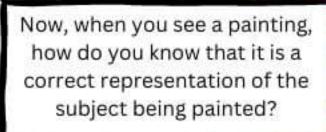


.... then you basically know everything there is to know about the world, am I right?





I guess so?



The fact is, the painting does not have to be a perfectly detailed reproduction of the subject.

But for it to be a correct representation, there must be some structural similarity between the elements of the painting and the objects being painted.

Now, my thinking is that in order for any proposition to have meaning, the same phenomenon must be at work.



The names in the proposition should represent objects in the world, and the structure of how these names are related in the proposition should in some way indicate a possible structure that these objects might have in relation to each other in the world.



It's really simple, do you want me to draw you a doodle?



No, no, Ludwig, please continue



not obey this rule, such as "2+2 at 3 o'clock equals 4".

This sentence may seem to have meaning, but because it is not structured in a way that allows it to represent how objects relate to each other, it is actually meaningless.

Do you see where I am going with this? "Wrong" is neither an object nor a structural element that indicates how objects relate to each other.



Parents don't want you to hit their kids

Oh. ok.



The Idea Pawn Shop, II

feat. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz and Baruch Spinoza

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney







This follow-up comics refers to a meeting Leibniz had with Spinoza in 1676 where Leibniz is suspected to have taken ideas from unpublished manuscripts. The matter is unresolved - maybe the controversy stems from prejudice against Leibniz after of the Newton affair, maybe our friend indeed copied something. But who cares, there is no such thing as an idea pawn shop anyway, and that's what this comics is trying to convey. Also, panel 2 is a reference to Spinoza's *Ethics*.

The Idea Pawnshop

feat. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

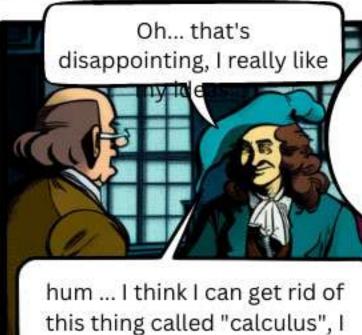
by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney











don't really need it.



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This comics refers to dispute between Leibniz and Newton over who invented calculus. The scholarly majority opinion is now that they both invented this method independently, but at the time Leibniz was accused of stealing Newton's idea and severely vilified.



A Conspiracy of Dunces

feat. Socrates

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney





1. If you lie, people won't be able to trust you;



since you know you're a liar, you won't be able to trust yourself;



since you never know if others know you're lying, you can't trust them not to lie back to you;



and since you fed them false information, you won't be able to trust their judgment, even when they're not lying.



2. If you despise or trample on others, they will begin to resent you;



they'll leave you the first chance they get;



they may even try to take revenge.



3. At best, those close to you will be ashamed of you;

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at worst, they may imitate you and abuse you the way you abuse others.



4. Honest and fair people won't associate with you



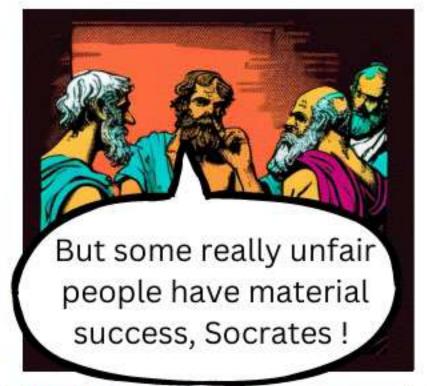


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but you will attract dishonest and selfish people who may end up hurting you.







you will be worried of the reputation you will leave behind after your death;



and since you won't be able to stop yourself from judging others every time they are unfair to you...



how will you stop judging yourself as undeserving of what you have?



6. Because you treat others as inferior, you'll have to accept the idea that there are such things as "inferior people"



and the possibility that you might be one of those inferior people will constantly haunt you.



7. Finally, since most of the bad things that will happen to you will be your own doing, you will have a hard time taking responsibility for everything.



So instead you'll be making up excuses for yourself all the time



while accusing others of everything that is wrong in the world.



And in the end, you will have contempt for the whole of humanity...





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...instead of recognizing your mistakes so you can learn from them.



Now, these are all simple, fundamental realities of our world



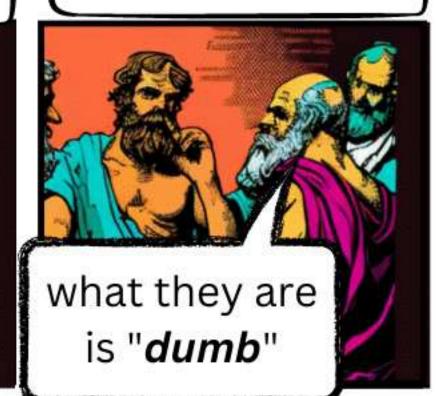
You will justify your own actions with elaborate arguments...

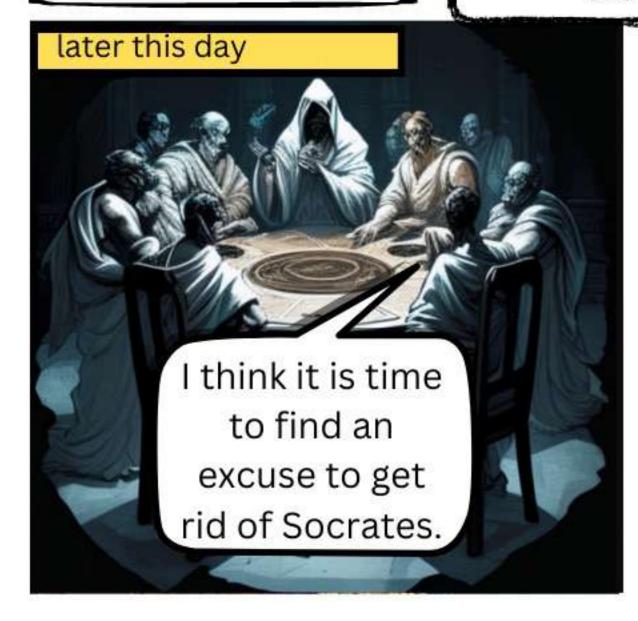


If someone ignores them all, it is not right to say that they are evil.

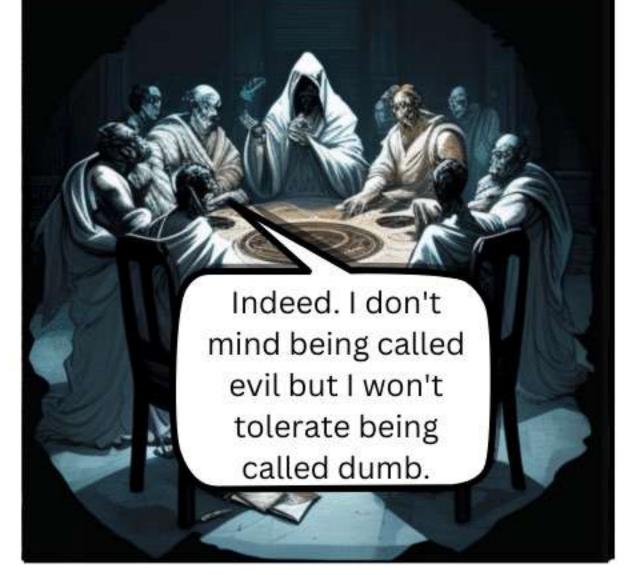


...which will clutter your mind so much that you will not be able to understand the simplest human interaction.





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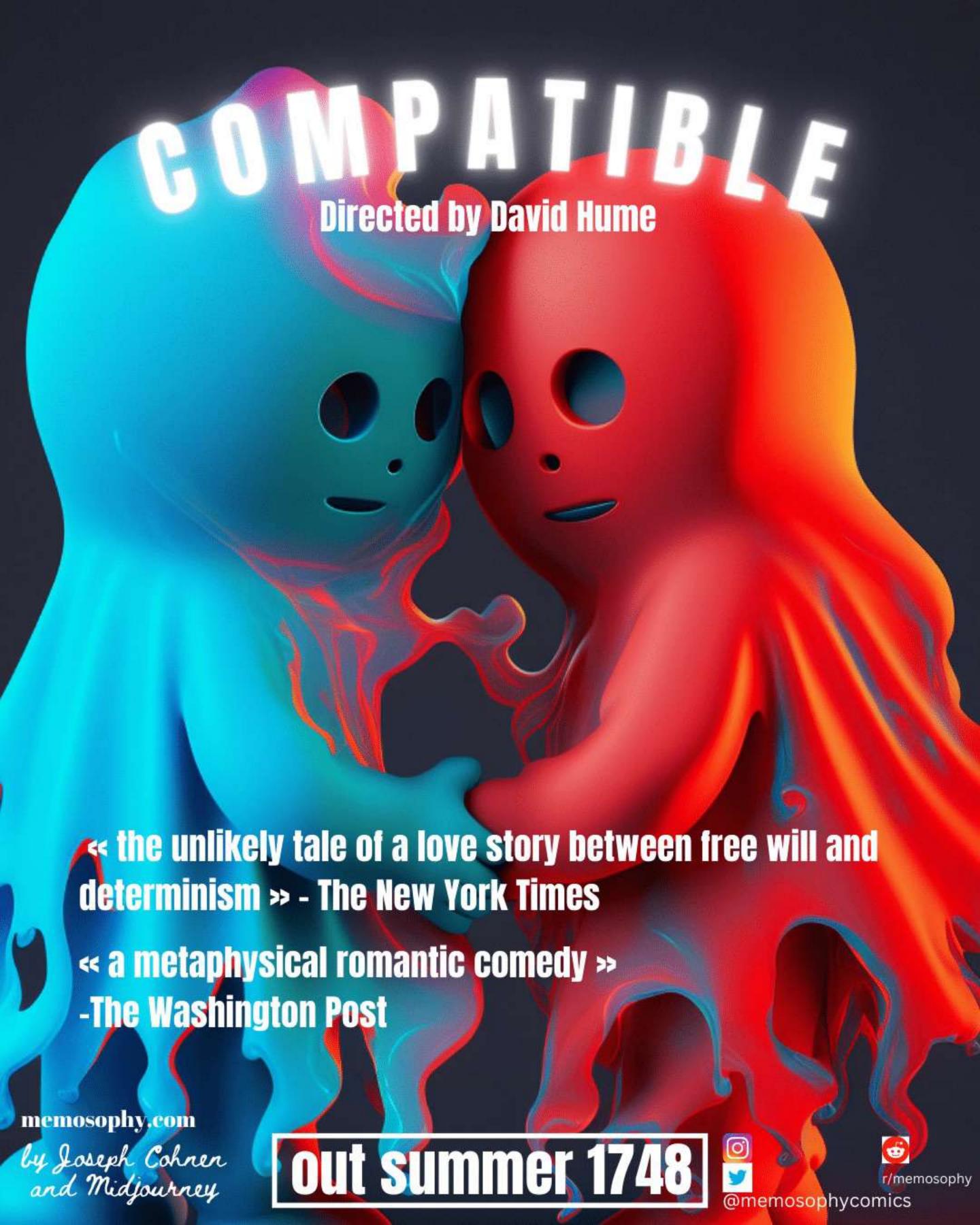
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Panel 1-6 is a reimagining of Plato's *Protagoras, Gorgias* and *Meno*.

Panel 7-8 refer to Plato's Socrates' Apology.

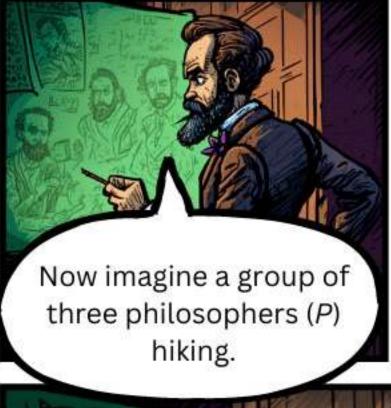




A lecture on Pragmatism

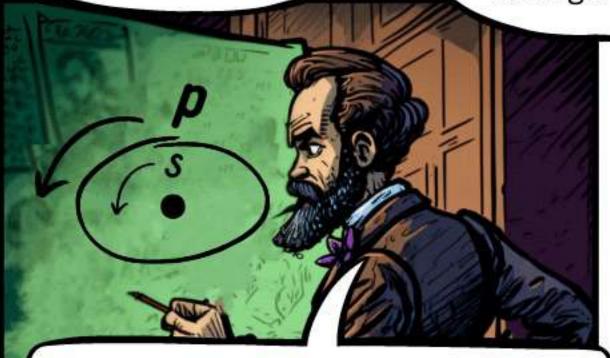
feat. William James

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

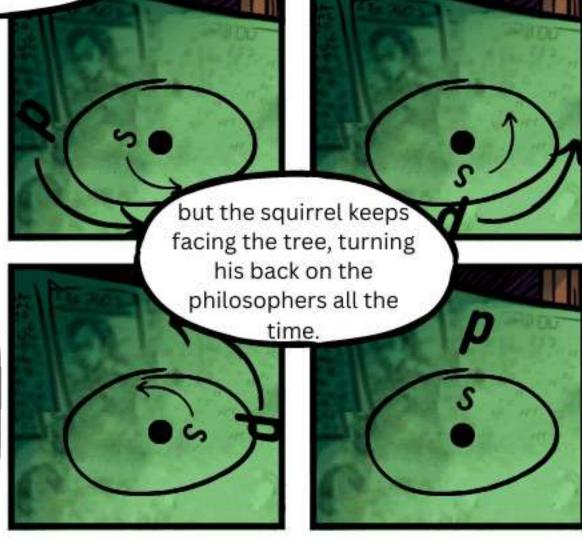


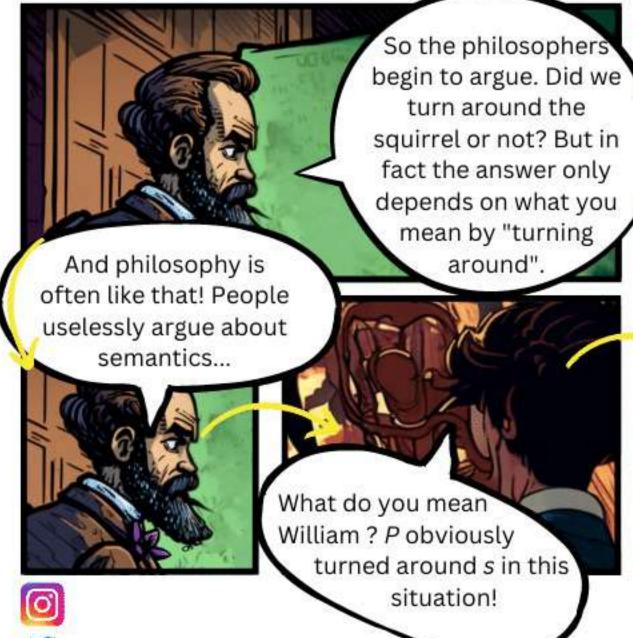






Now the philosophers are turning around the tree, and the squirrel is also turning around the tree, at the same time,







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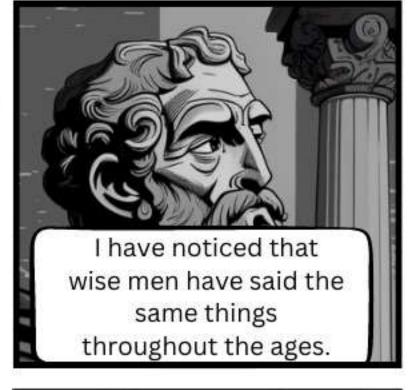


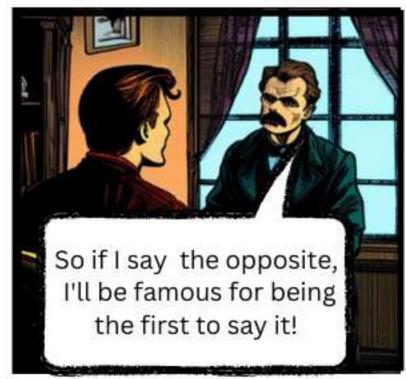
"The great sayings have all been said"

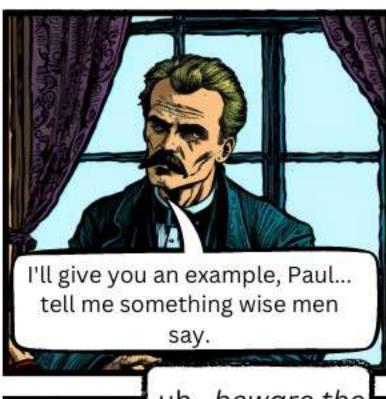
feat. Friedrich Nietzsche and Paul Rée

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

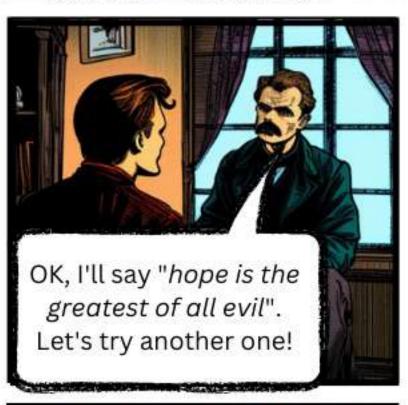






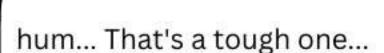








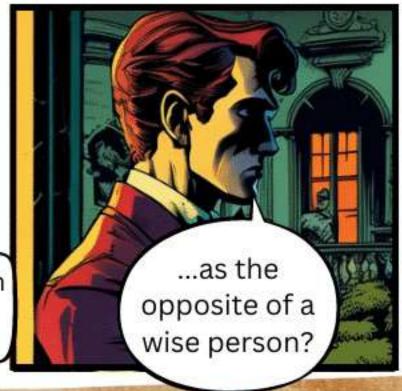


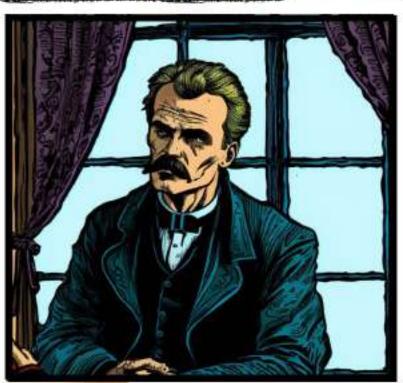


Oh, I know, I'm going to say, "You should be able to hate your friends!

I say, "Good only comes from power"! Keep it up Paul, I'm on a roll!



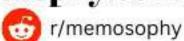




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Oh Paul, this shit is so easy! I am going to be famous for sure!

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Panel 1-3 refer to Tolstoy's What is Religion (1902, XI). Panel 3 refers to Nietzsche's notion of "transvaluation". Panel 6 quotes Human All-too-Human (1878, 71). Panel 7 quotes The Antichrist (1888, 2). Panel 9 quotes Ecce homo (1888, preface). The comics title is from lyrics by Bob Dylan;

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feat. Baruch Spinoza and Midjourney





refers to Spinoza's general baddass attitude.

"BLAZE" PASCAL



"TICKET TO PARADISE" TOUR
LIVE AT THE MORRISSON

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by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

A STAR IS BORN

3.9KG / 35.5CM

Mr. and Ms. Nietzsche are proud to announce the birth of their son



We named him Friedrich Wilhelm, like our Kayser. So he will grow up to inspire leaders all over



Europe!









I shouldn't be here. I have made significant contributions to rational thought.



LIKE WHAT?

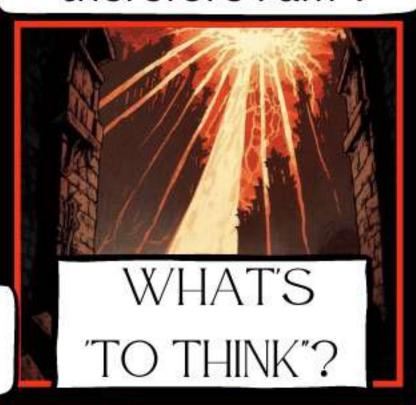


Like "I think, therefore I am".





OK then "something thinks, therefore something is".





OK then "something does something, therefore something is".









NEVERMIND HEIDEGGER
HE JUST LIKES TO
TROLL PHILOSOPHERS.



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How the young Hegel got his first job by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

I know you have your doubts because you don't understand anything I say, but think about it...

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...what if you had invested in Kant *before* he became famous?

"History, is a conscious, self-mediating process — Spirit emptied out into Time; but this externalization, this kenosis, is equally an externalization of itself; the negative is the negative of itself. ... Thus absorbed in itself, it is sunk in the night of its self-consciousness; but in that night its vanished outer existence is perserved, and this transformed existence — the former one, but now reborn of the Spirit's knowledge — is the new existence, a new world and a new shape of Spirit."

-Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit (1807)

Stay ethical

feat. Immanuel Kant





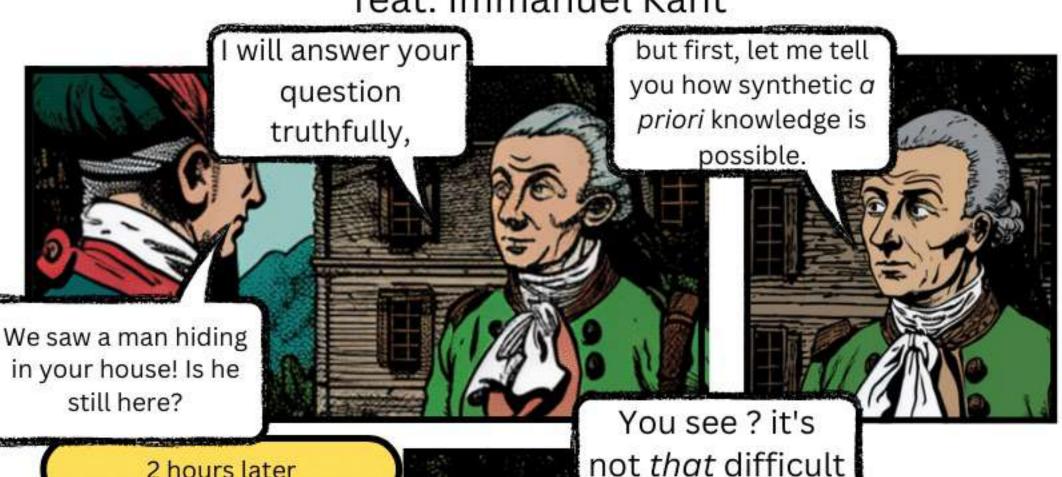




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2 hours later



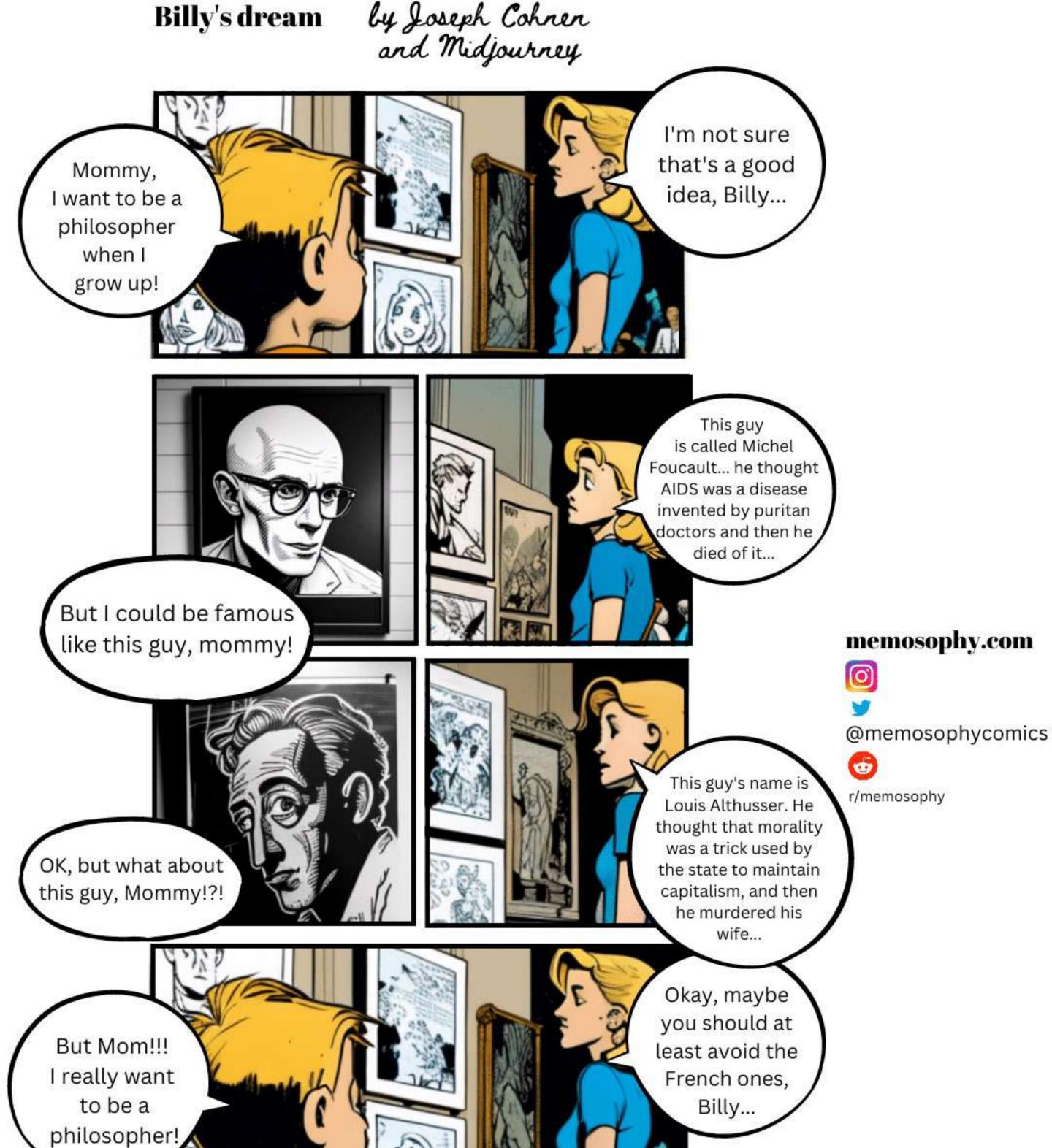
My brain hurts... this guy is crazy, we're leaving...



Tell me if I've done my work correctly, Johnny. Panels 1 and 4 refer to the famous example given by Kant against Benjamin Constant in On the supposed right to lie from philanthropy (1797), and Panel 2 refers to Critique of Pure Reason (1781).



Yes although Kant discusses lying in many other texts such as the Critique of Practical Reason (1788). Now if you're able to explain to me what synthetic a priori means, I'll consider the possibility that you may have learned something from all this time you spend looking at memes.



Panel 3 refers to an interview with Edmund White published in the Telegraph (2014). Panel 5 refers to a paper by Althusser called "Ideological State Apparatus" (1970).

Dead philosophers in Hell: Schopenhauer

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney





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Panel 3 refers to Schopenhauer's doctoral dissertation.



Mortgage, III feat. Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney



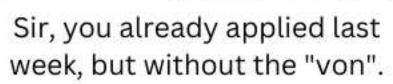


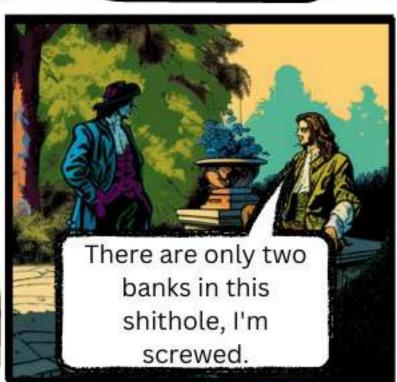
that cannot fail.





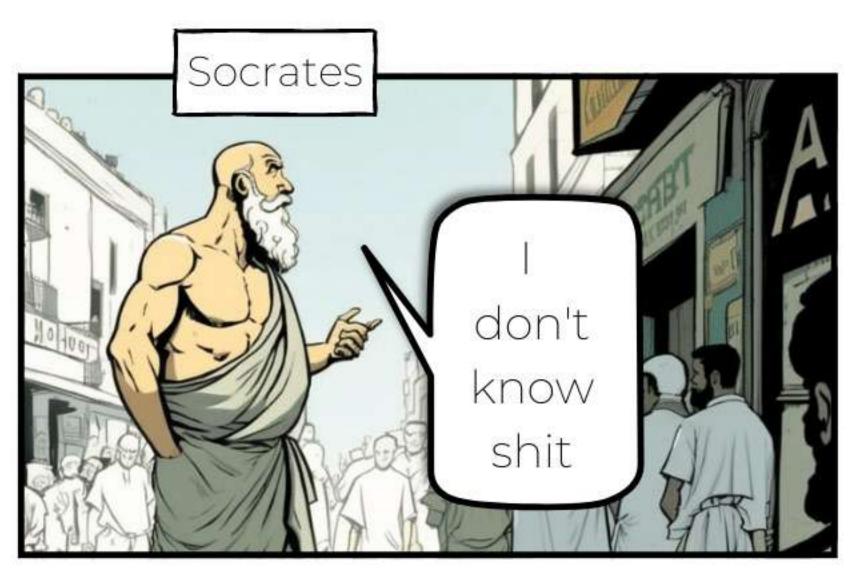


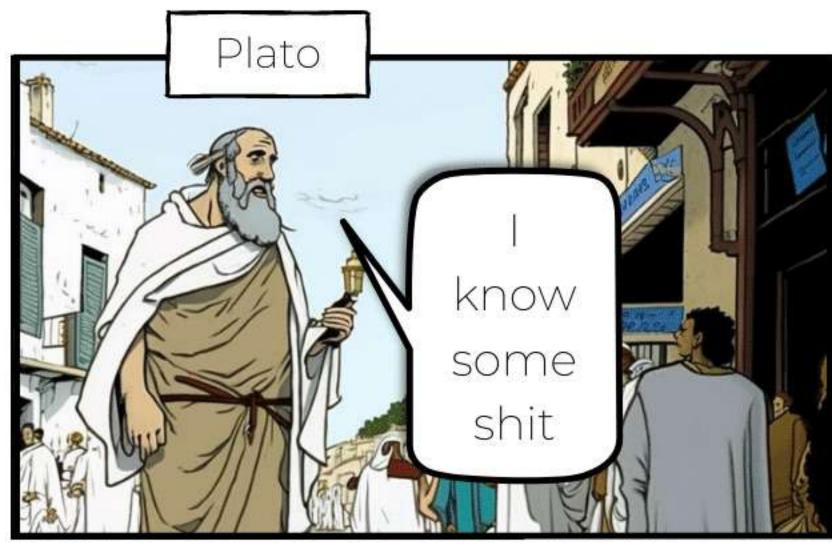


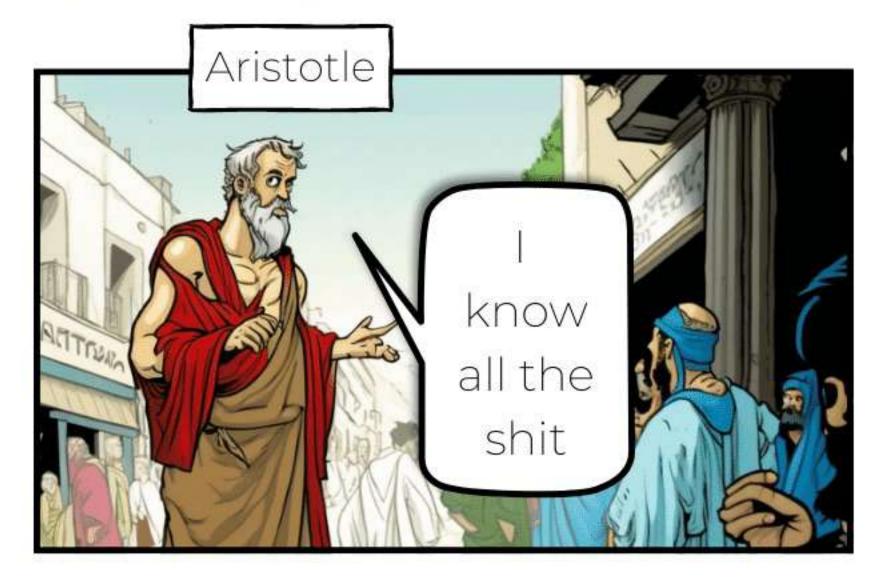




They say it takes two generations to ruin a good thing



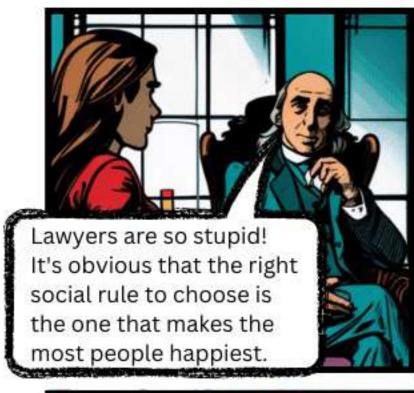




He does play dice

feat. Jeremy Bentham

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney









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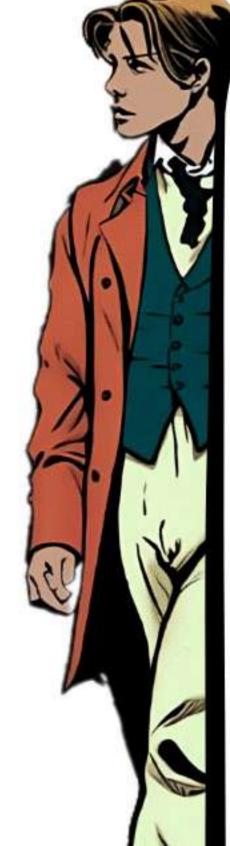


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Hey Johnny, I
get that Panel 1
refers to books
like A Fragment
on Government
(1776) but is
there anything
else I'm missing
here?



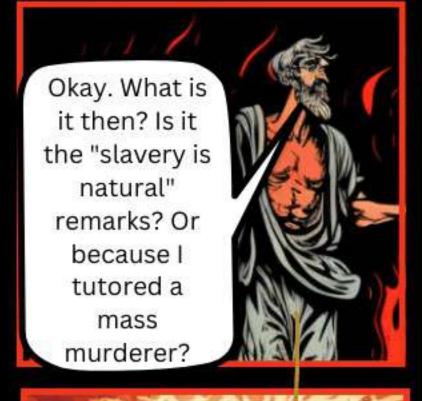
Yes Craig, actually Panels 2-4 refer to the problem of double maximization in utilitarianism mentioned in Dupuy, J.P. "Sur la formation du radicalisme philosophique d'Elie Halévy" (1995). The problem is expressed this way by Dupuy:

"We should know, however, since Leibniz, that double maximization, that maximization is, the of mathematical functions at the same time, is a logical impossibility. One can maximize the number of those who have a happiness higher than a certain self-imposed threshold; one can maximize the sum of the happiness of the whole population, or any other increasing function of individual happiness. But it makes no sense to maximize both happiness and number."

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney Dead Philosophers in Hell: Aristotle

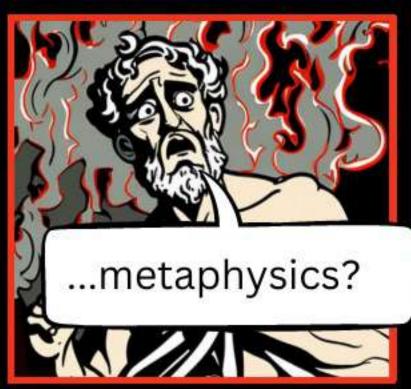


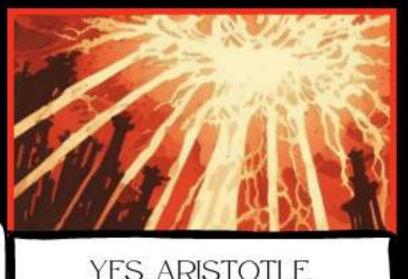












YES. ARISTOTLE. WE'RE REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT...



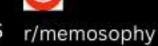
...BUT LOOK WHAT IT DID TO POOR HEIDEGGER OVER HERE!







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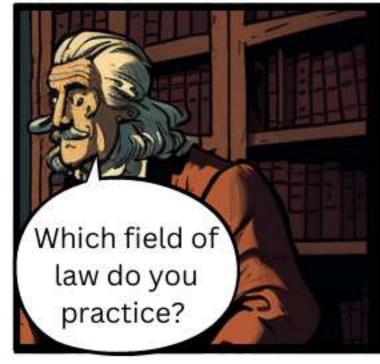


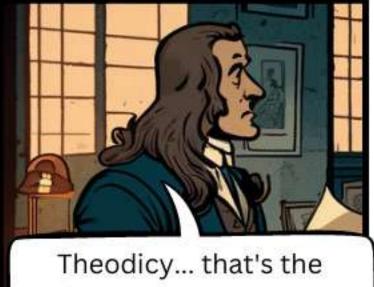
Mortgage, II feat. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

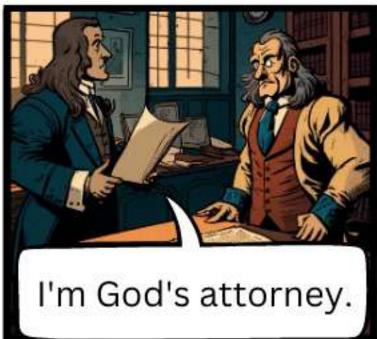


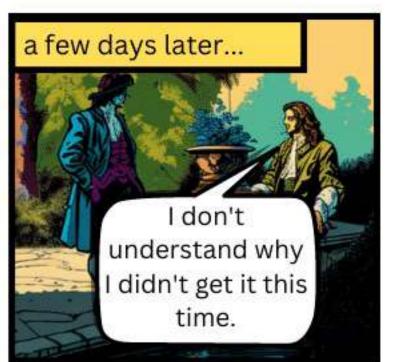














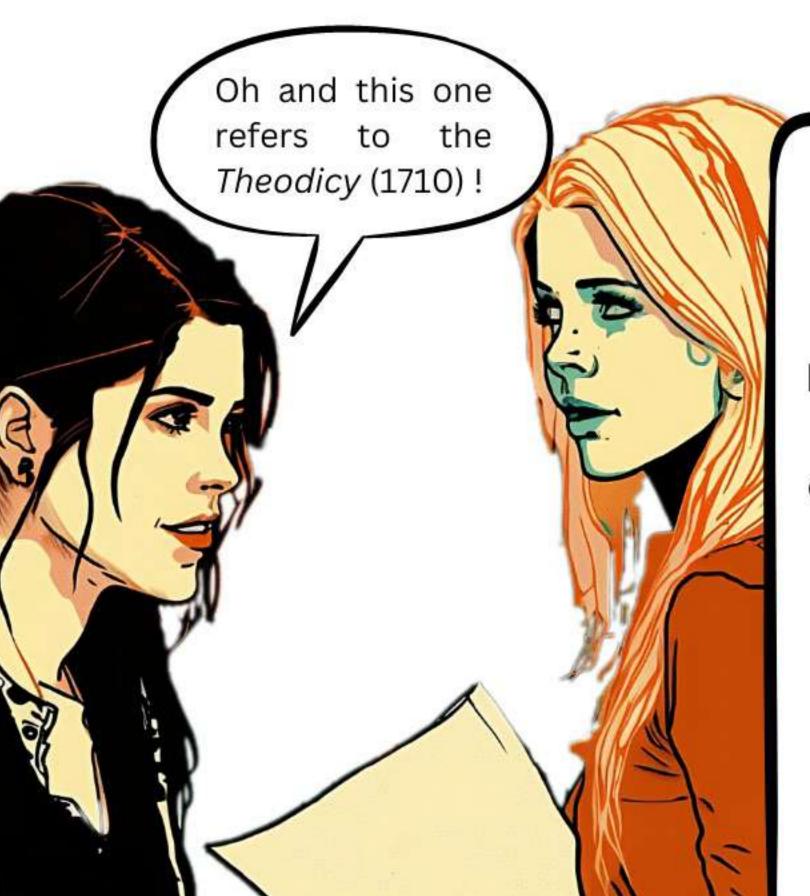




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Yes, Michelle but panel 5 also refers to Gilles Deleuze's book on Leibniz called The fold (1988, ch 5). This is where Leibniz is called "God's attorney" by Deleuze.

A fig what? feat. Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney



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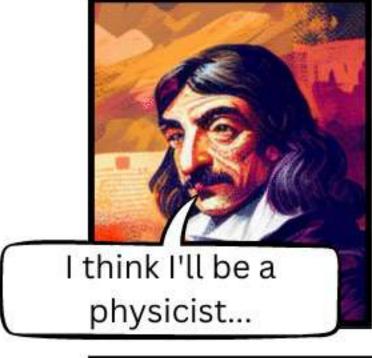


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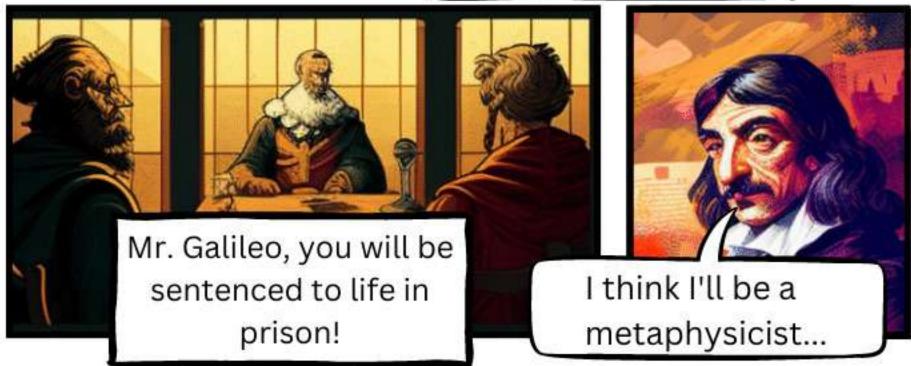
Why I Am Not a Christian is an essay by the British philosopher Bertrand Russell. Originally a talk given 6 March 1927 at Battersea Town Hall, under the auspices of the South London Branch of the National Secular Society, it was published that year as pamphlet and has been republished several times English and in translation. It opens by defining the term 'Christian', rejecting overly broad definitions in favour of two minimal beliefs: that God exists, and that Christ is a supreme moral role-model. Russell then sets out his reasons for rejecting both of these beliefs, and hence for not labelling himself Christian.



A cartesian decision feat. René Descartes







Giordano Bruno rejected the traditional geocentric (Earth-centred) astronomy and intuitively went beyond the Copernican heliocentric (Sun-centred) theory, which still maintained a finite universe with a sphere of fixed stars. He was killed at the stake in 1600.

For his heresy in claiming that Earth orbits the Sun, **Galileo Galilei**, was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Roman Catholic Church in 1633.

René Descartes decided to focus on metaphysics after Galileo's trial and to postpone the publication of most his physics work until after his death in 1650.

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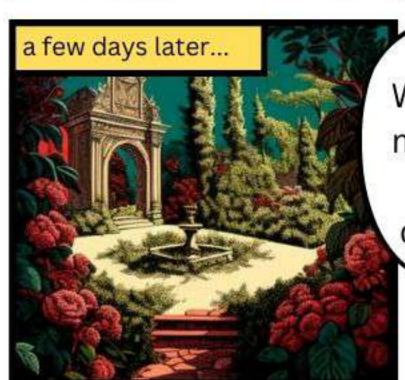
Mortgage feat. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

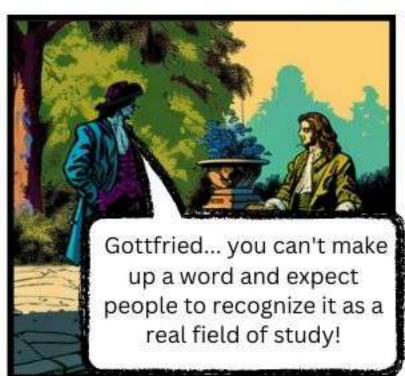








Well... my mortgage was denied



Panel 3 refers to the Monadology (1714), right?



Yes, let me read you the first sentence of the book... "1. The monad of which we shall here speak is merely a simple substance, which enters into compounds; simple, that is to say, without parts."

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Enigma

feat. Charles and Emma Darwin

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

I'm going crazy,
Emma! Why
would peacocks
have such a big
tail? For my
theory to work,
everything in the
animal kingdom
has to have a
purpose!



But peacocks are so cute, Charlie!!



Eureka! It's because the females like them! Let's call it "sexual selection" and write a book about it!



hunting...

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Sexual selection is the theory postulating that the evolution of certain conspicuous physical traitssuch as pronounced coloration, increased size, or striking adornments-in animals may grant the possessors of these traits greater success in obtaining mates. From the perspective of natural selection, such increases in mating opportunities outweigh the risks associated with the animal's increased visibility in its environment. This concept was initially put forth by English naturalist Charles Darwin in The Descent of Man (1871).



Meaningless

feat. Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney

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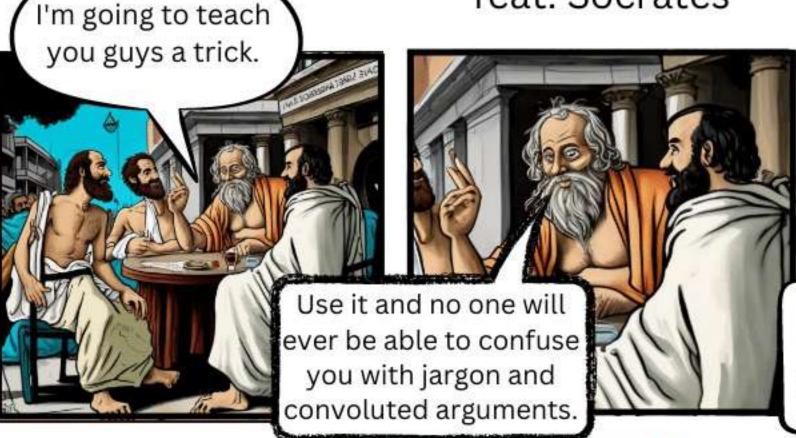


Panel 1-6 refer to B. Russell's introduction to L. Wittgenstein *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921)

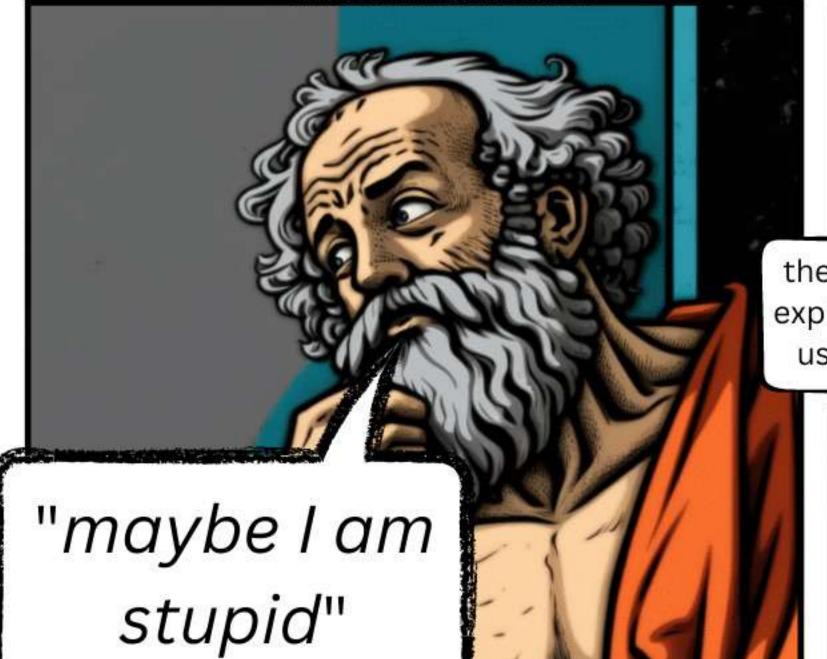
The Fool

feat. Socrates

by Joseph Cohnen and Midjourney



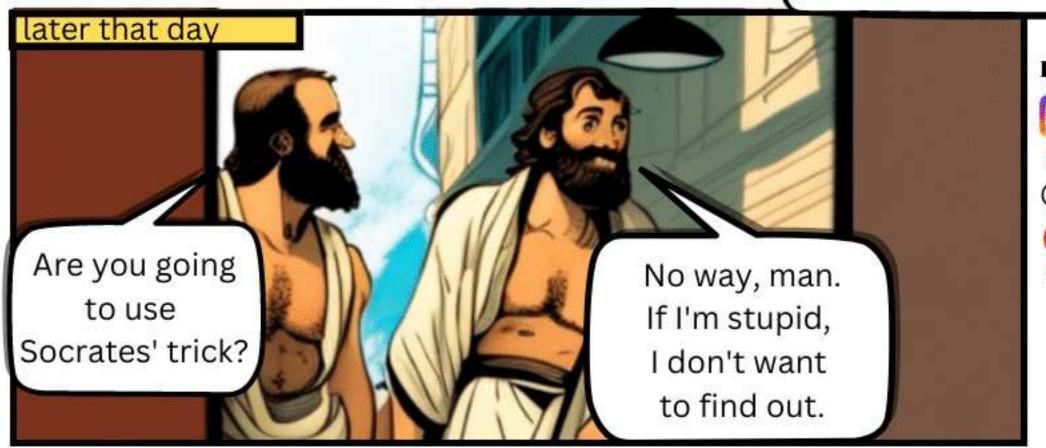




then ask the person to explain what they mean using simpler words.



Sometimes you'll learn something and that's great! But many times they will just be embarrassed!



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