

WHO ARE YOU TIMES TWO



Ingrid Klass

Illustrated by Christopher Tice

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For all of my teachers and all of my students
(who are my teachers, too).
And for Quin.



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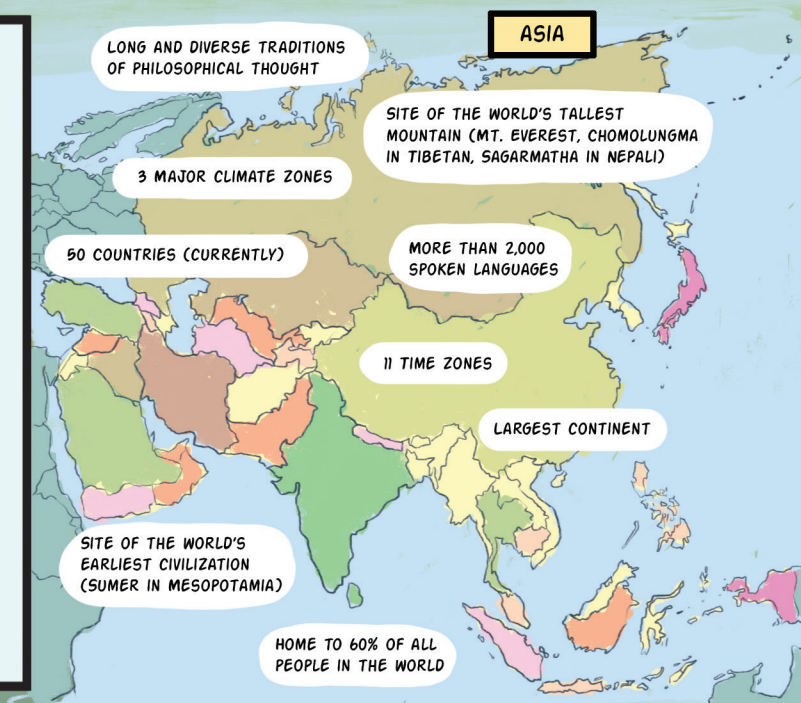
INTRODUCTION: WHO ARE YOU?

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL BACK IN TIME FIVE YEARS, TEN YEARS, OR EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE YOURSELF IN THE PAST? HOW WOULD YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT YOUR YOUNGER SELF WAS YOU? WOULD YOU BE CONFIDENT AND SAY, "OF COURSE THAT'S ME! I'D KNOW ME ANYWHERE!" OR DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE UNCERTAIN AND WONDER, "WHO IS THAT?"

OUR BODIES ARE MADE OF CELLS THAT CONTINUALLY DIE AND RENEW. OUR THOUGHTS, MEMORIES, HABITS, AND SKILLS ALL EVOLVE AND CHANGE. BUT AS TIME TICKS ON, DOES WHO WE ARE CHANGE TOO? HOW MUCH? IN WHAT WAY? WHY? DO WE CHANGE SO MUCH THAT WE BECOME A DIFFERENT PERSON AT SOME POINT? (WHEN IS THAT POINT?) OR DOES SOMETHING ABOUT US NEVER CHANGE, NO MATTER WHEN IN TIME WE ARE? (AND WHAT WOULD THAT SOMETHING BE?)

THESE QUESTIONS BRING UP MORE QUESTIONS (GENERALLY A NICE THING TO HAPPEN): WHO ARE YOU TO BEGIN WITH? WHAT IS ANYTHING TO BEGIN WITH? DOES EVERYTHING CHANGE THROUGH TIME? ALSO, WHAT IS TIME? AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOW CAN YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS?

PHILOSOPHERS THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE ASKED QUESTIONS SUCH AS THESE ABOUT BEING, IDENTITY, AND TIME. IN THIS BOOK YOU'LL EXPLORE SOME OF THE ANSWERS GIVEN BY CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL THINKERS FROM THREE REGIONS OF THE ASIAN CONTINENT: CHINA, INDIA, AND IRAN AND IRAQ IN THE MIDDLE EAST. YOU'LL MEET PHILOSOPHERS FROM CHINA SUCH AS KONGZI (CONFUCIUS) AND THOSE WHO DISAGREED WITH HIM. YOU'LL MEET PHILOSOPHERS FROM INDIA SUCH AS THE BUDDHA AND THOSE WHO BUILT UPON HIS IDEAS OR HAD DIFFERENT VIEWS ALTOGETHER. YOU'LL ALSO MEET PHILOSOPHERS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST WHO LIVED DURING THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD KNOWN AS THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM, INCLUDING THE GREAT POLYMATH AL-KINDI, WHO ENERGIZED A HUGE MOVEMENT TO TRANSLATE, INTERPRET, AND EXPAND UPON THE ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHERS. BY THINKING DEEPLY, LEARNING, STUDYING, AND ENGAGING WITH DIFFERENT VIEWS THROUGH DISCUSSION AND DEBATE, EACH PHILOSOPHER YOU WILL MEET IN THIS BOOK SOUGHT TO DISCOVER AND EXPLAIN MEANINGFUL TRUTHS.

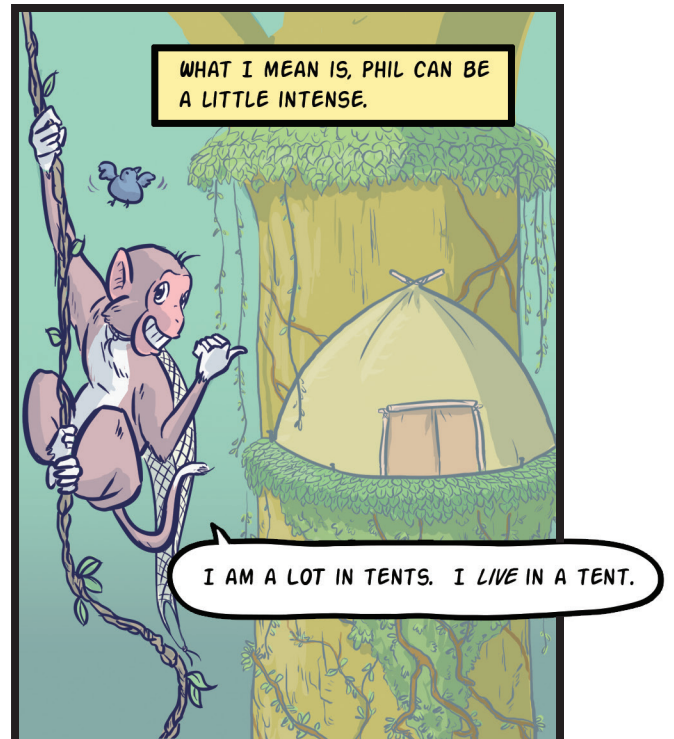


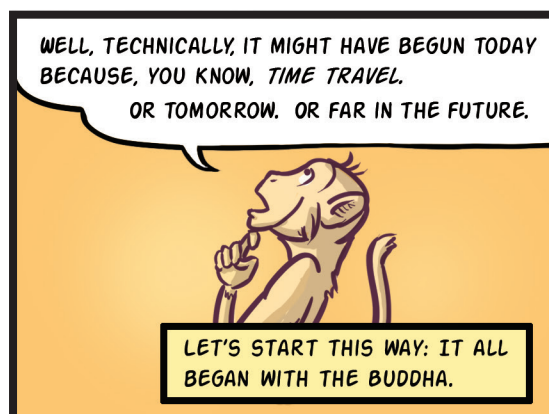
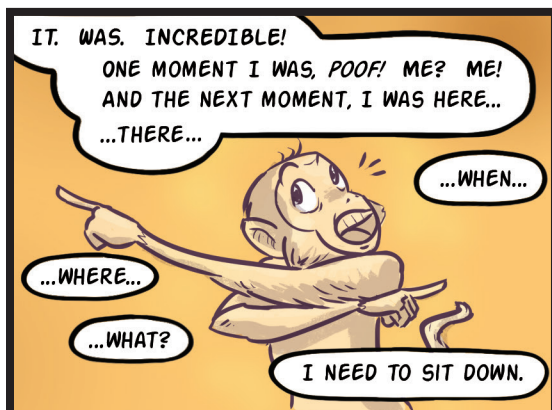
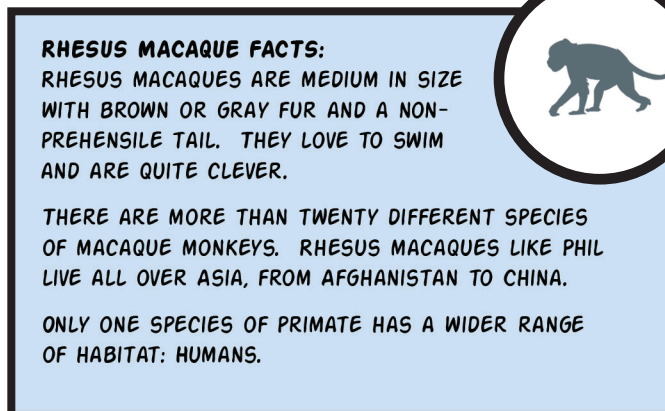
PHILOSOPHY IS THE SEARCH FOR WISDOM AND TRUTH, AND THAT SEARCH INCLUDES VOICING YOUR OPINIONS AND TESTING YOUR IDEAS THROUGH DEBATE AND DISCUSSION. WHY DO YOU THINK WHAT YOU THINK? WHAT'S YOUR EVIDENCE? WHAT'S YOUR MOST CONVINCING ARGUMENT FOR WHY YOUR VIEW IS RIGHT? WHEN WE LEARN ABOUT THE GREAT PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATES OF HISTORY, WE JOIN THE HUMAN SEARCH FOR TRUTH THAT HAS SPANNED ALL TIMES AND PLACES. THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH ISN'T ALWAYS EASY—WE MIGHT MAKE SOME WRONG TURNS, WIND UP WITH MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS, OR ACCIDENTALLY PLUNGE THE UNIVERSE INTO ETERNAL CHAOS (METAPHORICALLY, OF COURSE)—BUT IT'S ALWAYS AN ADVENTURE! ARE YOU READY?

I WAS BORN READY.

CHAPTER ONE

MEET PHIL.





HOW PHIL BECAME A TIME-TRAVELING MONKEY

TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN INDIA, A MAN NAMED SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA SPENT HIS LIFE THINKING ABOUT HOW TO BECOME WISE AND AWARE. HIS STUDENTS AND FOLLOWERS CALLED HIM THE BUDDHA, MEANING "THE ONE WHO IS AWAKE." IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH, THE BUDDHA DEVELOPED PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS ABOUT HOW OUR MINDS WORK, WHO WE ARE, AND HOW WE CHANGE.

NORTHERN INDIA, C. 500 B.C.E.

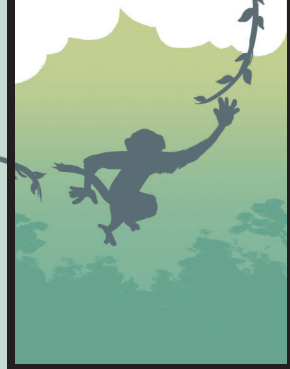
ONE DAY THE BUDDHA WAS TALKING TO SOME OF HIS STUDENTS. HE WONDERED IF THEY EVER NOTICED HOW OUR BODIES TEND TO CHANGE SLOWLY, WHILE OUR MINDS CAN ZIP FROM THOUGHT TO THOUGHT LIKE A HYPER MONKEY.



JUST LIKE A MONKEY ROAMS THROUGH THE FOREST, GRABBING ONTO ONE BRANCH, THEN THE NEXT, SO TOO DOES OUR MIND SWING FROM THOUGHT TO THOUGHT.

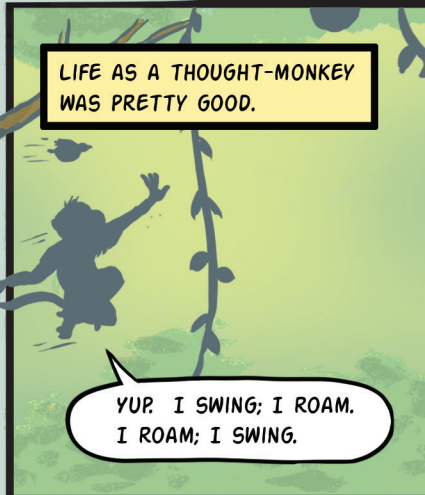


AND POOF! ONE THOUGHT-MONKEY.



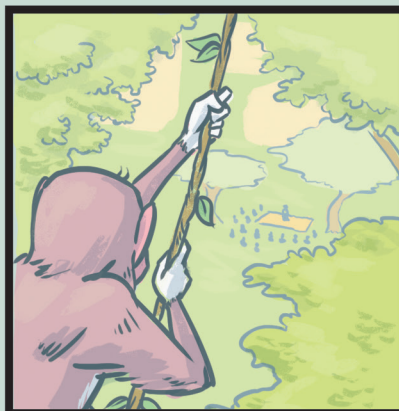
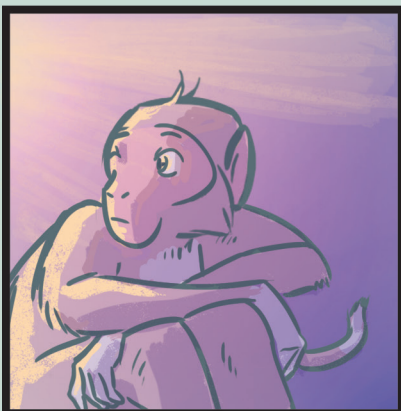
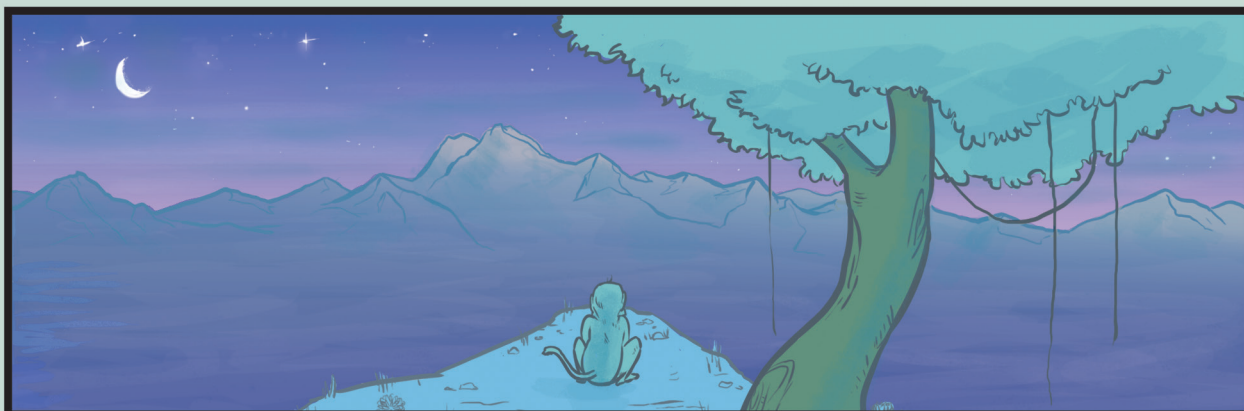
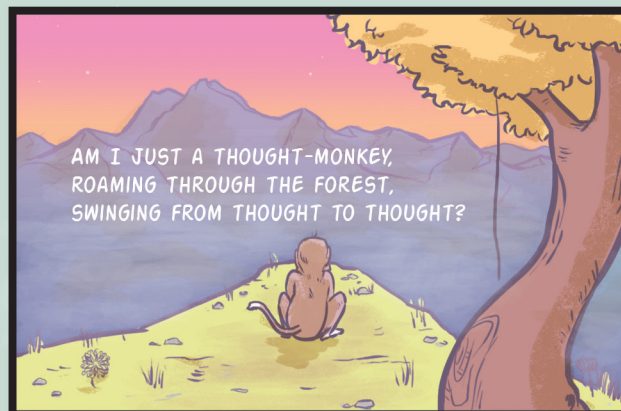
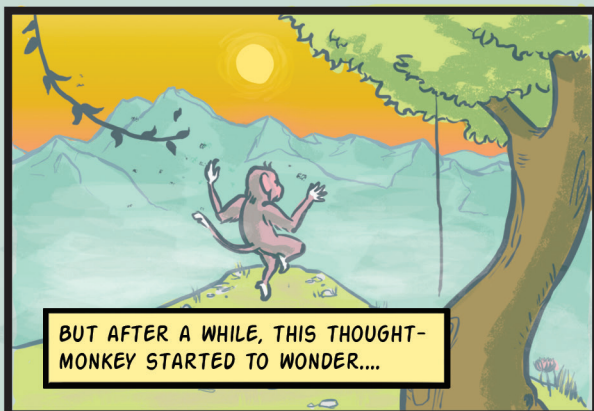
LIFE AS A THOUGHT-MONKEY WAS PRETTY GOOD.

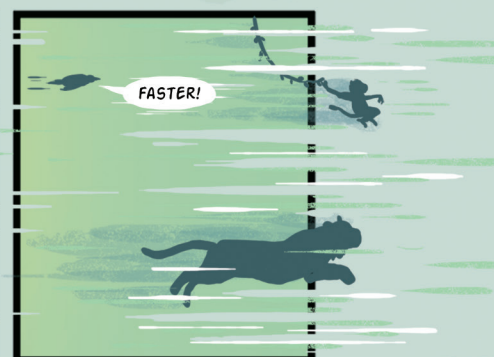
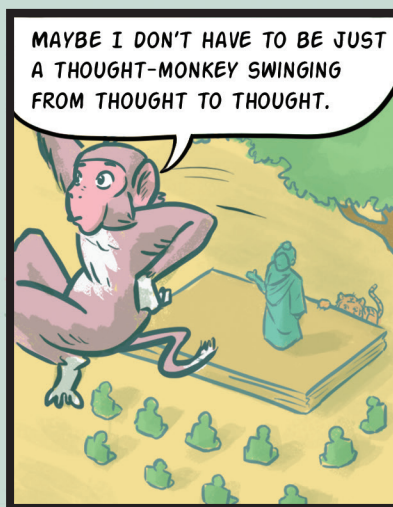
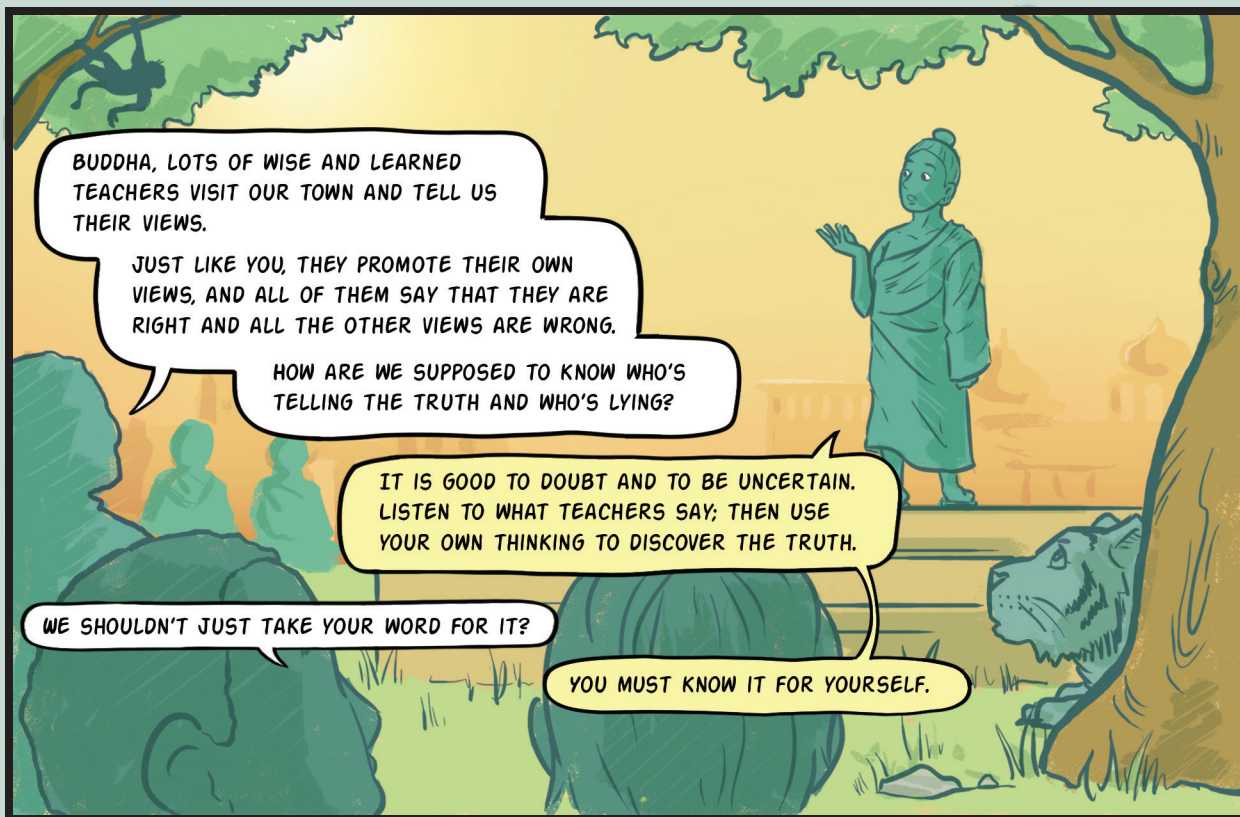
YUP. I SWING; I ROAM.
I ROAM; I SWING.



MOSTLY.







THIS MONKEY THOUGHT SO FAST THAT HE ENDED UP ALL THE WAY IN CHINA, WHERE A TEACHER CALLED KONGZI, MEANING "MASTER KONG," WAS LIVING. KONGZI SPENT HIS LIFE THINKING ABOUT HOW HUMANS CAN BECOME MORE ETHICAL AND HOW SOCIETIES CAN REDUCE CONFLICT AND INCREASE HARMONY.

EASTERN CHINA, C. 500 B.C.E.

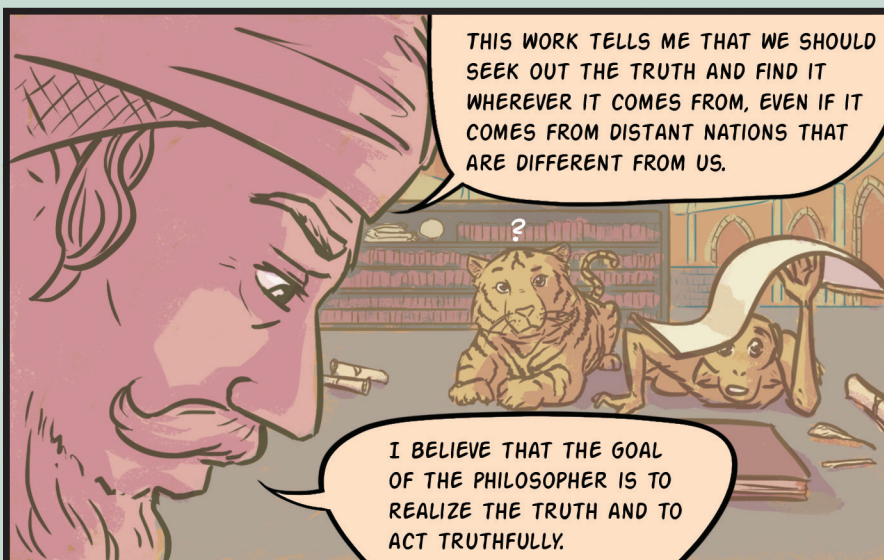
KONGZI IS ALSO KNOWN BY HIS LATINIZED NAME: CONFUCIUS. "ZI" IS A TERM OF RESPECT.



THIS TIME, THE THOUGHT-MONKEY THOUGHT SO FAST THAT HE TRAVELED THROUGH SPACE AND TIME TO LAND IN THE GRAND LIBRARY OF BAGHDAD, HOME TO THE HOUSE OF WISDOM. THERE, A THINKER NAMED AL-KINDI WAS BUSY ORGANIZING THE TRANSLATION OF WORKS BY ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHERS INTO ARABIC. WHILE STUDYING THE GREEK TEXTS, AL-KINDI WROTE WORKS DETAILING HIS OWN PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS ABOUT REALITY, GOD, AND THE UNIVERSE.

SHHH! NO TALKING IN THE LIBRARY!


BAGHDAD, C. 850 C.E.



THIS WORK TELLS ME THAT WE SHOULD SEEK OUT THE TRUTH AND FIND IT WHEREVER IT COMES FROM, EVEN IF IT COMES FROM DISTANT NATIONS THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM US.

I BELIEVE THAT THE GOAL OF THE PHILOSOPHER IS TO REALIZE THE TRUTH AND TO ACT TRUTHFULLY.

I CAN SEEK OUT THE TRUTH WHEREVER IT COMES FROM? WISDOM IS KNOWING WHAT I DON'T KNOW?



I CAN DISCOVER THE TRUTH THROUGH MY OWN THINKING?



CALL ME PHIL BECAUSE I'M GOING TO BE A *PHILOSOPHER*!

GRRRRREAT IDEA!

AND THAT'S HOW PHIL BECAME A TIME-TRAVELING MONKEY.

PHILOSOPHY MONKEY

CHAPTER TWO



BACK IN THE PRESENT

AH, A HAMMOCK IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH! BEING A PHILOSOPHY MONKEY IS SO RELAXING. NO MORE SWINGING FROM THOUGHT TO THOUGHT. INSTEAD OF SWINGING, I AM *THINKING*.

YOU'RE STILL SWINGING.

THE WORD *PHILOSOPHY* COMES FROM GREEK FOR "LOVE OF WISDOM," BUT PEOPLE FROM ALL TIMES AND PLACES HAVE SEARCHED FOR TRUTHS.

WHAT TRUTH SHOULD I DISCOVER TODAY?
WHAT DON'T I KNOW?

WHY CAN A BIRD FLY, BUT A FLY CAN'T BIRD?

DON'T ASK ME!

WHY DO BAD MANGOES FALL ON GOOD MONKEYS?

WHY IS MY STOMACH GROWLING? OH.

CAN'T PHILOSOPHIZE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!

IF MY STRIPES WERE ORANGE, WOULD THEY STILL BE STRIPES?

WHAT'S THE SOUND OF ONE TIGER GROWLING?

Zzzz

HE'S RIGHT! THIS HAMMOCK IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO PHILOSOPHIZE!

ACK!

ACK!

ACK?

PLEASE DON'T EAT ME!

THE BUDDHA



BUDDHA!

HELLO, SOPHS. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?



NORTHERN INDIA, C. 500 B.C.E.

WE'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF I CHANGE THROUGH TIME OR IF I'M ALWAYS THE SAME ME, NO MATTER WHEN.



AND WE'RE TRYING TO FIGURE IT OUT BEFORE THE UNIVERSE PLUNGES US INTO ETERNAL CHAOS.

HMM. I'D LIKE TO HELP. LET'S CONSIDER ONE CATEGORY OF YOU AT A TIME AND DETERMINE WHICH PARTS OF YOU CHANGE AND WHICH PARTS STAY THE SAME.

MAKES SENSE.

VERY LOGICAL.

THE BUDDHA VIEWED UNDERSTANDING WHO WE REALLY ARE—AND ARE NOT—AS FUNDAMENTAL TO WISDOM AND HAPPINESS.

LET'S START WITH THE BODY. DOES A BODY CHANGE OR STAY THE SAME OVER TIME?



IT CHANGES. I HAVE MORE WHISKERS—



AND ARE YOU SHORTER? YOU FEEL SHORTER.

NOW HOW ABOUT YOUR SENSATIONS—THE WAY YOU EXPERIENCE THE WORLD THROUGH THE SIX SENSES. DO YOUR SENSATIONS CHANGE?



SIX SENSES? I THOUGHT THERE WERE FIVE: FLY, BUZZ, ANNOY, ANNOY, COOKIE.

BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY NAMES MIND AS THE SIXTH SENSE. LIKE A NOSE SENSES ODORS, THE MIND SENSES THOUGHTS.

BLECH. THIS MANGO IS TERRIBLE!

YUM!



I THINK THAT'S A YES FOR SENSATIONS CHANGING.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PERCEPTIONS—HOW YOU PROCESS THE INPUT FROM YOUR SENSES, WHAT YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE. DO YOUR PERCEPTIONS CHANGE?



WELL, I USED TO LIKE EATING MONKEYS. BUT NOW WHEN I SEE A MONKEY, I SEE A POSSIBLE FRIEND.



BEFORE I JUST SAW DINNER.

HOW ABOUT YOUR EMOTIONS? YOUR THOUGHTS? YOUR AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING? DO ALL OF THOSE THINGS CHANGE, TOO?

ALL THE TIME.



EVEN THOUGH WE BROKE TIME, YES.

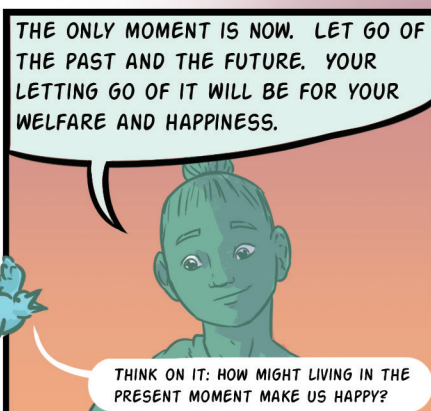
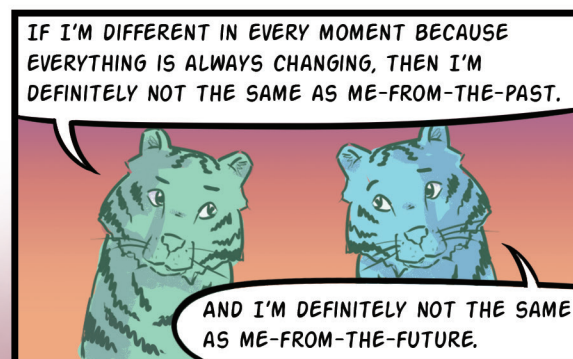
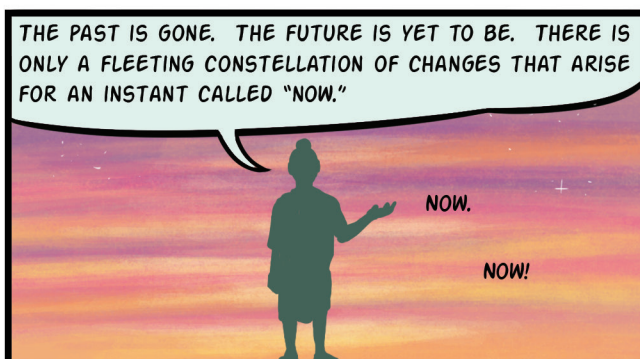
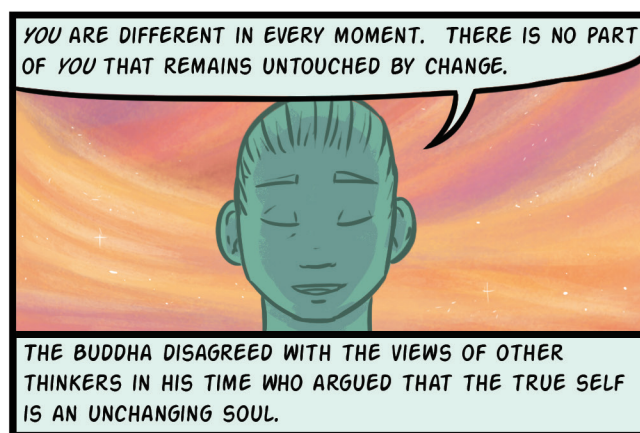
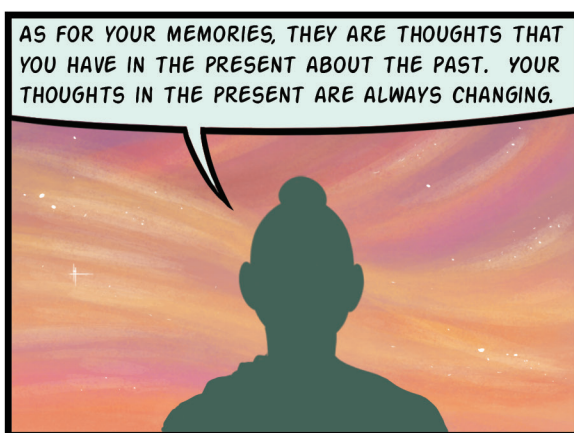
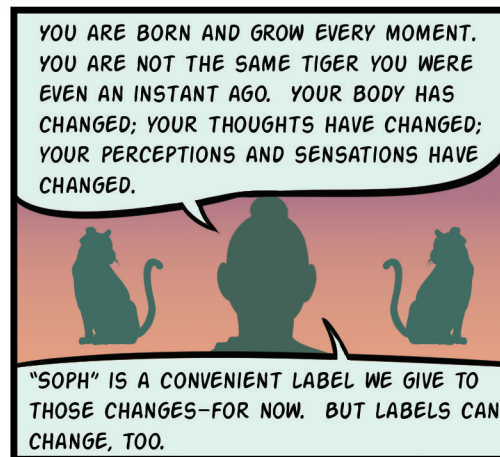
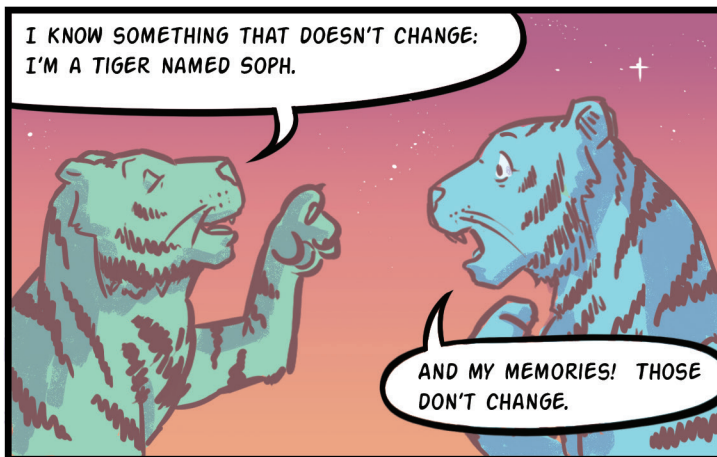
EVERY PART OF YOU CHANGES. TELL ME THE PART OF YOU THAT DOES NOT? WHERE IS IT? WHAT IS IT?

UM....



THINK ON IT: CAN YOU NAME A PART OF YOU THAT DOES NOT CHANGE?





TO FOLLOW THE SOPHS THROUGH THE **SOMEONE** DOOR, TURN TO **PAGE 70**.
TO FOLLOW THE SOPHS THROUGH THE **NO ONE** DOOR, TURN TO **PAGE 72**.