ACTION PHILOSOPHERS!

BY FRED VAN LENTE AND RYAN DUNLAVEY

Issue #1
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PLATO!

WRESTLING SUPERSTAR OF ANCIENT GREECE!

with:



BODHIDHARMA-
Master of Kung-Fu!



NIETZSCHE-
The Übermench!

DISCLAIMER:

This is not a Joke!

THOUGH OUR BOOK IS ***DAMN*** FUNNY, IT IS NEITHER A PARODY NOR A SATIRE. IT TELLS OF THE REAL LIVES AND THOUGHTS OF THE FEATURED PHILOSOPHERS, DEPICTED AS ACCURATELY AS WE CAN IN THE COMICS MEDIUM. WE HERE AT ACTION PHILOSOPHERS CENTRAL TRIPLE-CHECK ***ALL*** OUR FACTS, BUT WE ARE ONLY HUMAN AND BLOOPERS CAN SLIP THROUGH.

IF YOU CATCH ANY ERRORS IN ANYTHING YOU READ HERE, PLEASE NOTIFY SERIES SCRIBE FRED VAN LENTE AT ***FRED.VANLENTE@GMAIL.COM*** SO FUTURE EDITIONS CAN BE EVEN MORE PERFECT THAT THE ONE YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS RIGHT NOW.

DÉJÀ VU DEPARTMENT OF DÉJÀ VU

THE THREE STORIES IN THIS BOOK HAVE APPEARED ELSEWHERE TWICE: IN A PHOTOCOPIED MINI-COMIC FROM MR. RYAN DUNLAVEY; AND, IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SIZE AND FORMAT IN SEQUENT MEDIA'S *PROPHECY ANTHOLOGY VOL. 1* (2004). DON'T WORRY, THOUGH: BEGINNING NEXT ISSUE WE FEATURE ALL NEW, NEVER-BEFORE-- PUBLISHED MATERIAL!



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MEET ACTION PHILOSOPHER #1:

PLATO!!!

"PLATO" MEANS "*BROAD*" OR "*FLAT*" AND WAS THE *STAGE NAME* OF A *PRO WRESTLER* BORN *ARISTOCLES* ON THE ISLAND OF *AEGINA* IN 428 B.C.!

APPARENTLY HE ADOPTED THIS *NOM DE GUERRE* BECAUSE OF HIS EXCEPTIONALLY BROAD *SHOULDERS.**

PLATO 3:16

*: YES, *REALLY.*

THOUGH TWO-TIME CHAMP OF THE *ISTHMIAN GAMES*, PLATO NEVER QUALIFIED FOR THE *OLYMPICS*, NECESSITATING A *CAREER SWITCH.*

PLATO'S MIGHTY HEART *BREAKING...*

CLOSED

YOU SUCK

WHILE DABBLING IN POETRY AND POLITICS IN ***ATHENS***, MR. BROAD FELL IN WITH THE WANDERING SAGE ***SOCRATES*** AND HIS YOUTHFUL STUDENTS.

SOCRATES GOT INTO THE ***PHILOSOPHY*** RACKET WHEN FAMED "PSYCHIC FRIEND" ***THE ORACLE AT DELPHI*** TOLD HIM...

NO MAN IS AS WISE AS ***SOCRATES!***

CALL NOW! ONLY $3.99/MINUTE

1-900-4ORACLE

COOL!

HE WENT ABOUT ***PROVING*** THIS BY SHOOTING DOWN ATHENIAN CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IN BACK-AND-FORTH "***DIALECTIC***" CRITIQUES:

SO IF ***RELIGION*** IS ***B.S.***, THEN ***YOU*** TELL ***ME***: WHAT ***IS*** TRUTH?

I DO NOT ***KNOW***.

WHAT? THEN HOW CAN YOU BE WISER THAN ***EVERYBODY ELSE***?

BECAUSE ***I KNOW*** THAT I DO NOT KNOW.

BY ZEUS, YOU'RE A ***PAIN IN THE ASS.***

SOCRATES ENCOURAGED HIS ***STUDENTS*** TO GET IN THE ACT, AND YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOUNG PEOPLE ***HATE*** SHOWING UP THEIR ***ELDERS***...

IF YOU BOYS ARE SEARCHING FOR ***TRUTH***, YOU SHOULD LOOK TO ***ZEUS***!

ARE ZEUS'S ACTIONS ***ARBITRARY***, OR IS ***HE*** GUIDED BY TRUTH TOO?

OF ***COURSE*** ZEUS IS GUIDED BY TRUTH!

WELL, IN THAT CASE, ***I*** SHOULD JUST LOOK FOR TRUTH...

...FOR A ***WISE MAN*** WOULD NOT ***NEED*** ZEUS!

>GASP!

CHOKE!

THAT DIDN'T GO OVER WELL.

YOU GOIN' ***DOWN***, MISTER KNOW-IT-***NONE***!

DIALECT ***THIS***, MOFO!

IN 399 B.C. SOCRATES WAS CONVICTED OF ***CORRUPTING THE YOUTH OF ATHENS*** AND WAS ***EXECUTED*** WITH A POISON COCKTAIL OF ***HEMLOCK***.

PLATO WOULD CALL SOCRATES' DEATH THE TURNING POINT OF HIS LIFE.

ATHENS CITY LIMITS

BUT ATHENS WAS NO LONGER A SAFE PLACE FOR SOCRATIC STUDENTS! HE WANDERED THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD IN EXILE FOR OVER A DECADE...

...FINALLY ENDING UP IN ***SICILY***, WHERE HE ENCOUNTERED A SECT OF ***PYTHAGOREANS***.

!?!

PYTHAGORAS—HE OF ***TRIANGLE THEOREM*** FAME—FOUNDED A BIZARRE CULT OF ***MATH HIPPIES*** IN THE 6TH CENTURY B.C. WHO BELIEVED THEY COULD COMPREHEND THE NATURE OF THE ***COSMOS*** THROUGH ***NUMBERS***.

TO ***PURIFY*** THEIR MINDS FOR MYSTIC CALCULATIONS, THE PYTHAGOREANS TOOK A VOW OF ***SECRECY***, COULD ONLY WEAR ***WHITE***, AND SWORE OFF ***SEXUAL INTERCOURSE***.

THAT ***LAST*** ONE >*HEH!*< SHOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A ***CHALLENGE***!

SOME OF THE CULT'S ***OTHER*** TENETS WERE RATHER, ER, ***UNIQUE***...

...LIKE A PROHIBITION AGAINST TOUCHING ***BEANS***.



"***ALL IS NUMBER***" WAS THEIR WATCHWORD...

...MEANING OUR MESSY, MATERIAL UNIVERSE IS THE IMPERFECT ***EXPRESSION*** OF A HIGHER, ABSTRACT UNIVERSE...

...A ***PERFECT*** AND ***HARMONIOUS*** REALM OF ***NUMBER***.

OHHHHH... REALM OF ***NUMBERS***...

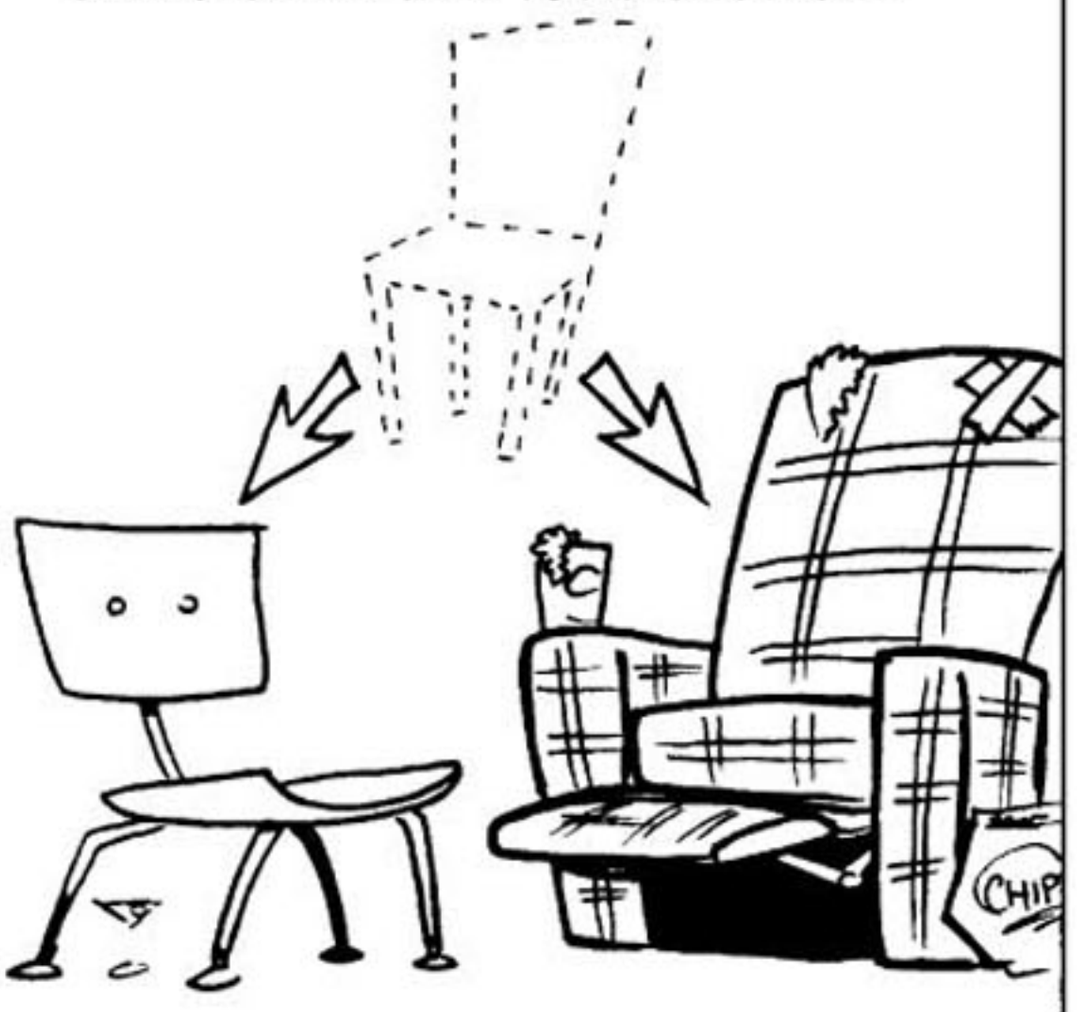
WAIT! PLATO KNOWS HE KNOW WHAT SOCRATES KNEW HE DID ***NOT*** KNOW!

WELL WHADAYA KNOW?

POOF!

EXPOSURE TO THIS THEORY LED PLATO TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ***REAL*** TRUTH WAS ***ABSTRACT***, AND, LIKE NUMBERS UNCHANGING--***ETERNAL***!

ALL ***CHAIRS***, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE SIMPLY THE ***EXPRESSION*** OF THE ***IDEA*** OF A CHAIR--AND THOUGH OUR "REAL" CHAIRS ARE FLAWED AND ***TEMPORARY***...



...THE *IDEA* OR *FORM* OF A CHAIR IS *ETERNAL* AND UNCHANGING!

OHHHHH... REALM OF *FORMS*...

PLATO ILLUSTRATED THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORMS TO OUR WORLD THUSLY:

"IMAGINE THE CONDITION OF MEN AS LIVING IN A SORT OF UNDERGROUND *CAVERN*."

Cine

I.M.N. FORN IN: "REALITY!"

"HIGHER UP, AND SOME DISTANCE *BEHIND* THEM, IS THE *LIGHT* OF A *BURNING FIRE*."

"BETWEEN THE FIRE AND THE MEN IS A *PARAPET*. BEHIND THE PARAPET IMAGINE THERE ARE MEN CARRYING ALL KINDS OF OBJECTS--INCLUDING FIGURES OF MEN AND ANIMALS--WHICH *PROJECT* ABOVE THE PARAPET."

"IN *ALL WAYS*, MEN WOULD CONSIDER *REALITY* TO BE NOTHING ELSE THAN THE *SHADOWS* OF THOSE ARTIFICIAL OBJECTS!"

FOR PLATO, THOUGH, THE HIGHEST DUTY OF THE PHILOSOPHER WAS TO LOOK ***BEYOND*** THESE SHADOWS OF OUR ***PERCEIVED*** REALITY...

...AND UNCOVER THE ***FORMS*** THAT ***PROJECTED*** THEM!

PLATO SMASH!

IN FACT, PREFERRING THE ***IDEAL*** TO THE ***PHYSICAL*** WAS ***SUCH*** AN OBSSESSION OF PLATO'S...

LAAAAAANCE! I WANT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO STAY ***PLATONIC!***

...THAT HIS ***NAME*** BECAME A ***SYNONYM*** FOR IT!

WHACK!

ALAS, ***PLATONISM*** DID NOT SERVE ITS CREATOR WELL WHEN HE BECAME ***COURT PHILOSOPHER*** TO ***DIONYSIUS***, KING OF SYRACUSE.

GLORF! SNORF! MUNCH! REND! ETC!

MUST YOU BE SO...***CARNAL***?

YOU SPEAK LIKE A GERIATRIC ***FOOL***!

AND ***YOU*** SPEAK LIKE A ***TYRANT***!*

*: ACTUAL EXCHANGE!

>SIGH!< PLATO HAVE THIS ***PROBLEM*** WITH ***AUTHORITY***...

DIONYSIUS DECIDED TO **HUMILIATE** PLATO BY SELLING HIM INTO **SLAVERY** TO HIS HOMETOWN OF **AEGINA**, WHERE, FORTUITOUSLY, A BUDDY BOUGHT HIS FREEDOM.

PLATO DO **ANYTHING**, JUST DON'T WANT TO GET **REAL JOB!!**

LOT #42
1 Philosopher, used.

HIS BENEFACTOR **ALSO** GAVE HIM ENOUGH DOUGH TO SET UP A **SCHOOL** JUST OUTSIDE ATHENS.

PLATO NAME IT AFTER FORMER RESIDENT OF **NEIGHBORHOOD**, HERO **HECADEMUS!**

AT THE ACADEMY PLATO DIVESTED PYTHAGORISM OF ITS **MONDO-BIZARRO** RITUALS...AND GAVE THE SOCRATICS' **KNEE-JERK CRITIQUING** THE THEORY OF FORMS AS AN OPERATING **VALUE SYSTEM**, THEREBY CREATING ...

...**COLLEGE!**

LIKE **ANY** GOOD PROFESSOR, PLATO **PUBLISHED** WIDELY AS WELL.

AGAIN?! BUT I GOTTA TALK ABOUT MY **INDEPENDENT STUDY!** >WHINE!<

OFFICE HOURS CANCELLED

PLATO'S WORKS TAKE THE FORM OF **DIALOGUES**, OR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TEACHER AND STUDENT. INVARIABLY THE **TEACHER** IS SOCRATES HIMSELF, **RESURRECTED** BY PLATO TO MOUTH **HIS OWN** THEORIES- AND GIVE THEM ADDED **LEGITIMACY!**

SOCRATES

BRAINS!! MUST...USE... BRAINS!!

IN *THE APOLOGY* PLATO TRANSFORMS TRANSIENT ***CRACK-POT*** SOCRATES INTO HISTORY'S FIRST ***LIBERAL MARTYR!***

SINCE I DO NOT KNOW WHAT COMES ***AFTER*** DEATH, WHY SHOULD I ***FEAR*** IT?

HIS WITTY ***HUMANISM*** TRUMPS OUR STAID ADHEARANCE TO ***TRADITION!*** >CHOKE!<

>CHUCKLE!<

HE'S ***RIGHT***-- BUT BECAUSE HE'S AN ***AFFRONT*** TO OUR POWER--WE HAVE TO KILL HIM ***ANYWAY!***

PLATO'S ACADEMY ***THRIVED*** FOR CENTURIES AS A CENTER FOR ***MATHEMATICS*** AND ***ETHICS***-- TWO SUBJECTS DEPENDANT ON ***ABSOLUTES!***

SOCRATES SOCRATES SOCRATES

BUT IN HIS DIALOGUE *THE REPUBLIC*, PLATO HIMSELF TRIED USING THE ***SAME*** ABSOLUTES TO PROPOSE THE ***PERFECT SOCIETY.***

HERE CHILDREN WOULD BE TAKEN FROM THEIR MOTHERS AT ***BIRTH*** AND RAISED IN STATE ***ORPHANAGES***, SO THEY WOULD THINK OF THE ***GOVERNMENT*** AS THEIR ***PARENTS.***

MA-MA! DA-DA!

SCHOOLING DETERMINED A CITIZEN'S PLACE IN SOCIETY. ALL THOSE WHO FLUNKED ***GYM*** BECAME ***FARMERS*** TO GROW FOOD FOR THE GOOD OF ***ALL.***

>PANT!< >PANT!< !@#$%! ***DODGE-BALL!***

IF YOU PASSED GYM BUT FLUNKED ***MATH***, YOU'D ENTER THE ***MILITARY.***

THERE'S 3,000 OF ***THEM***--AND ONE PLUS ONE PLUS ONE OF ***US!***

WE ***OUTNUMBER*** THEM!! ***GET 'EM***, BOYS!!!

BUT IF YOU EXCELLED AT GYM ***AND*** MATH, YOU WERE ONE OF THE ***ELITE***, DESTINED TO ***LEAD*** THE REPUBLIC, AND ***YOU*** WOULD GET TO STUDY--

--WAIT FOR IT--

PHILOSOPHY! (SURPRISED?)

THESE PHILOSOPHER-RULERS WOULD *SLEEP TOGETHER*, WORK TOGETHER, AND SHARE *ALL* POSSESSIONS, AND *THIS* WOULD KEEP THEM FREE OF *CORRUPTION*.

NAIR

(*POLITICAL* CORRUPTION, THAT IS.)

ONE OF THE 35 WOULD BE CHOSEN TO BE THE *PHILOSOPHER-KING* WHO WOULD RULE OVER *ALL*. ALL MUSIC AND LITERATURE THAT DID NOT PRAISE THE STATE WOULD BE *BANNED*- ALL *INDIVIDUALISM* WOULD BE UTTERLY *ERADICATED*.

PLATO WOULD HAVE FORCED *HUMAN SOCIETY* TO ADHERE TO THE *IMPOSSIBLE, ABSTRACT STANDARD* OF THE *REALM OF FORMS!*

IN 367 B.C. PLATO WAS OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO *REALIZE* HIS DEMENTED BRAND OF *HOMOEROTIC FASCISM...*

DUDE! COME BACK TO *SYRACUSE!* MY BROTHER DIONYSUS IS *DEAD!* WE CAN SET UP *THE REPUBLIC*, IT'LL BE *AWESOME!*

HMMM...

YOU'RE AN *IDIOT*.

THINGS DIDN'T GO EXACTLY AS *PLANNED*. PLATO WISELY STAYED *OUT* OF POLITICS UNTIL HIS *DEATH* IN 347 B.C.

THE CHRISTIAN EMPEROR *JUSTINIAN* SHUT DOWN THE ACADEMY IN A.D. 529, BECAUSE IT WAS TOO *ATHEISTIC* FOR HIM. THIS EVENT IS USUALLY USED TO DEMARCATE THE START OF *THE DARK AGES*.

OUT OF BUSINESS

NEVERTHELESS, THE FUNDAMENTALS OF *ACADEMIC LIFE* HAVE CHANGED LITTLE SINCE PLATO *INVENTED* THEM...

...SO IF YOU EVER THOUGHT YOUR PROFESSORS WERE A LITTLE ***DICTATORIAL...***
OR JUST PLAIN ***OUT TO LUNCH...***

THE SUBLIMINAL ***REINSCRIBEMENT*** OF PHALLO-CENTRIC SPECIESIST HEGEMONY IN 1980'S VIDEOGAMES IS MOST APPARENT IN THE ***PSYCHO-SEXUAL*** TROPES OF "***BURGERTIME***"

ATARI

...WELL, ***NOW*** YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WERE ***LUNCHING.***

OHHHHH...
REALM OF ***IDEAS...***

HEY, KIDS! MEET ACTION PHILOSOPHER #2:

BODHIDHARMA!



...GRANDMASTER OF KUNG FU!!

THE *TIME*? A.D. *520*!

THE *PLACE*? THE *SHAOLIN* TEMPLE ATOP *SHAO-SHIH* MOUNTAIN IN RURAL *CHINA*!

IF A TREE FALLS IN A FOREST AND *RYAN DUNLAVEY* ISN'T THERE TO DRAW IT AND *FRED VAN LENTE* ISN'T THERE TO SCRIPT IT, WILL IT MAKE A COMIC?

HERE MONKS EMPLOY THEMSELVES TRANSLATING AND COPYING THE SACRED TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA, *THE ENLIGHTENED ONE*...

...FOUNDER OF THE RELIGION THAT EMERGED FROM *INDIA* IN THE 6TH CENTURY *B.C.* AND SWEPT *EAST*, BECOMING CHINA'S *NATIONAL* FAITH!

BUT THERE'S NOT A LOT OF ***SCRIPTURE-COPYING*** GOING ON ***TODAY.***

TODAY ***SHOULD*** BE A ***JOYFUL*** DAY...

...FOR ***BODHIDHARMA*** HAS ARRIVED IN CHINA!

THE FAMED PATRIARCH OF THE ***DHYANA SCHOOL*** OF BUDDHISM DECIDED TO BECOME A POOR MISSIONARY, PREACHING IN FOREIGN LANDS, UPON THE DEATH OF HIS ***OWN*** TEACHER.

RUMOR HAD IT THAT HE WAS BORN TO VAST ***WEALTH*** IN CONJEEVERAM, IN SOUTHERN INDIA, BUT HE GAVE IT ALL ***UP*** TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF THE ENLIGHTENED ONE!

SOME WHISPERED HE WAS SO SINGLE-MINDED THAT HE HAD ***WALKED*** ALL THE WAY FROM INDIA!

HE WAS GIVEN A GRAND WELCOME BY ***EMPEROR WU*** HIMSELF! "I HAVE BUILT MANY TEMPLES AND MONASTERIES," THE EMPEROR SAID. "I HAVE COPIED THE ***SACRED BOOKS*** OF THE BUDDHA. NOW ***WHAT*** IS MY MERIT?"

AND THIS ***UPPITY FOREIGNER*** HAD THE TEMERITY TO REPLY:

"NONE ***WHATSOEVER,*** YOUR MAJESTY!"

SUCH ***HERESY*** COULD NOT BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE HALLOWED HALLS OF ***SHAOLIN TEMPLE!!***

SLAM!

BUT BODHIDHARMA WAS A ***PATIENT*** MAN.

HE'D WAIT UNTIL THE MONKS ***CHANGED THEIR MINDS.***

AND HE WOULD ***WAIT...***

AND ***WAIT...***

...FOR NINE LONG YEARS!

WHOA... HIS GAZE IS SO ***INTENSE*** IT BORE A ***HOLE*** IN THE CLIFFSIDE!

MAYBE HE REALLY ***DOES*** HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW US!

ONCE ADMITTED INTO ***SHAOLIN***, BODHIDHARMA SET ABOUT TEACHING THE MONKS ***HIS*** BRAND OF BUDDHISM!

BETWEEN YOU AND ME, I'M GLAD HE'S MAKING US DUMP ALL THIS ***COPYING SCRIPTURES!*** I WAS COMIN' DOWN WITH ***CARPEL TUNNEL!***

BODHIDHARMA'S ***DHYANA SCHOOL*** WAS INSPIRED, IN PART, BY A LINE FROM THE ***PALI CANON***:

"ALL THAT ***IS*** COMES FROM THE ***MIND***;
IT IS ***BASED*** ON THE MIND;
IT IS FASHIONED ***BY*** THE MIND."

TO BE AT PEACE WITH THE ***WORLD***, FIRST YOU HAVE TO BE AT PEACE WITH ***YOURSELF***— AND ***THAT*** IS EASIER SAID THAN ***DONE***!

>*PFFFFFT!*< YEAH, RIGHT! ***I'M*** KEEPIN' IT ***REAL!***

BIG MART

SALE! SHIT U DON'T EVEN NEED

DO THE DOG

OH? HOW CAN YOU BE SO ***SURE***...

...WHEN THE "***REAL***" YOU KEEP IS SO SPECIFIC TO ***YOU*** ALONE?

AMERICAN (ERIE, PA)

UPPER MIDDLE CLASS

WHITE

DIVORCED PARENTS, LIVES WITH DAD

HETEROSEXUAL

MALE

YOU ***PERCEIVE*** WHAT IS ***REAL*** ONLY AS IT IS STRAINED THROUGH YOUR ***CONSCIOUSNESS...***

...BUT YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS ***BIASED*** TOWARD YOUR OWN SENSE OF ***IDENTITY***, OR ***SELF!***

IN ***BUDDHISM***, ONLY ***ENLIGHTENMENT*** - THE ANNIHILATION OF THE ***SELF*** - CAN ***LIBERATE*** A PERSON'S CONSCIOUSNESS TO EXPERIENCE UNMEDIATED, ***OBJECTIVE*** REALITY.

TRADITIONAL BUDDHISM HELD THAT ENLIGHTENMENT WAS A ***LIFELONG*** PROCESS REQUIRING AN INTENSE ***STUDY*** OF THE BUDDHA'S TEACHING.

GEEZ, THIS IS TAKING ***FOREVER...***

DHARMA

BODHIDHARMA DIDN'T ***BUY*** THAT. AFTER ***ALL...***

THE ***BUDDHA*** DID NOT HAVE THE SCRIPTURES, YET ***HE*** BECAME ENLIGHTENED. WHAT DO THE ***REST*** OF US NEED IT FOR?

HIS ***DHAYNA*** SCHOOL HELD THAT ENLIGHTENMENT COULD ONLY COME IN THE FORM OF AN ***INSTANTANEOUS INSIGHT!***

BODHIDHARMA BELIEVED THAT MAINSTREAM BUDDHISTS USED THE BUDDHA'S LESSONS AS A ***CRUTCH*** THAT ACTUALLY ***HINDERED*** ENLIGHTMENT.



HENCE ONE OF HIS MOST FAMOUS ***SAYINGS:***



"IF YOU SEE BUDDHA ON THE ROAD...***KILL HIM!***"





...I HAVE *PACIFIED* IT.

HE USED *RIDDLES* AND *PARADOXES* TO INSTANTLY *GOOSE* THE STUDENT'S MIND INTO THINKING *OUTSIDE* ITSELF!

THESE RIDDLES, CALLED "***KOANS***," DEMONSTRATE THE ***ABSURDITY*** OF TRUTH, AT LEAST INASMUCH AS IT IS UNDERSTOOD BY THE SUBJECTIVE SELF:

*"IF A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST AND NO ONE IS THERE TO **HEAR** IT, DOES IT MAKE A **SOUND**?"*

EH?

*"WHAT IS THE SOUND OF ONE HAND **CLAPPING**?"*

@#*&?

*"WHAT DID YOUR FACE LOOK LIKE BEFORE YOU WERE **BORN**?"*

WAAH!

THE POINT ISN'T TO ***ANSWER*** KOANS, BUT TO CONTEMPLATE WHY THEY ***CAN'T*** BE ANSWERED!

WORDS AND **LANGUAGE** ARE ALL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN **ONE** SELF TO **ANOTHER**, AND THEREFORE **USELESS.**

IN OTHER WORDS, "**FACTS**" AS WE KNOW THEM ARE **ILLUSIONS!** ALL STATEMENTS ARE **LANGUAGE**, AND BY DEFINITION **OPINIONS!**

POPPYCOCK! THE **SCIENTIFIC METHOD** PROVES THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF ASCERTAINING **OBJECTIVE** REALITY THROUGH REPEATED **EXPERIMENTATION!**

AH, BUT THE "UNCERTAINLY PRINCIPLE" OF **QUANTUM MECHANICS** PROVES THAT **SUBATOMIC PARTICLES** ALTER THEIR BEHAVIOR WHEN OBSERVED BY RESEARCHERS! EVEN **PHYSICS** IS TAINTED BY THE **SELF!**

REAL TRUTH IS **EXPERIENTIAL**, AND CANNOT BE **MEDIATED.**

IT'S THE ULTIMATE **"YOU HAD TO BE THERE."**

LANGUAGE... SCIENCE... EVEN **ART** IS SUBJECTIVE AND CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

THAT *INCLUDES* THIS COMIC STRIP!!

SORRY.

THE ONLY *TRUTH* CONVEYED BY A LANGUAGE-BASED KOAN IS THE LINGERING *QUESTION MARK* WHERE THE ANSWER WOULD BE... *IF* ONE *EXISTED!*

CONTEMPLATING THIS IN MEDITATION ALLOWS YOU TO *"ENTER THE SILENCE"...*

...WHEREIN THE *DISTINCTIONS* BETWEEN YOU AND THE REST OF THE WORLD OF WHICH YOU ARE A *PART* BREAK DOWN...

...AND YOU ACHIEVE THE *PEACE* ONLY POSSIBLE BY BECOMING *ONE* WITH OBJECTIVE *REALITY.*

THIS WAS HOW BODHIDHARMA PREACHED *DHYANA*, WHICH THE CHINESE MISPRONOUNCED *"CHEN"*...

...AND THE JAPANESE APPROPRIATED AS *"ZEN."*

LONG-TERM MEDITATION IS AS STRENUOUS ***PHYSICALLY*** AS IT IS MENTALLY. TO KEEP THE SHAOLIN MONKS IN ***PEAK*** CONDITION, BODHIDHARMA DEVELOPED STRENUOUS ***EXERCISES***.

HIS CHARGES RIGHTLY CALLED THESE "HARD WORK..."

...OR, IN CHINESE, "***KUNG FU!***"

NOBODY KNOWS IF BODHIDHARMA ACTUALLY ***INTENDED*** FOR HIS EXERCISES TO BE DEVELOPED INTO A ***PERSONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM...***



...BUT THE LEGENDARY ABILITY OF THE MARTIAL ARTS MASTER TO SIMPLY ***REACT*** AND ***DEFLECT*** BLOWS AS THEY'RE AIMED AT HIM IS A ***PERFECT*** EXAMPLE OF THE ZEN IDEAL OF ***ANNIHILATING*** THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THE REST OF THE WORLD!



OOH! OOH! ***MASTER!*** WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOU INVENTING ***ZEN BUDDHISM*** AND ***KUNG FU***, BUT WE JUST WANTED TO KNOW...

...WELL, WHAT WE ***REALLY*** WANTED YOU TO TEACH US WAS THAT WHOLE BORE-INTO-SOLID-ROCK-WITH-YOUR-***GAZE*** TRICK.

Y'SEE, I'M GOING TO THIS ***PARTY*** LATER TONIGHT, AND I WAS JUST THINKIN'...

ARGH.

LEGEND HAS IT THAT BODHIDHARMA WAS LAST SEEN AT AN ***ADVANCED*** AGE, LEAVING CHINA BY A ***WESTERN GATE***, WITH ONE OF HIS ***SANDALS*** BALANCED ON HIS HEAD!

HE WAS ALWAYS ONE TO ***GOOSE*** CONVENTION, JUST TO GET HIS POINT ACROSS...

Hey! Kids-

RRRiiiiPP!!!

NIETZSCHE

ACTION PHILOSOPHER

MEET ACTION PHILOSOPHER #3:

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE!!

COLLECT 'EM ALL!

WRITTEN BY FRED VAN LENTE • ILLUSTRATED BY RYAN DUNLAVEY

OUR HERO IS BORN IN 1844 NEAR MODERN-DAY ***LEIPZIG***, GERMANY, TO A LONG LINE OF ***PREACHERS***.

FOR MOST OF HIS CHILDHOOD, LITTLE FRIEDRICH WANTS TO BE A MAN OF THE CLOTH ***HIMSELF***...

...BUT ***COLLEGE*** CHANGES ALL THAT. HE SWITCHES HIS ALLEGIANCE TO ***CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP***. (ALTHOUGH, AS WE SHALL SEE, HIS THOUGHTS NEVER STRAY ***FAR*** FROM ***SALVATION***!)

IN 1868 HE JOINS THE ***PHILOLOGY*** (LITERATURE) DEPT. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ***BASEL*** (SWITZERLAND).

YOUNG PROF. NIETZSCHE GAINS NOTORIETY WITH THE PUBLICATION OF '***THE BIRTH OF TRAGEDY***' (1872), IN WHICH HE ARGUES THAT ATHENIAN DRAMA SERVED A ***NATIONALIST***, CULTURALLY ***UNIFYING*** PURPOSE.

Go ATHENS

KICK SPARTA'S ASS

GREEKS RULE

IN ANCIENT ATHENS NIETZSCHE SEES A ***MIRROR*** OF HIS BELOVED, MODERN-DAY ***GERMANY***, NOW UNIFYING POLITICALLY AFTER CENTURIES AS INDIVIDUAL, SQUABBLING ***PRINCIPALITIES***...

...AND HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO THE SPECTRE OF ***COMMUNISM*** CREEPING ACROSS EUROPE!

WORKERS UNITE!

MARX IS SO ***FULL*** OF IT.

NIETZSCHE'S POOR HEALTH FORCES HIM TO PREMATURELY ***RETIRE*** FROM TEACHING IN 1878, AND NOW HE HAS TIME TO ***DEVELOP*** HIS ANTI-SOCIALIST IDEAS MORE ***THOROUGHLY***... AND HE ENDS UP CRITIQUING ***ALL*** OF WESTERN SOCIETY!

SAID CRITIQUE CAN PERHAPS BE MOST EASILY SUMMED-UP WITH THE STATEMENT:



"***EQUALITY*** IS A HUMAN-CREATED CONCEPT, ***BOGUS*** AND ULTIMATELY ***CORRUPTING.***"

IT'S TOTALLY ***ANTITHETICAL*** TO OUR ***DEMOCRATIC*** WAY OF THINKING, BUT ***ANOTHER*** WAY TO PUT IT IS TO INVOKE THE OLD ***PUNK ROCK ETHOS***:



ALAS, THIS ***ALSO*** APPLIES TO ***PEOPLE.***

FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN WE SEE A ***BIG FISH*** GET READY TO SWALLOW A ***LITTLE FISH***, WE SAY:



BUT WHEN A ***BIG PERSON*** DOES MORE OR LESS THE SAME THING TO A ***LITTLE PERSON***, WE SAY:





EQUALITY IS PHONY AND UNNATURAL BECAUSE, JUST LIKE FISH, SOME PEOPLE ARE BIGGER, STRONGER AND SMARTER THAN OTHERS--BUT ARE PERSECUTED FOR ACTING LIKE IT!

AND, UNIVERSAL EXPERIENCE TELLS US THAT ***SOME*** PEOPLE ACT LIKE ***BIG FISH*** ALL THE ***TIME***--SO LONG AS THEY HAVE ***OTHER*** HUMAN-CREATED CONCEPTS LIKE WEALTH, LEGAL OR RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY BACKING THEM ***UP.***



EQUALITY IS THEREFORE ALSO ***CORRUPTING*** BECAUSE IT MAKES ALL OF US ***HYPOCRITES...***

...FOR FOLLOWING SOMETHING WE ***KNOW*** (UNCONSCIOUSLY OR NOT) TO BE A ***LIE.***

HOW DID THIS WOEFUL STATE OF AFFAIRS COME ABOUT?

ONCE UPON A TIME, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, THE SMARTEST AND STRONGEST OF ANY GIVEN GROUP OF HUMANS NATURALLY BECAME THEIR RULER--

UNCA' FRIEDRICH'S Bedtime Stories

"-I CALL THIS PERSON AN ÜBERMENSCH, OR 'SUPERMAN.'"

I'M TIRED OF THE SUPERMAN GETTING ALL THAT TAIL!

ME MUST THINK OF...DUH...SUMPIN' TO GET DAT SOOPERMAN!

THE SUPERMAN KICKED MY ASS FOR NOT WORKING THE MAMMOTH PITS! I TRIED TO FIGHT BACK, BUT HE'S SO MUCH STRONGER THAN ME!

"SO THE JEALOUS MASSES BANDED TOGETHER AND INVENTED..."

>WHISPER< >WHISPER< >MUMBLE< >MUMBLE< >MUTTER< >RHUBARB< >MUTTER<

...RELIGION!!

I AM GOD!! I AM AN INVISIBLE, SUPERNATURAL ENTITY THAT IS GREATER THAN THE SUPERMAN!!

YOU MUST OBEY ME, NOT HIM!! AND BECAUSE I AM INVISIBLE, ALL MY COMMANDS MUST BE DICTATED BY...

...THE PRIEST RACE, HERE!

THERE IS NO SUPERMAN!

ALL ARE EQUAL IN THE EYES OF GOD!

ANYONE CAN BE A SUPERMAN!

WELL GOH-LLEE!

"EVER *SINCE*, WESTERN SOCIETY HAS RETAINED THIS *BASIC* MONOTHEISTIC IDEAL..."

EVERYONE IS EQUAL IN THE *FREE MARKETS!*

ALL ARE EQUAL IN THE EYES OF THE *LAW!*

"BUT THE MASTER '*PRIEST*' CLASS ALWAYS MAKES SURE *IT'S* MORE EQUAL THAN *OTHERS!*"

"ALAS, SINCE EQUALITY IS *BOGUS*, THIS '*OPIUM OF THE MASSES*' IS ULTIMATELY *UNSATISFYING*, SINCE *LITTLE* FISH CAN'T SUDDENLY *TRANSFORM* INTO *BIG FISH* BY A PROCESS OF *SELF-DETERMINATION!*"

"YOU *MIGHT* AS WELL GET MISERABLE AND DEPRESSED BECAUSE..."

WAAAH!! I WANNA SPROUT *WINGS* AND FLY TO *VENUS!*

"WITHOUT THE *NATURAL* LEADERSHIP OF THE SUPERMAN, THE ALWAYS-*DISAPPOINTED* MASSES AND THE *MASTER RACE* ARE LOCKED IN A PERPETUAL-BUT-*MEANINGLESS* STRUGGLE FOR *TEMPORAL POWER*."

"MARTIN LUTHER'S *PROTESTANT REFORMATION*-THE MUTATION OF *FUEDALISM* INTO *CAPITALISM*--THE *AMERICAN* AND *FRENCH* REVOLUTIONS--*NONE* OF THEM HAVE CHANGED A *THING*...AND *COMMUNISM* WON'T BE ANY *DIFFERENT!*"

"*NONE* OF THESE 'REVOLUTIONS' ADDRESS THE *REAL* SOURCE OF THE MASSES' DESPAIR:"

"THE INVENTION OF GOD MADE THE SUPERMAN STOP BELIEVING IN HIS *OWN* EXISTENCE!"

MY WIFE'S GONNA *KILL* ME IF I DON'T GET THAT *BONUS!*

WHY DON'T MORE PEOPLE *LIKE* ME?

THIS *PIMPLE* ON MY *ASS* REALLY *HURTS!*

BUT LINCA *FRIEDRICH*, HOW CAN HUMAN MISERY BE *RELIEVED*?

BEATS THE HECK OUTTA *ME*, KID.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, NIETZSCHE WAS A *NIHILIST* AND A *PESSIMIST* WHO BELIEVED THAT LIFE *WAS* MISERY.

STILL, ALL THE ***SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES*** OF THE 19TH CENTURY ***SHOOK*** BELIEF IN ORGANIZED RELIGION, LEADING HIM TO FAMOUSLY PROCLAIM IN '***THUS SPAKE ZARATHUSTRA***' (1885) THAT:

GOD IS ***DEAD!***

AND ***THAT*** MEANT:

I ***REMEMBER WHO I AM!!***

THE ***SUPERMAN!!*** YOU'RE ***BACK!!*** YAAAAAY!!

BUT WHO ***WAS*** THE SUPERMAN? NIETZSCHE ***FIRST*** LATCHED ONTO ULTRANATIONALIST COMPOSER ***RICHARD WAGNER***, HE OF *RING OF THE NIBELUNG* FAME.

NIETZSCHE BECAME WAGNER'S BIGGEST ***CHEERLEADER*** IN THE EARLY 1870'S, HELPING HIM RAISE ***FUNDS*** AND LION-IZING HIM IN ***PRINT***.

LIKE GREECE'S ***AESCHYLUS***, THE MAJESTY OF HIS ***OPERA*** WILL PACIFY AND ***UNIFY*** THE GERMAN MASSES AND MAKE THEM ***FORGET*** COMMUNISM! >SIGH!<

BUT WHEN WAGNER BECOMES A ***BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN*** NIETZSCHE ABANDONS HIM AND THE CONCEPT OF ***SALVATION*** THROUGH ***ART***.

NIETZSCHE ***EVEN*** GOES SO FAR AS WRITE SCATHING ***CONDEMNA-TIONS*** OF HIS FORMER FRIEND, CULMINATING IN '*NIETZSCHE CONTRA WAGNER*' (1895).

ALMOST ***ALL*** OF NIETZSCHE'S MAJOR WORKS OF PHILOSOPHY- "***BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL***"--"***TWILIGHT OF THE IDOLS***"--ARE WRITTEN LESS THAN A DECADE INTO HIS RETIREMENT.

SPX SMALL PHILOSOPHER'S EXPO

KNOW-NOTHING ***JERKS!*** >GRUMBLE<

KISS MY BUTT ONLY $50!

DOH! 30% 50% OFF!

BUT ***FEW*** OF HIS ***SELF-PUBLISHED*** BOOKS SELL MORE THAN ***100 COPIES***, AND NIETZSCHE REMAINS ***UNKNOWN*** BEYOND A VERY ***SMALL*** CADRE OF ADMIRERS. (MANY OF THEM ***EUROPEAN NOBILITY***).

HIS HEALTH--PHYSICAL ***AND*** MENTAL--DETERIORATES DUE TO PROSTITUTE-CONTRACTED ***SYPHILIS*** AND HE HAS TO MOVE BACK IN WITH HIS ***MOM*** IN 1889.

THOUGH HE BECAME CONVINCED ***GUESS-WHO*** WAS ***YOU-KNOW-WHAT***, HE DIED MOSTLY ***IGNORED*** BY THE INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY IN 1900.

AND WHO **KNOWS**? MAYBE NIETZSCHE WOULD HAVE **REMAINED** OBSCURE...

...IF HIS IDEAS HADN'T BEEN **SHANGHIAED** AND **PERVERTED** BY SOME OF THE 20TH CENTURY'S BIGGEST **SCUMBAGS.**

IT'S SPINNING OUTTA CONTROL!! RUN!!!

NIETZSCHE

IT'S GONNA BLOW!!!

INCLUDING JAZZ AGE THRILL-KILLERS **LEOPOLD & LOEB**...

BY **MURDERING** THIS **SMALL BOY** FOR NO **REASON**, WE'RE **PROVING** WE'RE **SUPERMEN!**
>NYUK!<

WE'RE EXPRESSING OUR **"WILL TO POWER,"** LIKE BIG FISH GOBBLING UP **LITTLE FISH!**
>NYUK!<

FOOLS! THE SUPERMAN'S POTENCY IS **CREATIVE**, NOT **DESTRUCTIVE** IN NATURE! **THAT'S** WHY IT IS **NATURAL** FOR THE MASSES TO **FOLLOW** HIM!

...AND, OF COURSE, ONE-BALLED WONDER **ADOLF HITLER.**

HERR NIETZSCHE WAS **RIGHT!** THE JEWS **ARE** OPPRESSING THE MASTER RACE-THE **ARYANS!** THEY MUST BE **DESTROYED!**

IDIOT! **ALL** RELIGION IS FUNDAMENTALLY OPPRESSIVE, **NOT** JUST JUDAISM!

AND AN ENTIRE **RACE** CAN'T BE SUPERMEN--THEY'RE TOO **RARE** FOR THAT! **MORON!!**

REMEMBER, KIDS!! BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK TO COLLECT ALL TWELVE **ACTION PHILOSOPHERS!**

ALBERT CAMUS RACEWAY PLAYSET!

SOCRATES

WITH HEMLOCK-DRINKING ACTION!

RECOMMENDED READING FOR THE GENIUS-ON-THE-GO

SURE, WE COULD GIVE YOU A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ALL THE WORKS THAT WENT INTO THE MAKING OF ***ACTION PHILOSOPHERS***. BUT WOULD YOU READ THEM ALL? HELL, NO. YOU'RE BUSY PEOPLE, WE CAN TELL. WHY ELSE WOULD YOU CONSUME THE WORLD'S GREAT THINKERS IN THE FORM OF A *COMIC BOOK*, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD?!

SO IN THE SPIRIT OF A FRIEND SAYING ***"IF YOU HAD TO READ ONE BOOK ON X, IT SHOULD BE Y,"*** IN THIS AND FUTURE ISSUES OF ***ACTION PHILOSOPHERS*** WE WILL BE RECOMMENDING *ONE* BOOK PER FEATURED PHILOSOPHER IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE ABOUT THEM AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY. THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS FOR THE BOOKS I HAVE ON MY SHELF, BUT MORE RECENT EDITIONS ARE PROBABLY AVAILABLE (AND JUST AS GOOD).

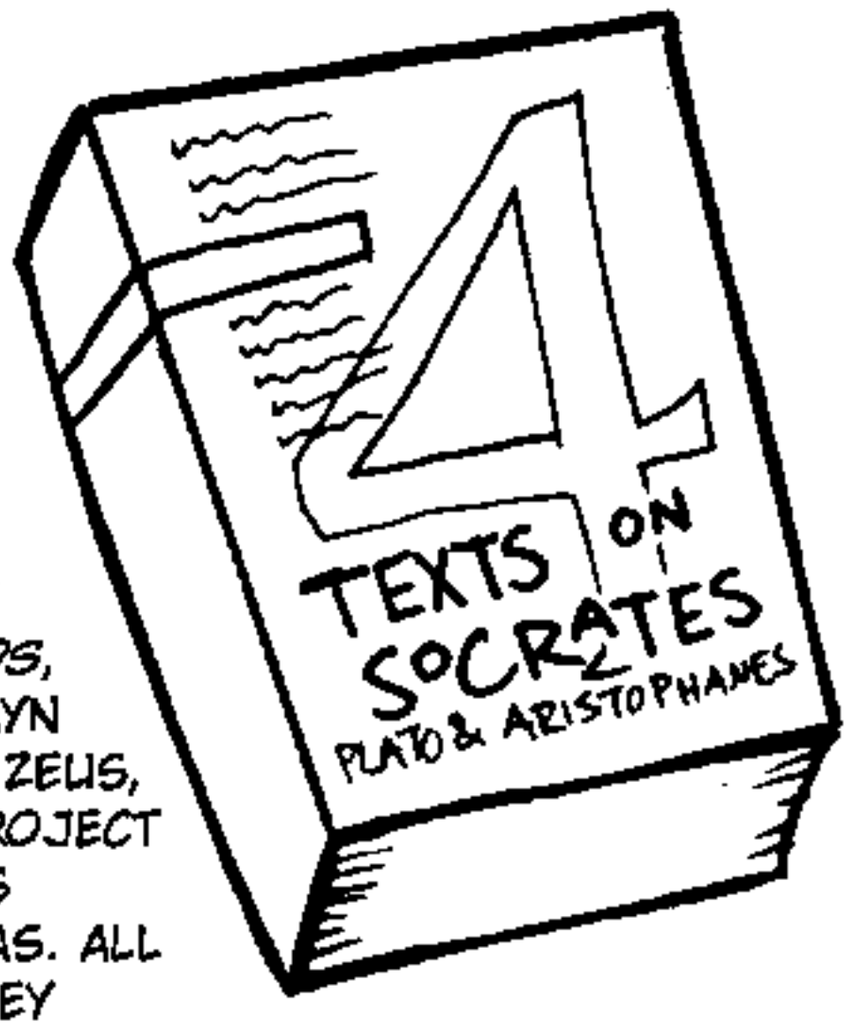
ALSO, I'M NOT GOING TO PEPPER MY REVIEWS WITH LOTS OF QUALIFIERS LIKE "IN MY OPINIONS" OR "FOR MY TASTES." YOU READ THE BODHIDHARMA STORY IN THIS ISSUE. JUST ASSUME ALL THAT'S WRITTEN BELOW IS ONE MAN'S HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE, NON-DEFINITIVE AND QUITE FALLIBLE TAKE ON THE WORKS DISCUSSED. -F.V.L.



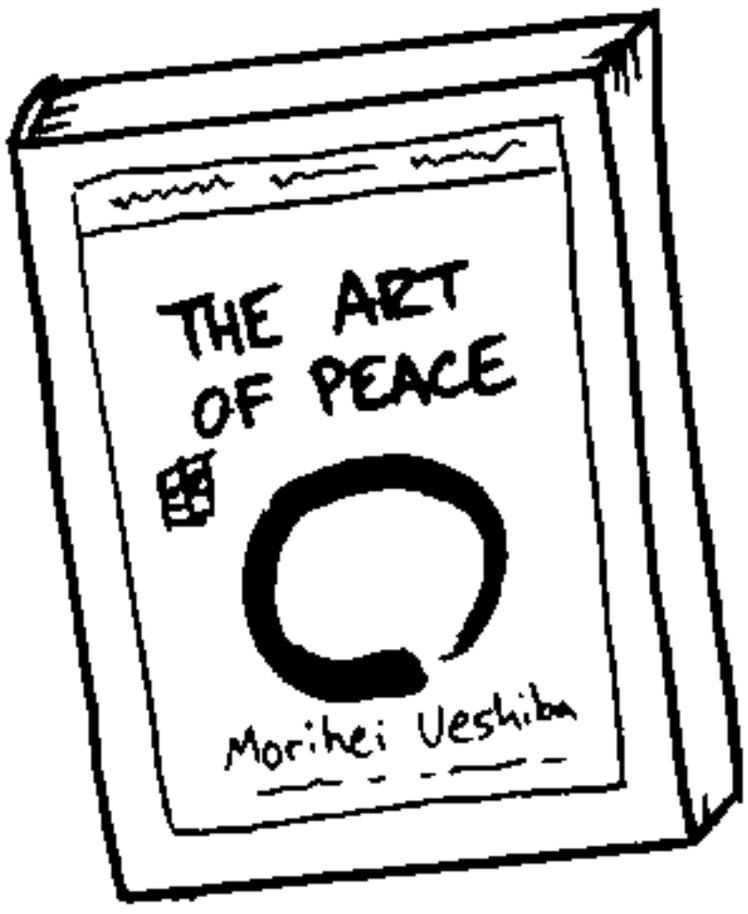
FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE. *ON THE GENEALOGY OF MORALS / ECCE HOMO*. TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY WALTER KAUFMANN. NEW YORK: VINTAGE BOOKS, 1967.

THOUGH NOT AS FAMOUS AS *THUS SPOKE ZARATHUSTRA*, *MORALS*, A "SEQUEL" TO *BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL* CONTAINS SOME OF NIETZSCHE'S FUNNIEST WRITING AND MOST LUCID (FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD) REASONING. (THE GUY WRITES VERY ELLIPTICALLY.) IN THIS EDITION YOU GET TWO BOOKS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE. AS FOR *ECCE HOMO*, NIETZSCHE'S AUTO-HISTORY OF HIS OWN PHILOSOPHY, HOW COULD YOU ***NOT*** LOVE ANY BOOK THAT CONTAINS THE CHAPTERS "WHY I AM SO WISE," "WHY I AM SO CLEVER," AND "WHY I WRITE SUCH GOOD BOOKS"?

PLATO AND ARISTOPHANES. *FOUR TEXTS ON SOCRATES*. TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK WITH NOTES BY THOMAS G. WEST AND GRACE STARRY WEST. ITHACA: CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1998.



TALK ABOUT BANG FOR THE BUCK: THREE OF PLATO'S MOST FAMOUS DIALOGUES STARRING HIS RAILROADED TEACHER (*EUTHYPHRO*, *CRITO*, AND OF COURSE SOCRATES' FICTIONALIZED DEFENSE AT HIS TRIAL, *THE APOLOGY*); AND, FOR THE DISSENT, ARISTOPHANES' COMEDY *THE CLOUDS*, A SATIRICAL ASSAULT ON SOCRATES' IDEAS THAT WOULD HAVE MADE AYN RAND PROUD (SEE NEXT ISSUE). IN THE PLAY, SOCRATES RENOUNCES ZEUS, TAKES THE EVER-SHIFTING CLOUDS AS HIS GODS (GET IT? YOU CAN PROJECT WHATEVER ***FORMS*** YOU WANT ONTO THEM? GET IT?) AND TEACHES HIS NEIGHBOR'S SON THAT INCEST AND FATHER-BEATING ARE TERRIFIC IDEAS. ALL THE FARRELLY BROTHERS NEED TO MAKE IT INTO A MOVIE IS JIM CARREY AS SOCRATES.



MORIHEI UESHIBA. *THE ART OF PEACE*. TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE BY JOHN STEVENS. BOSTON: SHAMBHALA PUBLICATIONS, INC., 1992.

THOUGH NOT BY OR ABOUT BODHIDHARMA, I'M NOT AWARE OF BODHIDHARMA HAVING WRITTEN ANYTHING YOU CAN ORDER ON AMAZON. SO, IN KEEPING WITH OUR THEME OF THE INTERRELATION BETWEEN KUNG FU AND ZEN BUDDHISM, HERE'S A BOOK OF APHORISMS FROM UESHIBA, THE INVENTOR OF ***AIKIDO***. UESHIBA WAS A MARTIAL ARTS MASTER AND INSTRUCTOR AT JAPANESE MILITARY ACADEMIES WHO RENOUNCED VIOLENCE DURING WORLD WAR II; THE TITLE OF THE BOOK IS A QUITE CONSCIOUS INVERSION OF SUN TZU'S MILITARISTIC CLASSIC *THE ART OF WAR*. A SERIES OF SIMPLE TEACHINGS, IN TINY PARAGRAPHS OR A FEW LINES OF FREE VERSE, ABOUT HOW THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR IS TO CONTROL AGGRESSION, NOT INITIATE IT. GOOD STUFF.

about the creators



Ryan Dunlavey

has studied illustration, fine art and creative writing at Syracuse University and animation at the School of Visual Arts. He currently lives in Brooklyn ("Where the weak are killed and eaten!") slugging out a living as a freelance illustrator, animator and graphic design jack-of-all-trades. His past clients include Disney, Warner Bros, Schoolastic, Penguin, McGraw-Hill, Princeton Review, Classic Media, Nickelodeon, MTV, PBS, ABC News, Central Park, Time Out, Airwalk, The Children's Place and *both* WCW and WWF Wrestling

Ryan has written, illustrated and published his own comics for over a decade, including the series ***Evil Twin*** and ***Tommy Atomic***. He was nominated for a 1998 International Horror Guild award for the comic ***Blood for the Muse***, which he illustrated. He is best known in the comic book world for his work in ***Royal Flush*** and ***Wizard***. He has a website – www.eviltwincomics.com - which totally @#$%ing *rules*.

He really needs a job.

Please send all offers to ryan@eviltwincomics.com



Fred Van Lente

holds a B.A. in English and Textual Studies, with Honors, from Syracuse University, although no one really explained to him what "English and Textual Studies" means. A proud graduate school dropout, after teaching writing at the University of Pittsburgh he decided death was preferable to academia. He was too chicken to kill himself, though, so he did the next best thing: He got a career in comics. He has written educational CD ROMS for the Vatican, been an archivist for the United Nations, and currently serves on the board of MoCCA, the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art in New York City (www.moccany.org).

His comics include, with artist Steve Ellis, ***Tranquility*** (winner of a 1998 Spectrum Award for Best Science Fiction Art) and ***The Silencers*** (named Best Independent Superhero Title of 2003 by Brokenfrontier.com). He is currently writing ***Amazing Fantasy: The New Scorpion*** for Marvel, *in stores now*!!! His shiny new website can be seen at www.fredvanlente.com.

Anyone who can explain to him what his degree means is encouraged to write at fred.vanlente@gmail.com

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HATE THE FRENCH!

I'M GONNA BE CLOSE BY, FELLERS! THAT'S MY CLOVE CIGARETTES!

SACRE BLEU!

WANTED for extreme FRENCHINESS:

DESCARTES!

SARTRE!

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"Fear and Trembling in Copenhagen!"

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"The Scholastic Spastic!"

LUDWIG WITTGENSTIEN
"The guy with the funny sounding name!"


ACTION PHILOSOPHER
PLATO SMASH!
START!
THE LAND OF PERFECT DAY
THE CALL TO ADVENTURE
REFUSAL OF THE CALL
SUPERNATURAL AID
THE HERO'S JOURNEY
ATONEMENT WITH THE FATHER
THE MEETING WITH THE GODDESS
CROSSING THE FIRST THRESHOLD
THE ULTIMATE BOON
REFUSAL OF THE RETURN
THE ROAD OF TRIALS
THE BELLY OF THE WHALE