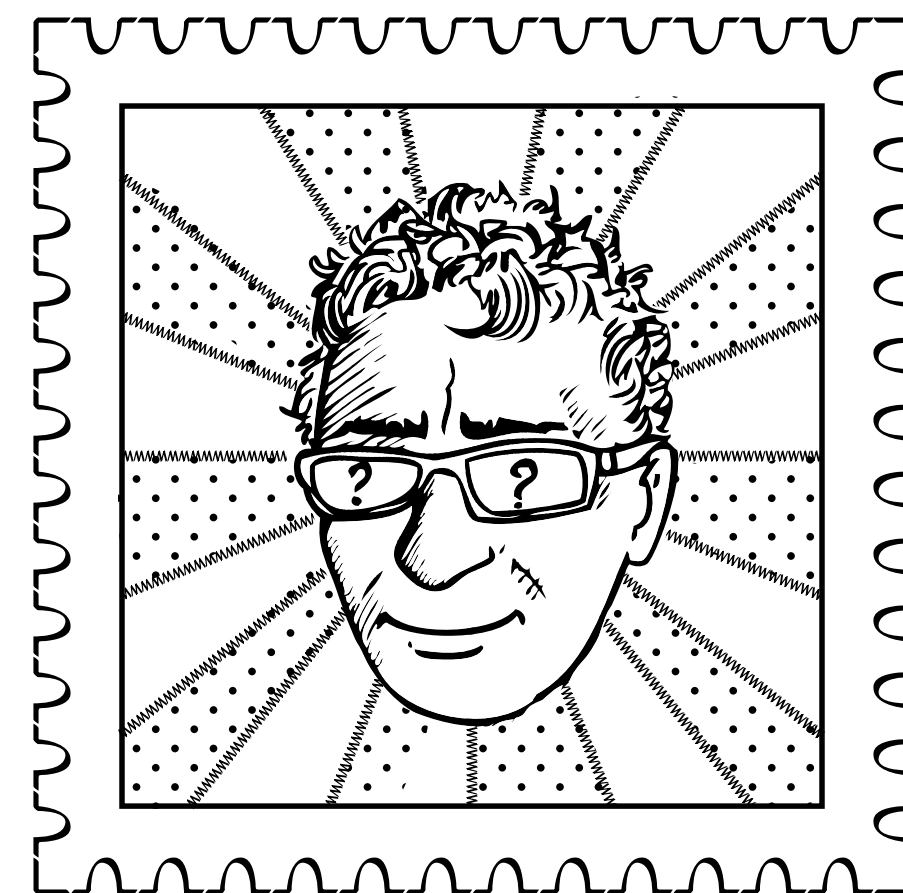
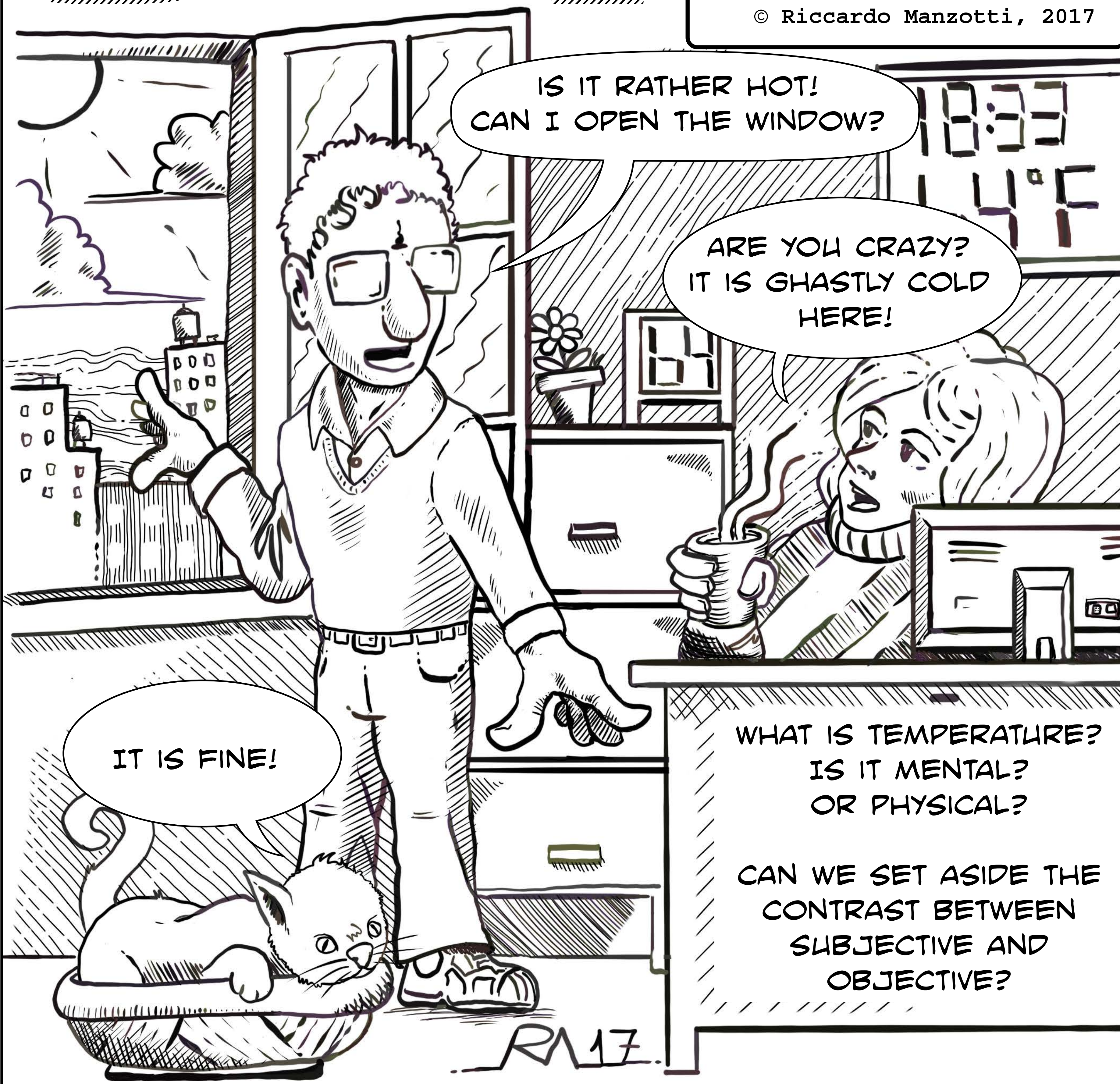


# EXISTENCE



# IS RELATIVE

[www.consciousness.it](http://www.consciousness.it)  
[riccardo.manzotti@gmail.com](mailto:riccardo.manzotti@gmail.com)  
© Riccardo Manzotti, 2017





I KNOW, I KNOW, SINCE DESCARTES WE ARE USED TO THINK THAT THERE ARE OBJECTIVE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES AND SUBJECTIVE MENTAL ONES!

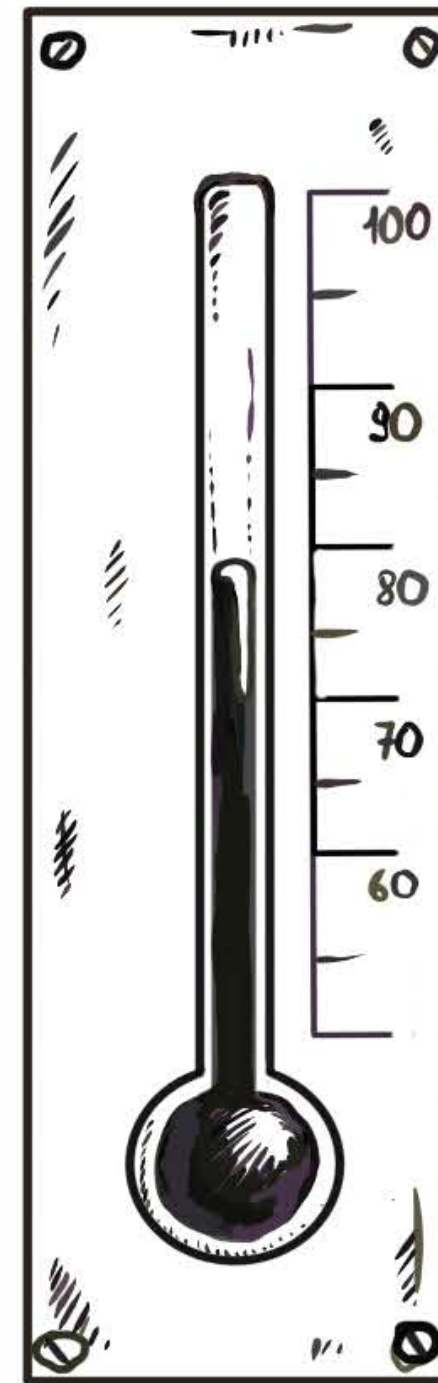
TWO IS BETTER!

OH PLEASE RENE'!!!

IN THIS SPIRIT, AS OF XVII CENTURY, SAVANTS HAVE SINGLED OUT SO CALLED OBJECTIVE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES!

YET, ARE THEY REALLY SO SPECIAL OR ARE THEY JUST ONE OPTION AMONG MANY OTHERS?

AFTER ALL, THIS IS JUST A HANDY CAUSAL RELATION!



OLE CHRISTENSEN ROMER, 1701



I BUILT THE FIRST THERMOMETER!

SO WE GOT USED TO THINK THAT WHAT WE PERCEIVE IS SUBJECTIVE

ALLEGED OBJECTIVE ABSOLUTE PROPERTY

HOT!

COLD!

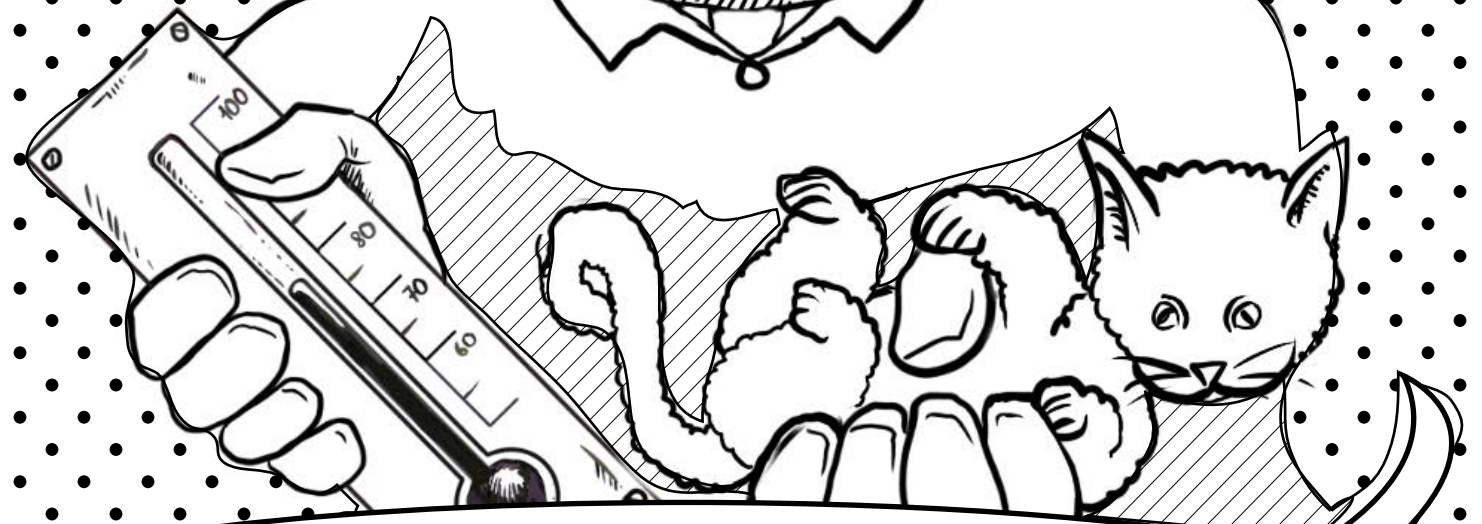
FINE!

74!



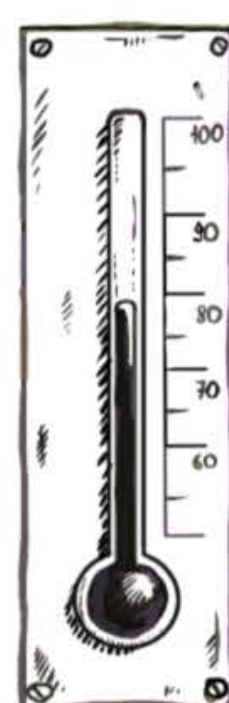
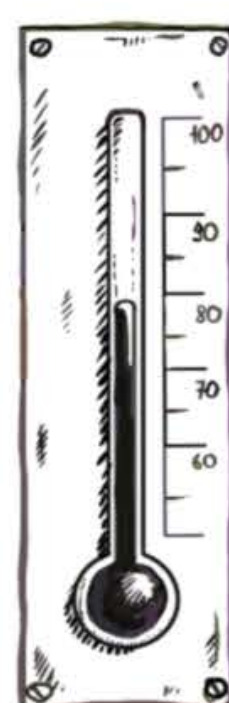
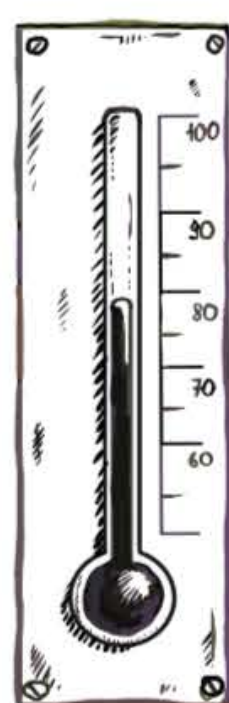
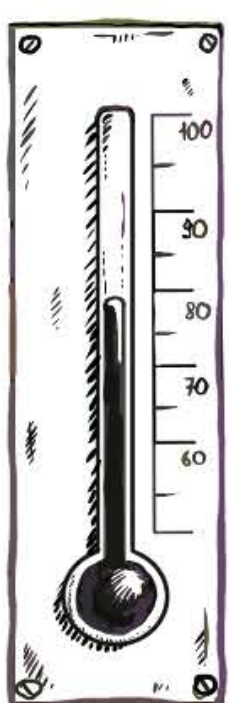
HEI! WAIT A MINUTE! IS THERE REALLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MERCURY AND, SAY, ORGANISM, AFTER ALL, ANOTHER SYSTEM?

BETWEEN COLUMN ANOTHER WHICH IS, JUST PHYSICAL



AM I A THERMOMETER?

IN FACT, THE SO-CALLED OBJECTIVE PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN SELECTED ONLY BECAUSE THE TOOL TO PICK THEM UP CAN BE EASILY REPLICATED IN A STANDARDIZED WAY. I CAN EASILY DUPLICATE A MERCURY THERMOMETER AND EACH REPLICA WILL SINGLE OUT THE SAME PROPERTY!



SAME RELATIVE PROPERTY T



OTHER SYSTEMS ARE NOT DIFFERENT FROM THE TERMOMETHER, ONLY THEY ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO REPLICATE!

STANDARD TEMPERATURE IS NOT MORE OBJECTIVE, IS JUST EASIER TO OBTAIN

EACH SYSTEM PICKS UP ITS OWN PREFERRED TEMPERATURE

$T_{CHUBE}$   $T_{RICK}$   $T_{EVE}$   $T_{TOM}$   $T_1$   $T_2$

STANDARD

EACH SYSTEM SINGLES OUT ITS OWN RELATIVE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES. THERE ARE NO MORE SUBJECTIVE MENTAL PROPERTIES. EVERYTHING IS EXTERNAL!

NO MORE MENTAL PROPERTIES

$T_{RICK}$   
 $T_{EVE}$   
 $T_{TOM}$   
 $T_{STANDARD}$

PHYSICAL CONTINUUM

OBJECTIVE - PROPERTIES

SUBJECTIVE PROPERTIES

RELATIVE PROPERTIES

SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE PROPERTIES ARE JUST RELATIVE PROPERTIES THAT WERE ERRONEOUSLY TAKEN TO BE SEPARATE.

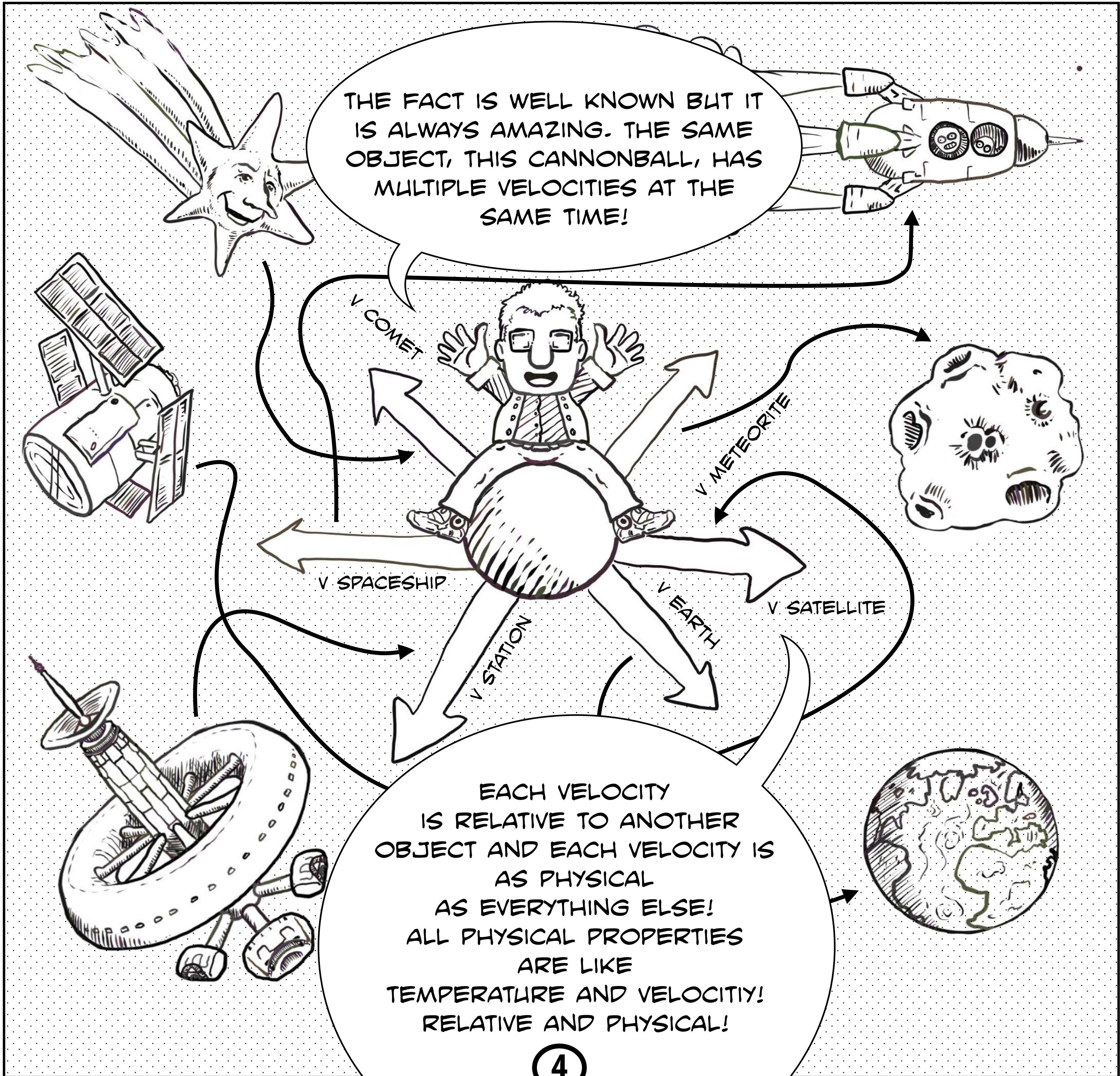
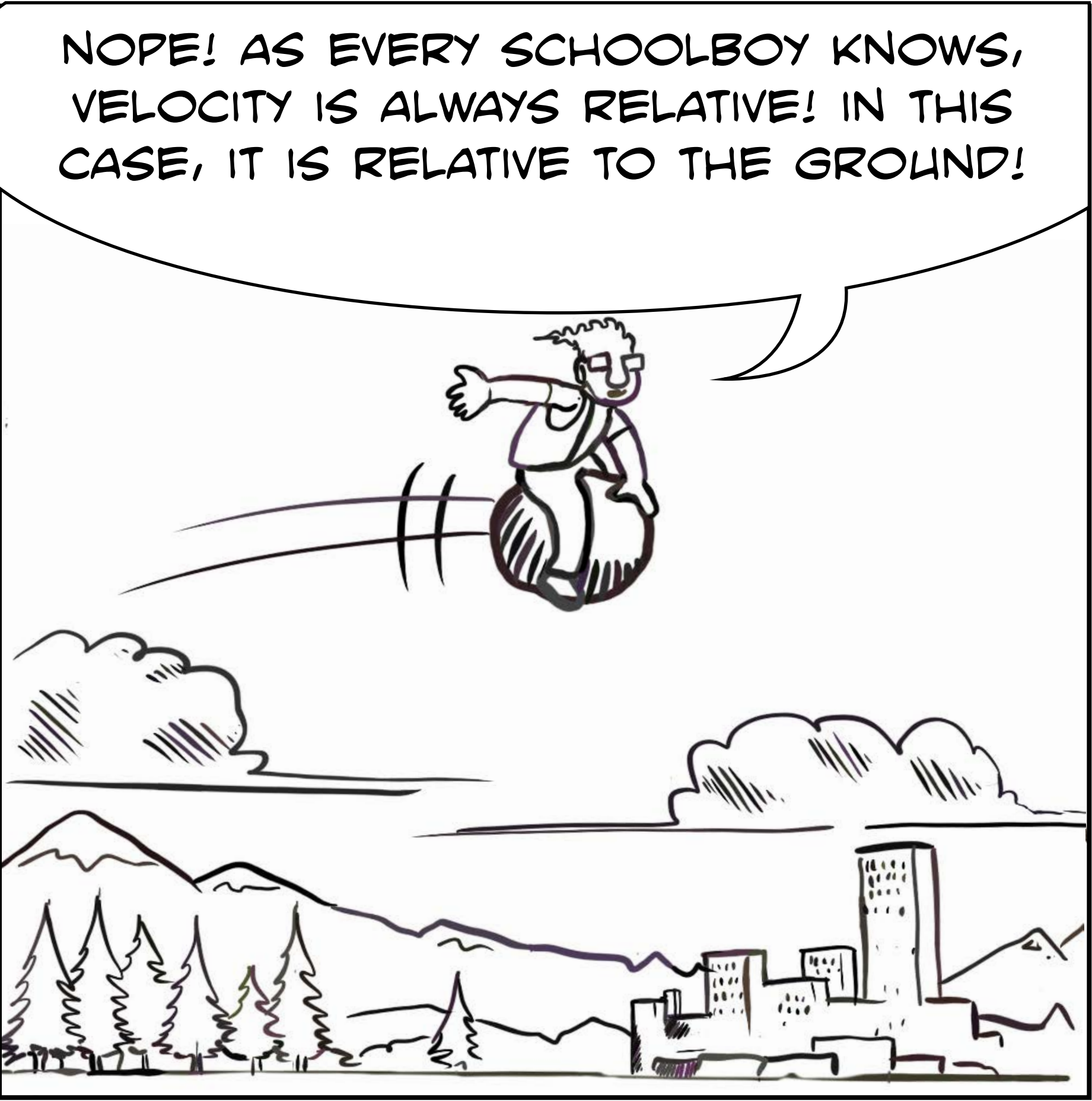
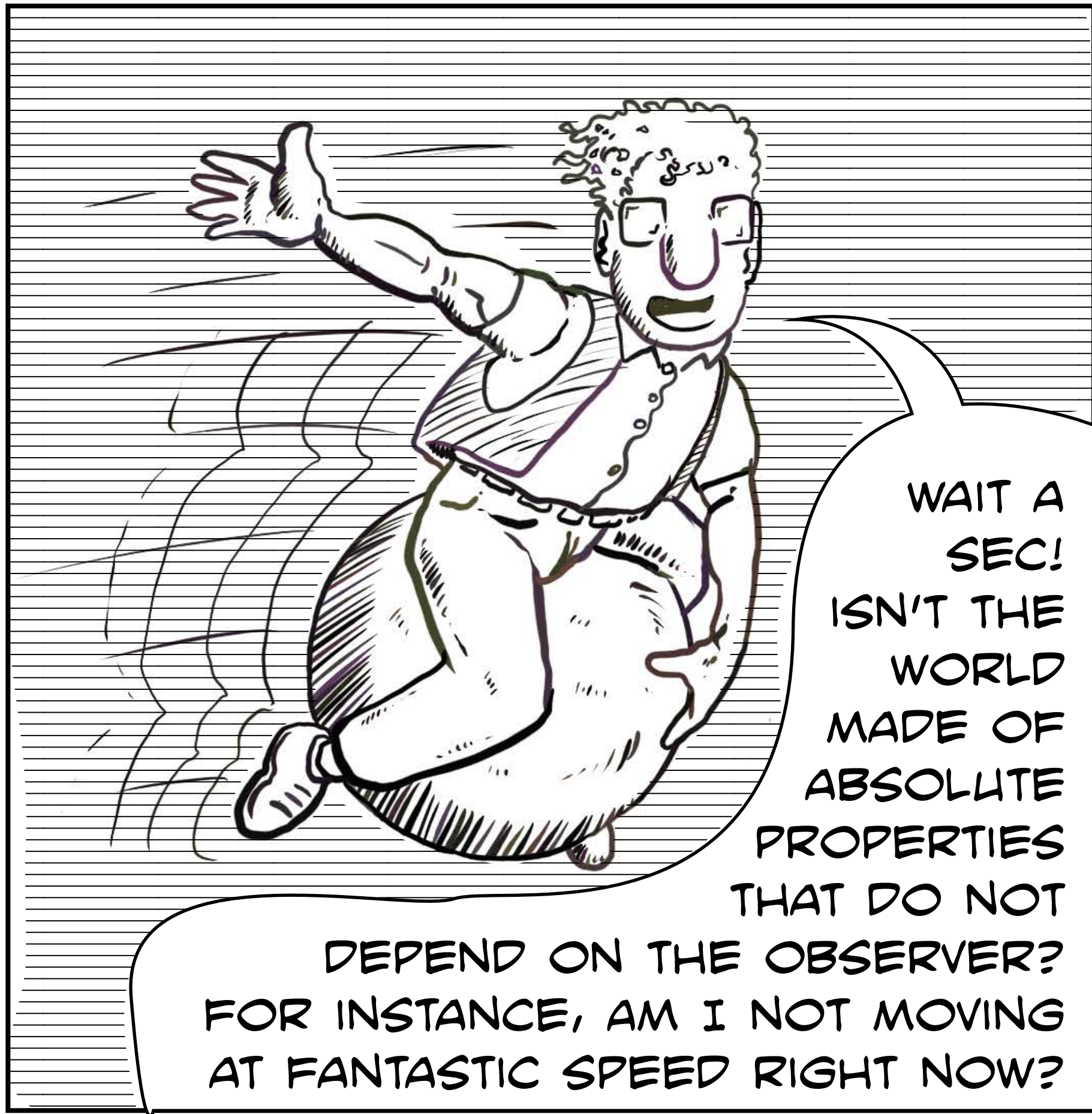
WE CAN FINALLY UNMASK THE SUBJECTIVE AND THE OBJECTIVE AS NOTHING BUT RELATIVE PROPERTIES OF DIFFERENT PRACTICAL USE

RELATIVE PROPERTIES  
 PRACTICALLY UNIQUE  
 =  
 RELATIVE PROPERTIES  
 EASILY REPEATABLE  
 SUBJECT

WE CAN THUS PULL BACK FROM THE MIND ALL SUBJECTIVE PROPERTIES AND PLACE THEM BACK IN THE WORLD! IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD!

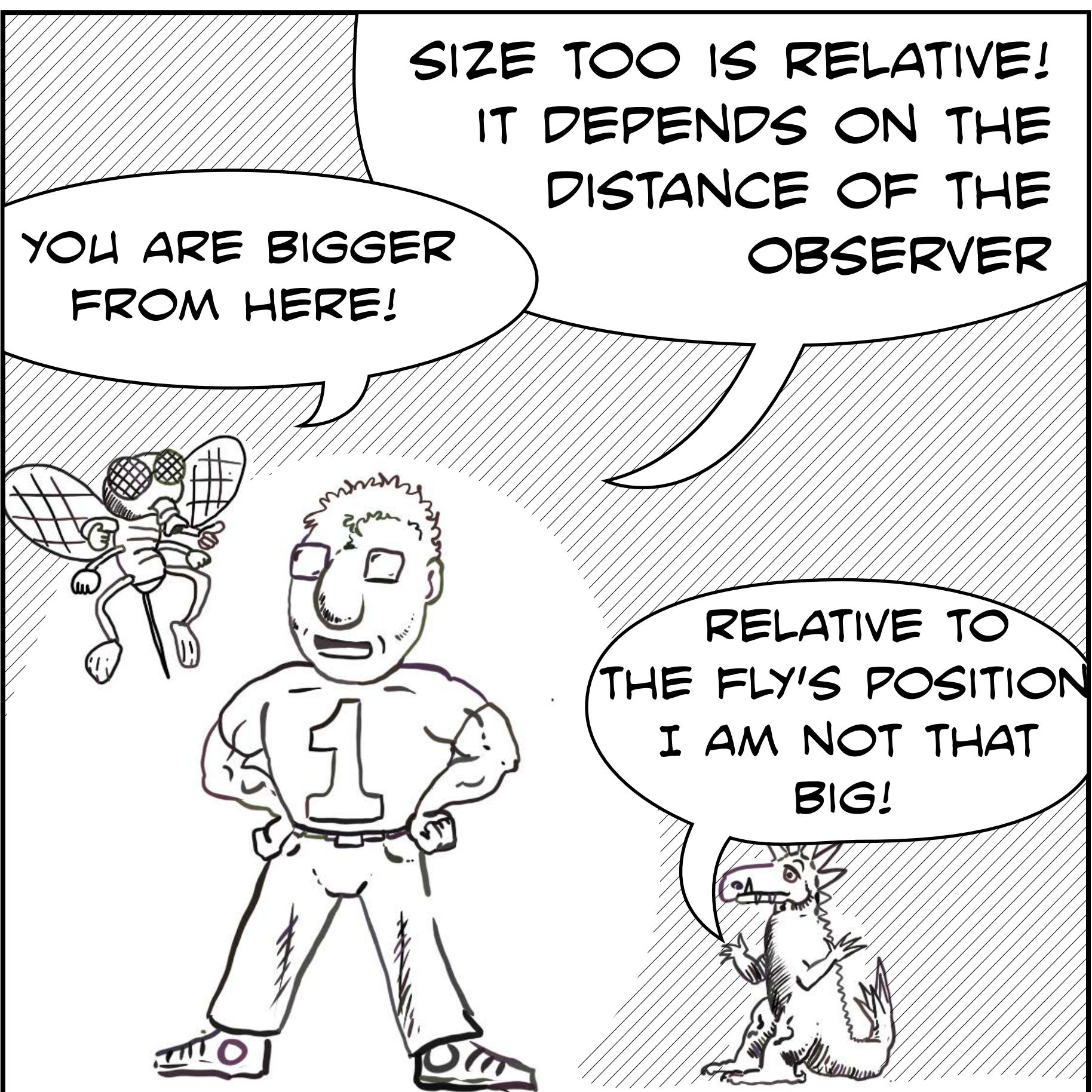
COLOR  
 TASTE  
 SHAPE  
 RELATIVE PROPERTIES  
 MIND DUSTBIN



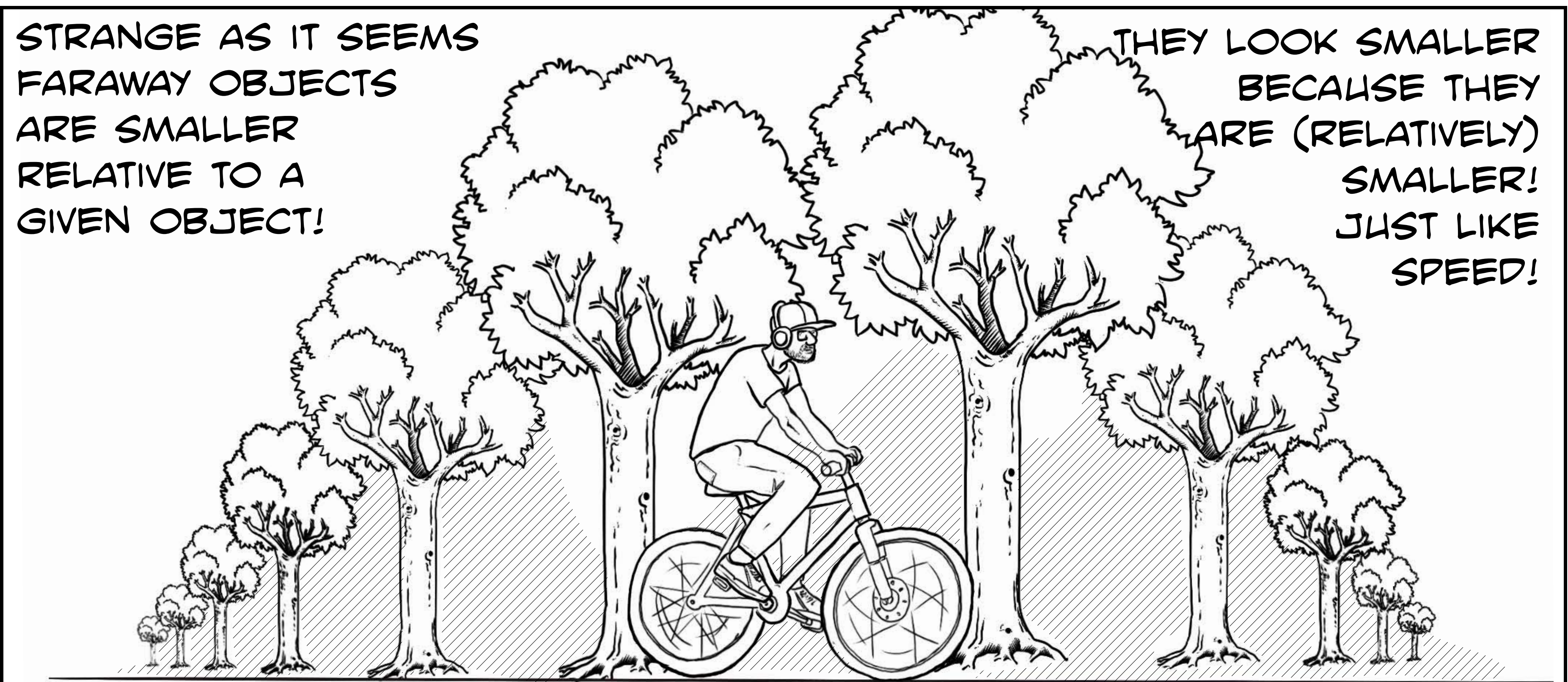




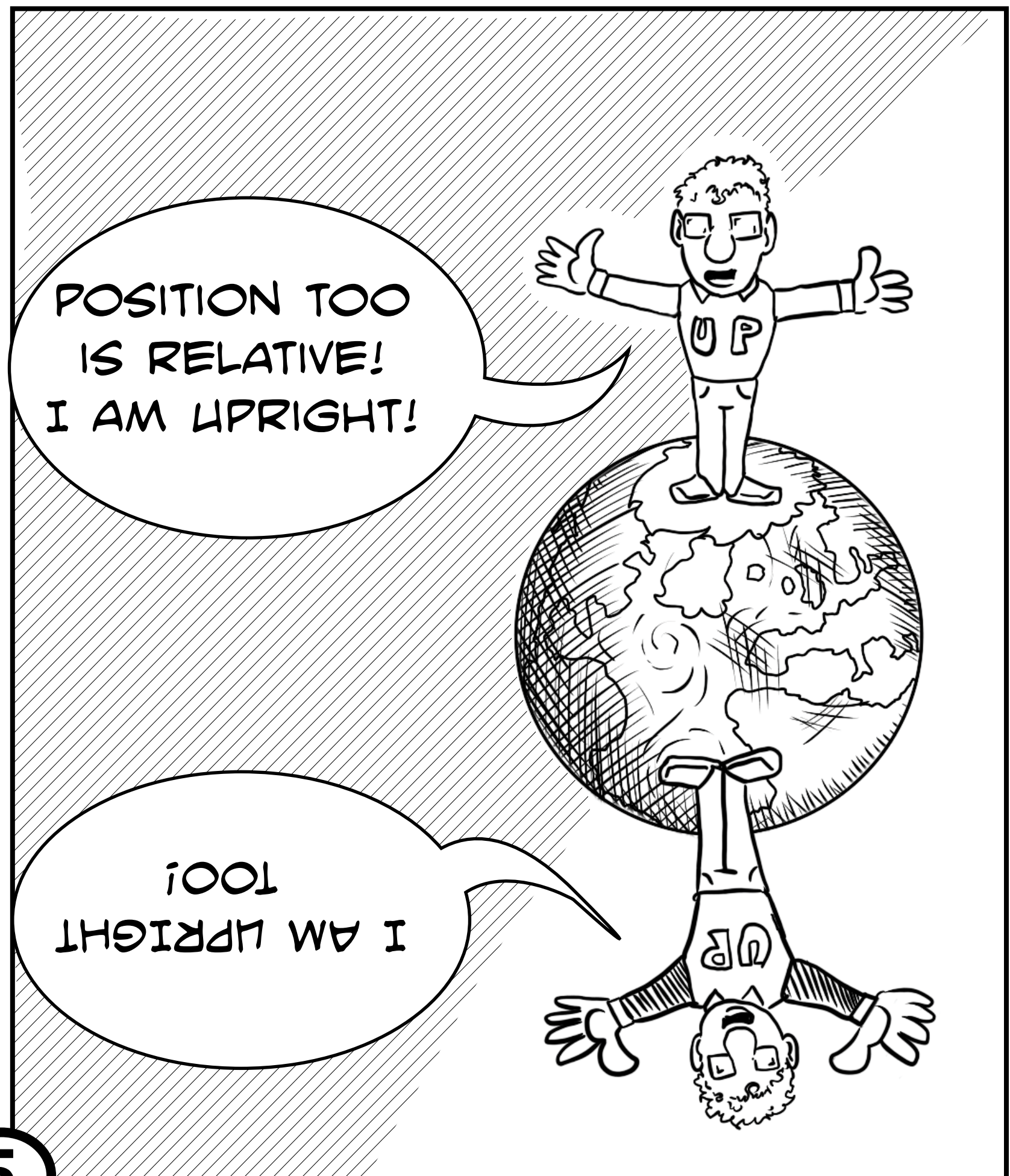
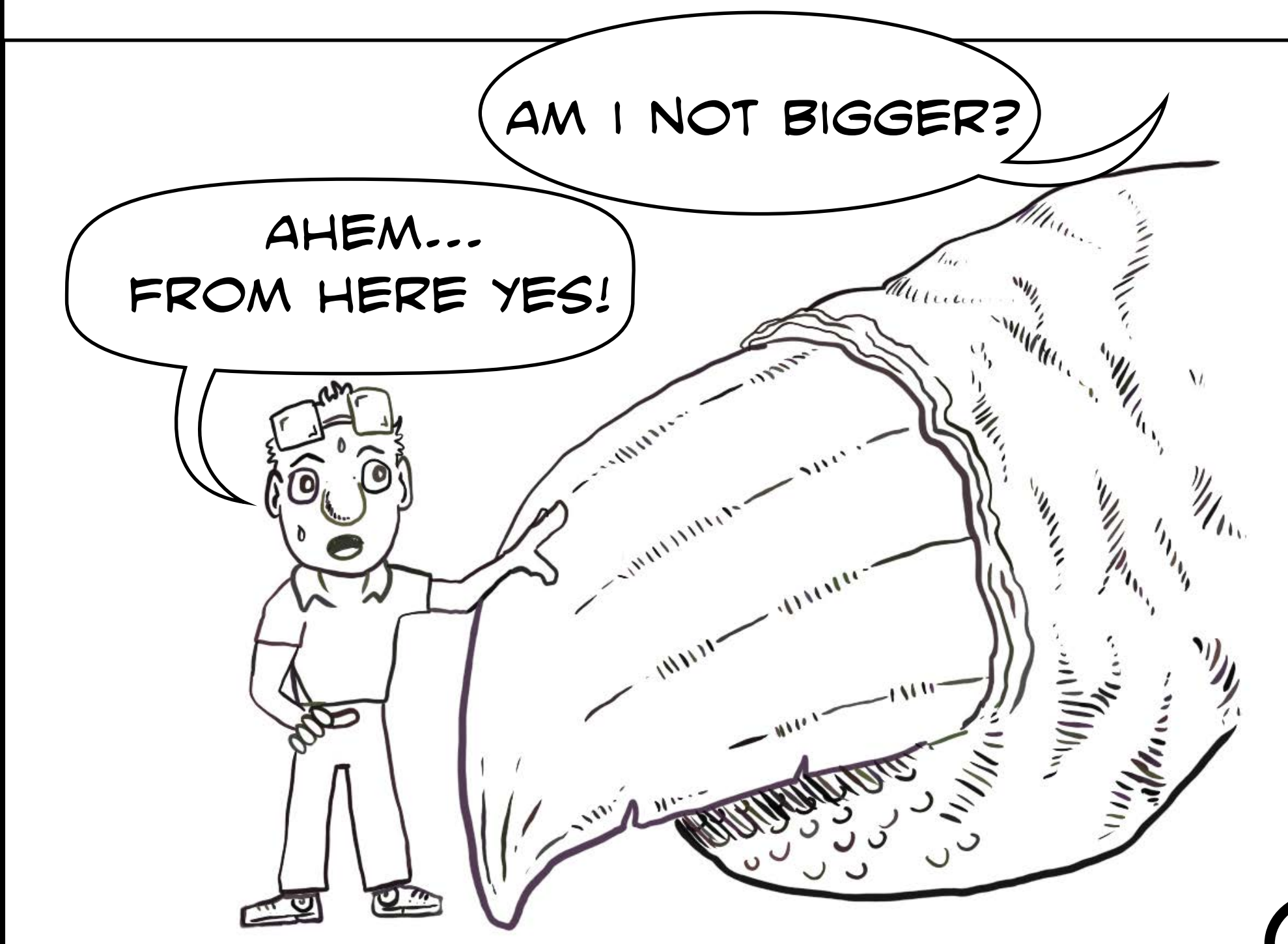
WHAT ABOUT SIZE? SURELY SIZE IS NOT RELATIVE! ISN'T IT?



STRANGE AS IT SEEMS FARAWAY OBJECTS ARE SMALLER RELATIVE TO A GIVEN OBJECT!



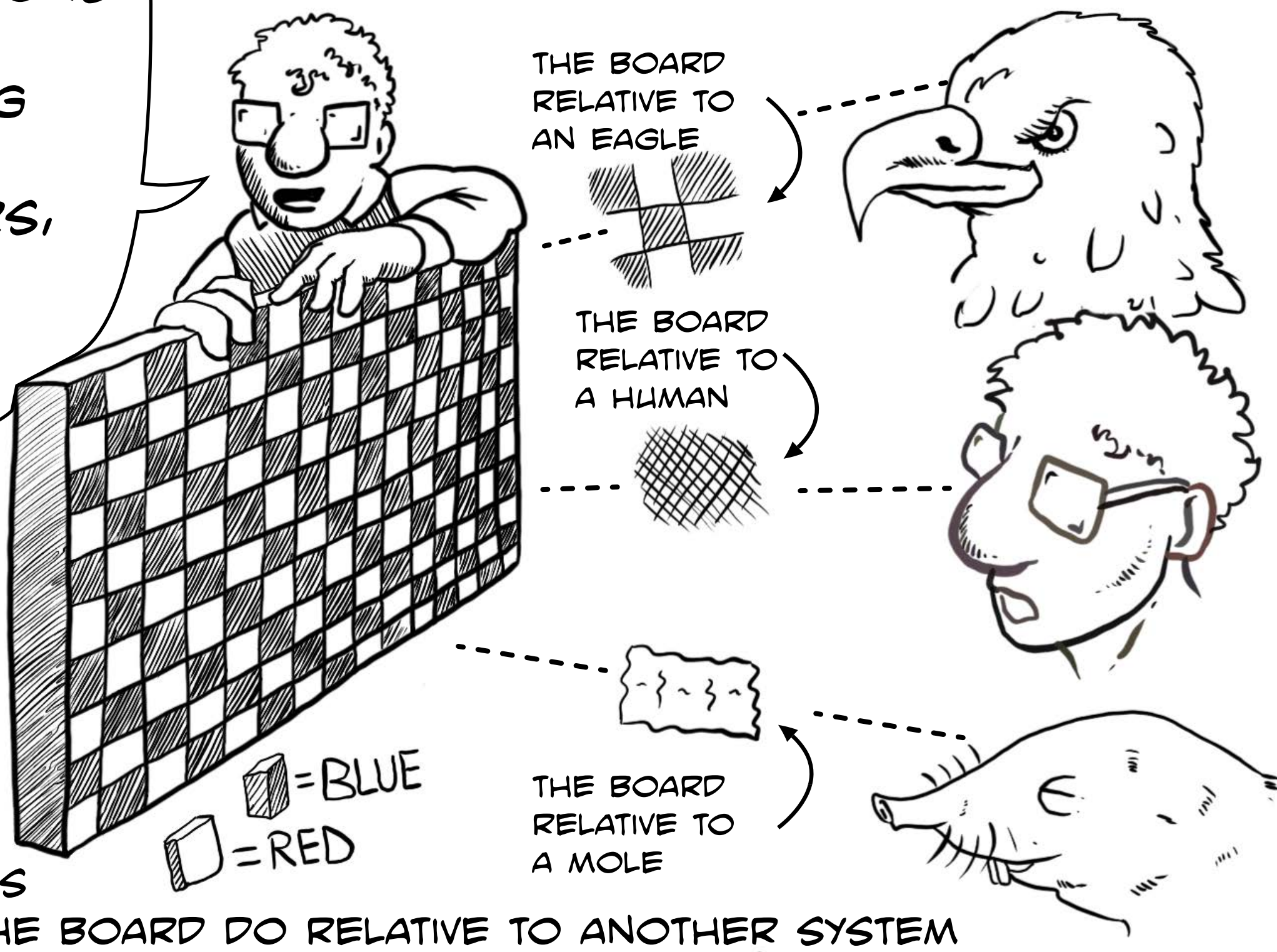
ALLEGED ABSOLUTE SIZE IS NOTHING BUT RELATIVE SIZE, RELATIVE TO AN OBJECT AT ZERO DISTANCE, AS WHEN YOU CAN TOUCH SOMETHING





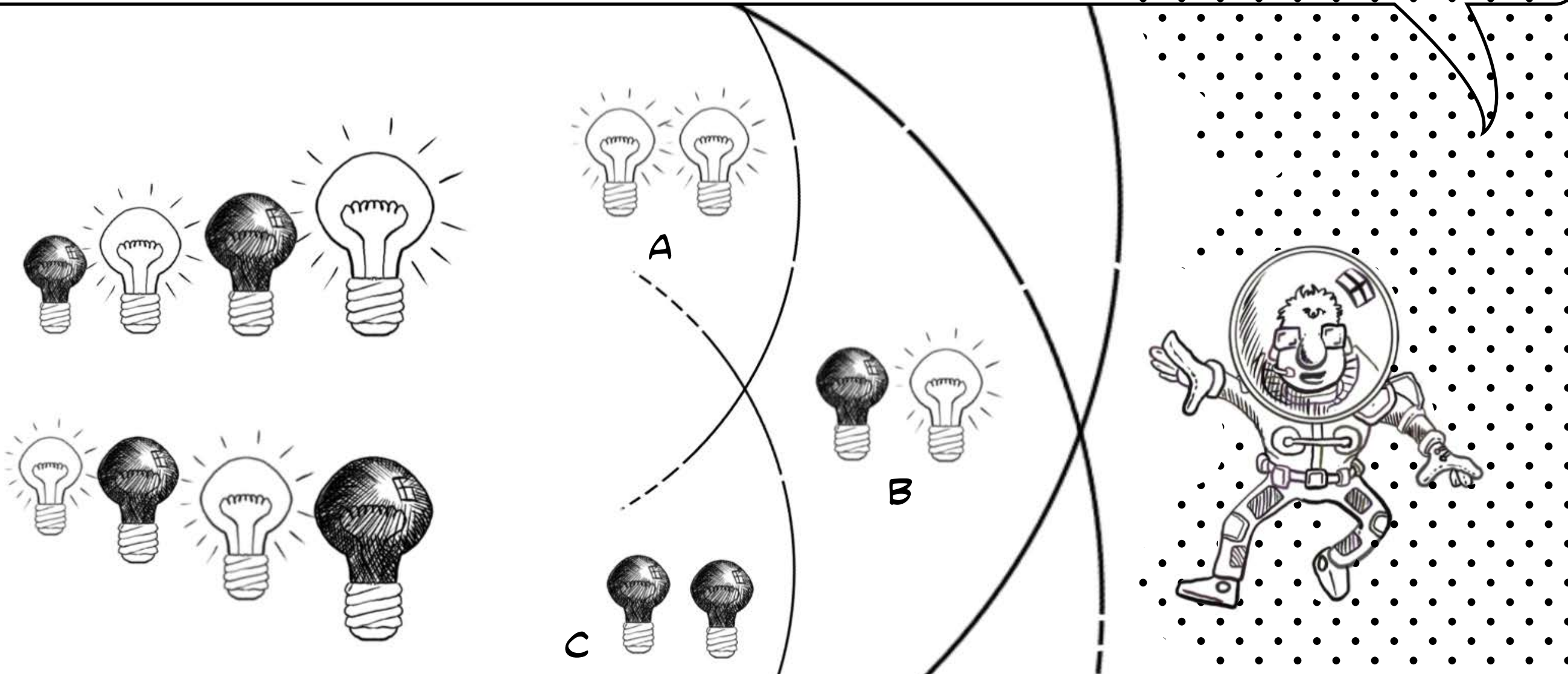
COLOR TOO IS  
RELATIVE!  
DEPENDING  
ON ONE'S  
RECEPTORS,  
DISTANCE,  
VISUAL  
ACUITY!

THE BOARD  
IS NEITHER  
CHECKERED  
NOR  
COLORED.  
THE BOARD IS  
WHATEVER THE BOARD DO  
RELATIVE TO ANOTHER SYSTEM



EACH ORGANISM,  
WHICH IS  
A DIFFERENT BODY,  
SINGLES OUT  
DIFFERENT RELATIVE  
PROPERTIES.  
SUCH PROPERTIES  
ARE NEITHER MENTAL  
NOR SUBJECTIVE,  
THEY ARE PHYSICAL  
AND EXTERNAL AS  
EVERYTHING ELSE!  
THERE IS NO  
OBJECTIVE COLOR!

IT HAPPENS WITH TIME TOO! IMAGINE TWO LIGHTS  
SWITCHING ON AND OFF ALTERNATIVELY. DEPENDING  
ON WHERE ONE IS LOCATED IN SPACE, THE LIGHTS  
WILL EITHER FLASH TOGETHER OR NOT!



TEMPORAL SEQUENCE  
AT ZERO DISTANCE

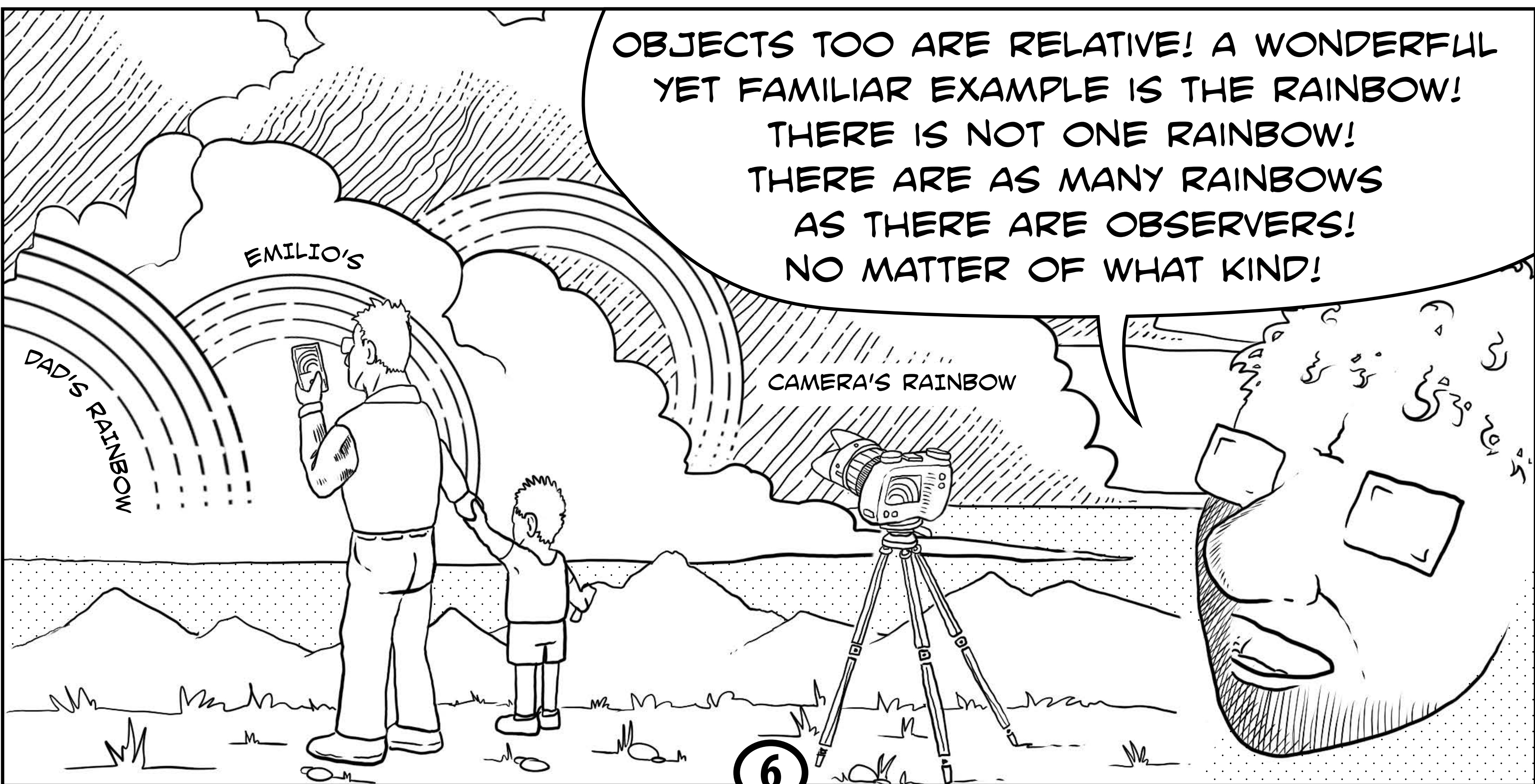
RELATIVE PATTERNS  
IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS

THIS IS NOT  
IDEALISM!

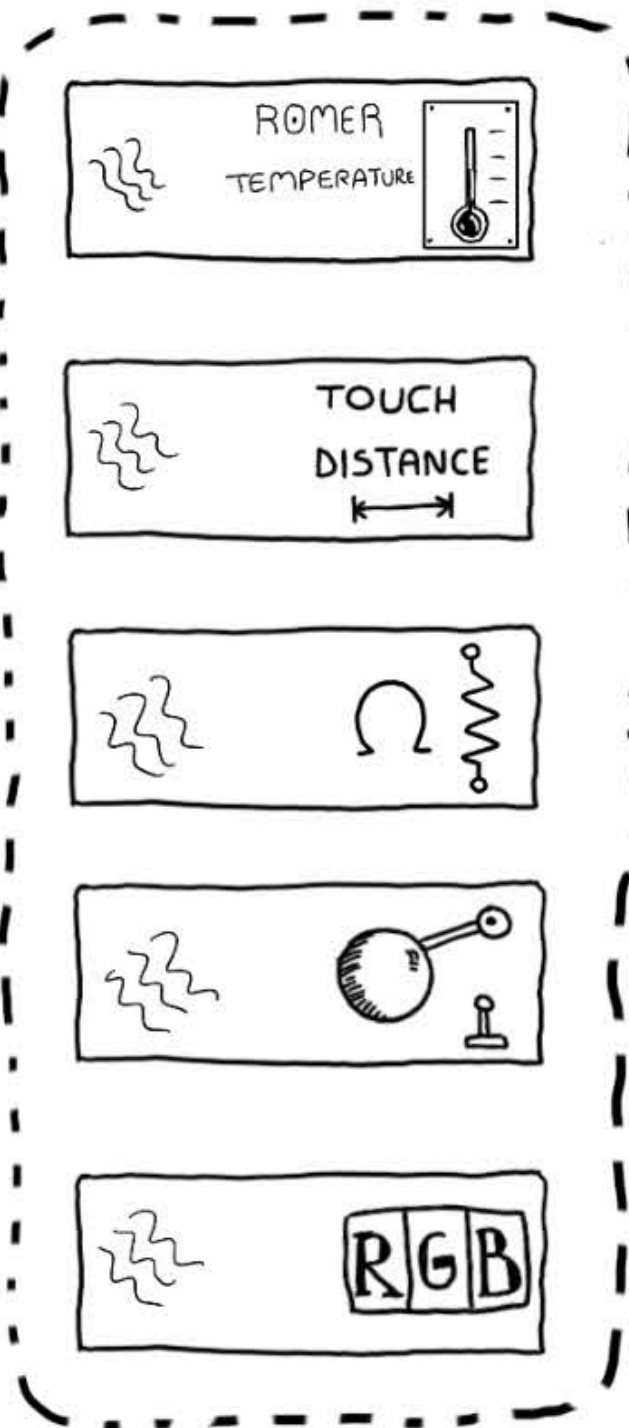
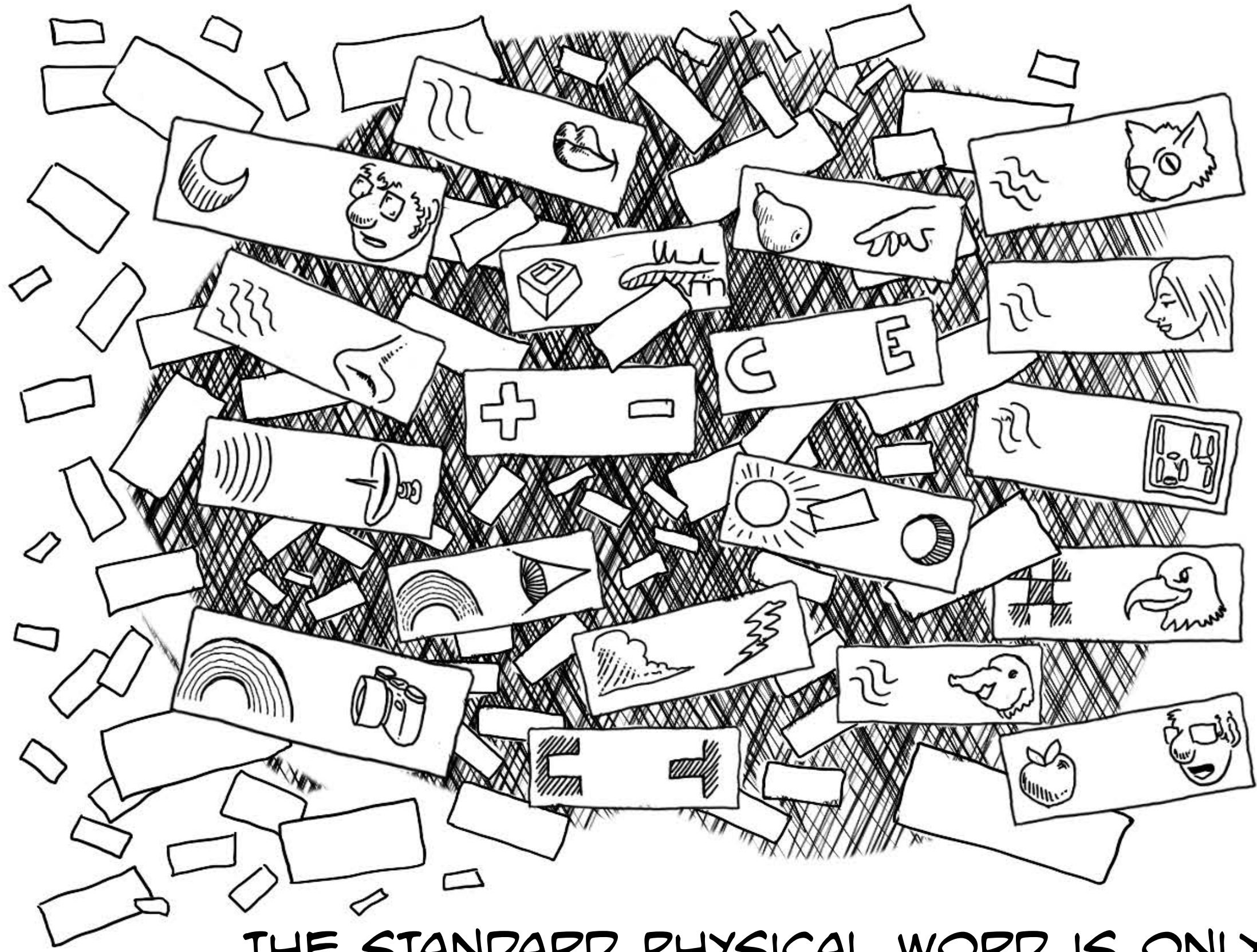
EVERYTHING IS  
PHYSICAL.  
EXISTENCE IS NOT  
RELATIVE TO A  
SUBJECT!

EXISTENCE IS  
RELATIVE TO THE  
SUBJECT'S BODY,  
WHICH IS  
A PHYSICAL  
ENTITY!  
THIS IS OBJECT  
RELATIVISM!

OBJECTS TOO ARE RELATIVE! A WONDERFUL  
YET FAMILIAR EXAMPLE IS THE RAINBOW!  
THERE IS NOT ONE RAINBOW!  
THERE ARE AS MANY RAINBOWS  
AS THERE ARE OBSERVERS!  
NO MATTER OF WHAT KIND!







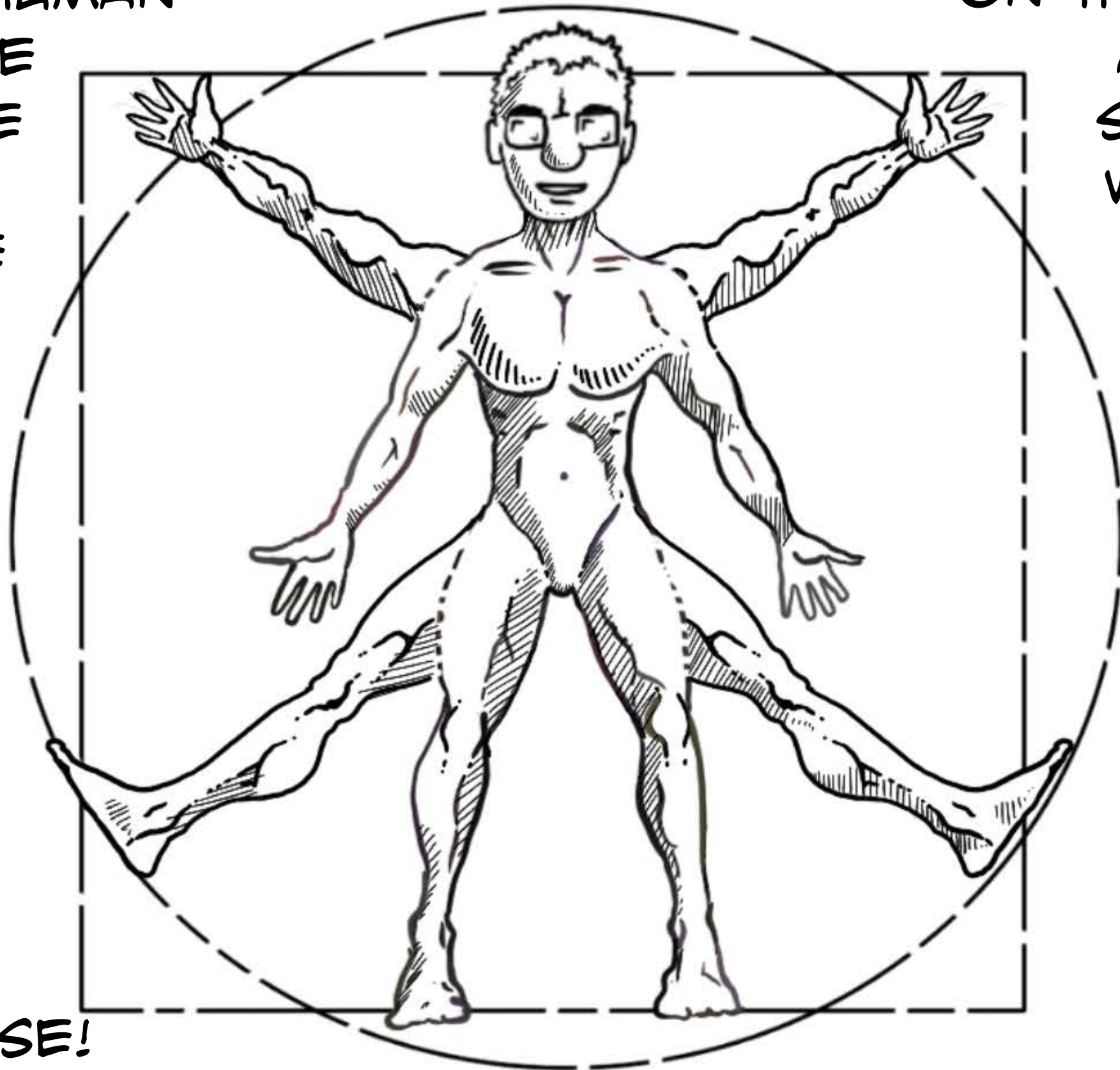
AMONG THE GAZILLIONS OF RELATIVE PROPERTIES, SCIENTISTS SELECTED A FEW OF THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE EASIER TO PICK OUT! NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE OBJECTIVE!

THE STANDARD PHYSICAL WORD IS ONLY A SUBSET OF A BROADER COLLECTION OF RELATIVE PROPERTIES. EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE.

HISTORICALLY, THE HUMAN BODY HAS BEEN THE IMPLICIT REFERENCE FRAME FOR AN ALLEGED ABSOLUTE PHYSICAL WORLD.

WE MISTOOK THE WORLD THAT IS RELATIVE TO AVERAGE HUMAN BODIES AND THEIR PREFERRED TOOLS FOR THE REAL WORLD.

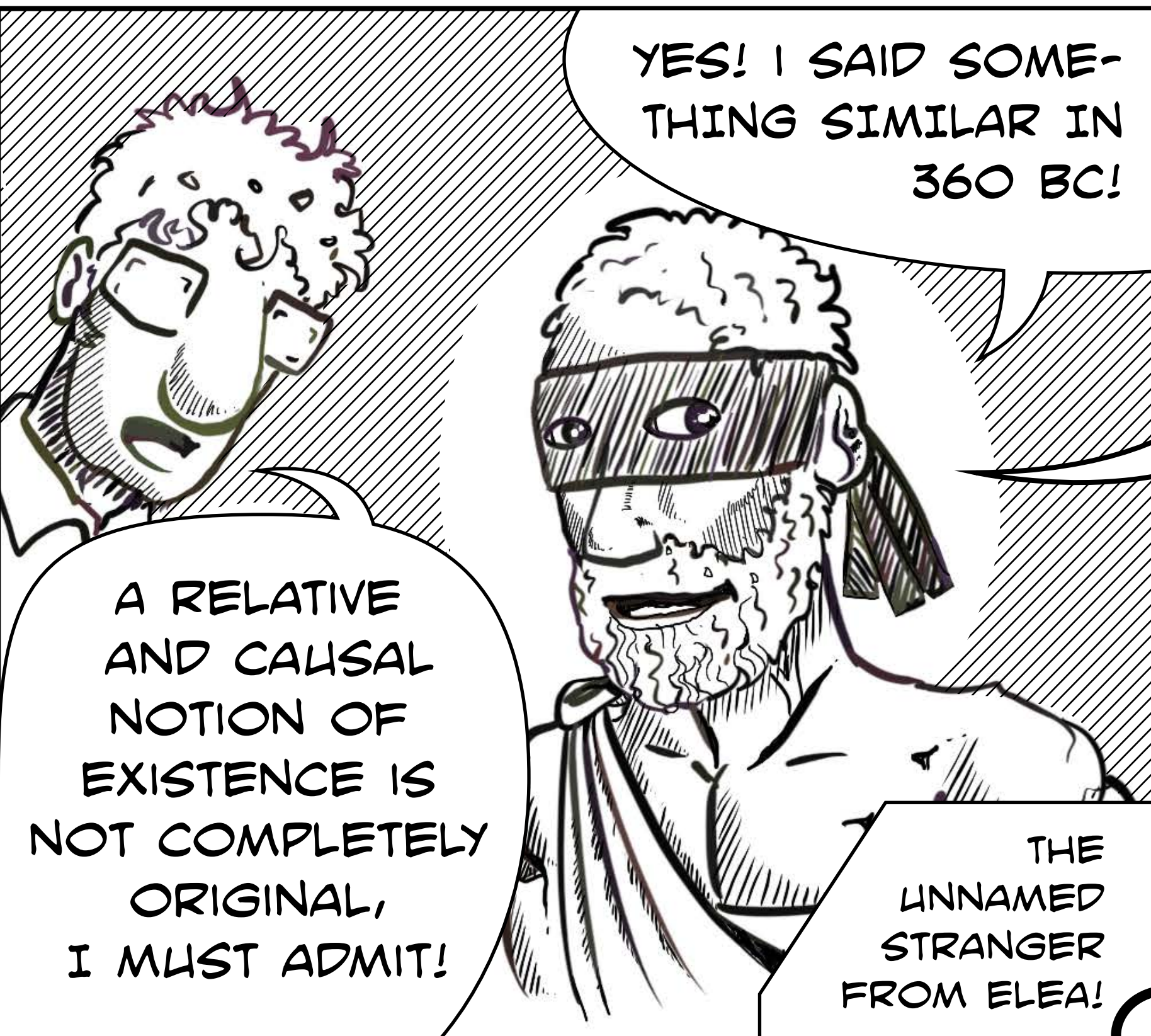
THIS IS NOT THE CASE!



ON THE CONTRARY, SUCH A WORLD IS JUST A SUBSET OF A WIDER WORLD OF RELATIVE PROPERTIES THAT WE REACH IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE DUE TO THE UNIQUE DIFFERENCES AMONG BODIES.

YET, EVERYTHING IS PHYSICAL!

EXISTENCE IS UTTERLY RELATIVE!



YES! I SAID SOMETHING SIMILAR IN 360 BC!

A RELATIVE AND CAUSAL NOTION OF EXISTENCE IS NOT COMPLETELY ORIGINAL, I MUST ADMIT!

THE UNNAMED STRANGER FROM ELEA!

"A THING GENUINELY IS IF IT HAS SOME CAPACITY EITHER TO ACT ON ANOTHER THING OR TO BE ACTED ON. WHAT MARKS OFF THE THINGS THAT ARE AS BEING IS NOTHING OTHER THAN CAPACITY."



EXISTENCE IS RELATIVE AND RELATION IS CAUSATION



PHYSICAL CONTINUUM

RELATIVE OBJECTS WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH

PHYSICAL CONTINUUM

REALITY EXISTS ONLY RELATIVE TO SOMETHING ELSE. IN OUR CASE, IT EXISTS RELATIVE TO OUR BODY.

PHYSICAL CONTINUUM

RELATIVE OBJECTS WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH

PHYSICAL CONTINUUM

FOR INSTANCE, WHEN I TURN AROUND MY BODY CHANGES AND IT BRINGS INTO EXISTENCE A DIFFERENT REALITY.

WHAT ABOUT THE TRADITIONAL QUESTION: IF A TREE FALLS IN A FOREST AND NO ONE IS AROUND TO HEAR IT, DOES IT MAKE A SOUND?

OOOH!!!

ANY SOUND?

THE SOUND TOO IS A RELATIVE OBJECT AND THUS, TO TAKE PLACE, REQUIRES A HEARING SYSTEM. NOT A MIND, BUT A PROPER ADDITIONAL OBJECT!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE TREE? IS THE TREE THERE AS I SEE IT WHEN NO ONE IS AROUND?

I DO NOT EXIST AUTONOMOUSLY. NOR AM I A MENTAL THING! I EXIST INSOFAR I TAKE PLACE IN A CERTAIN WAY BECAUSE THERE IS A BODY. YOU KNOW ME RELATIVE TO YOUR BODY BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW I AM RELATIVE TO, SAY, A PEBBLE, OR A SHADE OF GRASS!

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT EVERYTHING EXISTS RELATIVE TO OTHER THINGS. IN THIS WAY, IDEALISM IS DODGED AND WE HAVE A COMPLETELY RELATIONAL ACCOUNT OF REALITY. REALITY IS NO LONGER SPLIT IN A SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE SIDE. THE PHYSICAL IS RELATIVE ... AND RELATIVE HERE MEANS CAUSALLY ACTIVE. A RELATION IS NOTHING BUT A CAUSAL PROCESS.

WE CAN ALSO OVERCOME THE TRADITIONAL NAIVE MATERIALISM THAT HAS CONCEIVED PHYSICAL ENTITIES AS THOUGH THEY WERE ABSOLUTE AND AUTONOMOUS.

REALITY IS RELATIVE! BUT PHYSICAL NONETHELESS.

TO BE CONTINUED...