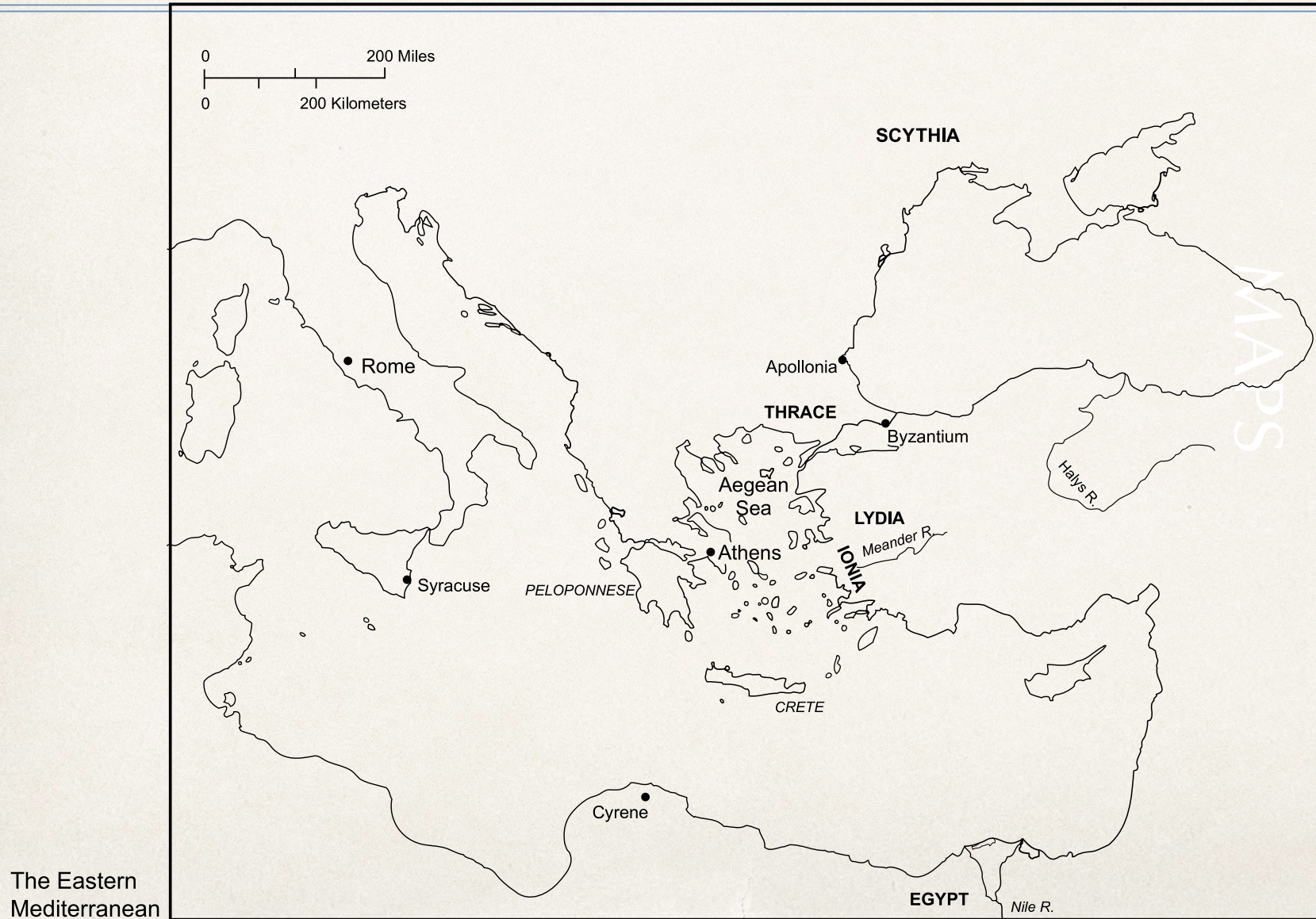


# Western Philosophy Began in Ancient Greece in the Sixth Century BC



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MAPS

A PRESOCRATIC READER



# The School of Athens by Raphael

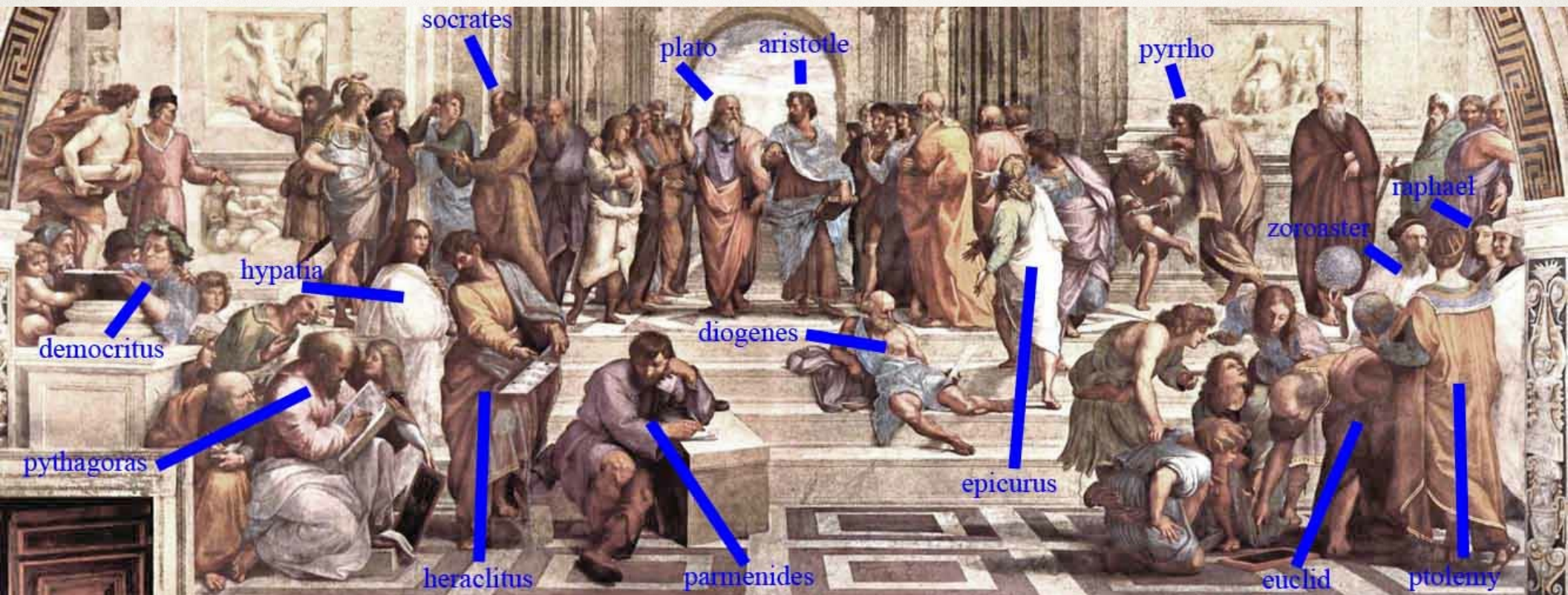
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# Some Names of Ancient Greek Philosophers

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# Quotations from Anaximander

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*... the principle of the reality [=arche] is neither water nor any of the other things called elements, but some nature which is **Infinity** [=apeiron], out of which come to be all the heavens and the worlds in them. Infinity is eternal and ageless and surrounds all the worlds.*

*....in the beginning humans were born from animals of a different kind, since other animals quickly manage on their own, and humans alone require lengthy nursing. For this reason they would not have survived if they had been like this at the beginning.*



# Quotations from Heraclitus

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*The road up and the road down are one and the same.*

*It is not possible to step twice into the same river. . . . It scatters and again comes together, and approaches and recedes.*

*We step into and we do not step into the same rivers. We are and we are not.*

*You would not discover the limits of the soul although you traveled every road: so deep a logos does it have.*

*War is the father of all and king of all, and some he shows as gods, others as humans; some he makes slaves, others free.*



# And in China?

---

While Western philosophy was developing in Ancient Greece in the VI century BC, at the same in China...



# Lao-Tze

---

*Mastering others is strength.  
Mastering yourself is true power.*

*By letting it go it all gets done. The  
world is won by those who let it go.  
But when you try and try. The world  
is beyond the winning.*

*If you realize that all things change,  
there is nothing you will try to hold  
on to. If you are not afraid of dying,  
there is nothing you cannot achieve.*

*Lao Tze, Tao Te Ching*





# Confucius

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*The profound person understands what is moral. The small person understands what is profitable. (4.16)*

*Do not look at, do not listen to, do not speak of, do not do whatever is contrary to ritual propriety. (12.1)*

*Let the ruler be a ruler, the subject a subject, a father a father, and a son a son. (12.11)*

Confucius, *Analectas*





# And in India?

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While philosophy was developing in Ancient Greece and in China in the VI century BC, at the same in India..



# Some Questions the Buddha Refused to Answer

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Is the world eternal?

...or not?

...or both?

...or neither?

Is the world finite?

...or not?

...or both?

...or neither?

Is the self identical with the body?

...or is it different from the body?

**These are precisely  
some of the questions  
that Western  
philosophers have  
struggled to address.  
Why did the Buddha  
refuse to answer them?**



# The Buddhist Parable of the Arrow

---

*It's just as if a man were wounded with an arrow thickly smeared with poison. His friends and companions, kinsmen & relatives would provide him with a surgeon, and the man would say, "I won't have this arrow removed until I know whether the man who wounded me was a noble warrior, a priest, a merchant, or a worker." He would say, "I won't have this arrow removed until I know the given name and clan name of the man who wounded me... until I know whether he was tall, medium, or short... until I know whether he was dark, ruddy-brown, or golden-colored... until I know his home village, town, or city... until I know whether the bow with which I was wounded was a long bow or a crossbow... until I know whether the feathers of the shaft with which I was wounded were those of a vulture, a stork, a hawk, a peacock, or another bird... etc."*

***The man would die and those things would still remain unknown to him.***



# What Is Philosophy Then?

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Using human rationality to ask questions about the essence of reality, human nature and the principles governing society

Realizing the limits of human rational inquiry (*recall the Buddhist parable of the arrow*)



# Philosophical Questions That We Will Explore in This Course

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# Time and Change

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Is time real? Is time an illusion?

Does the world change? Or is change just an appearance?

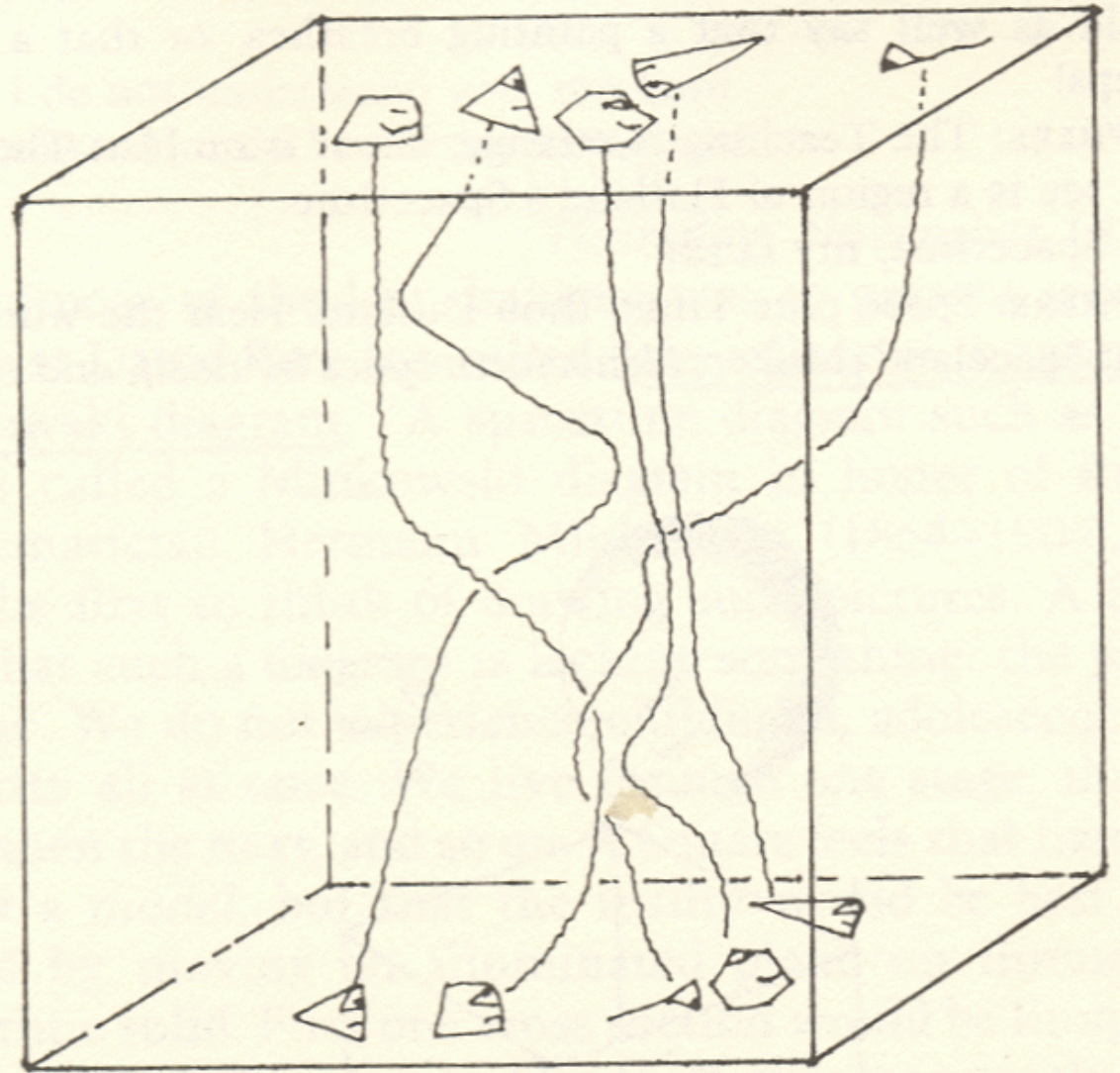
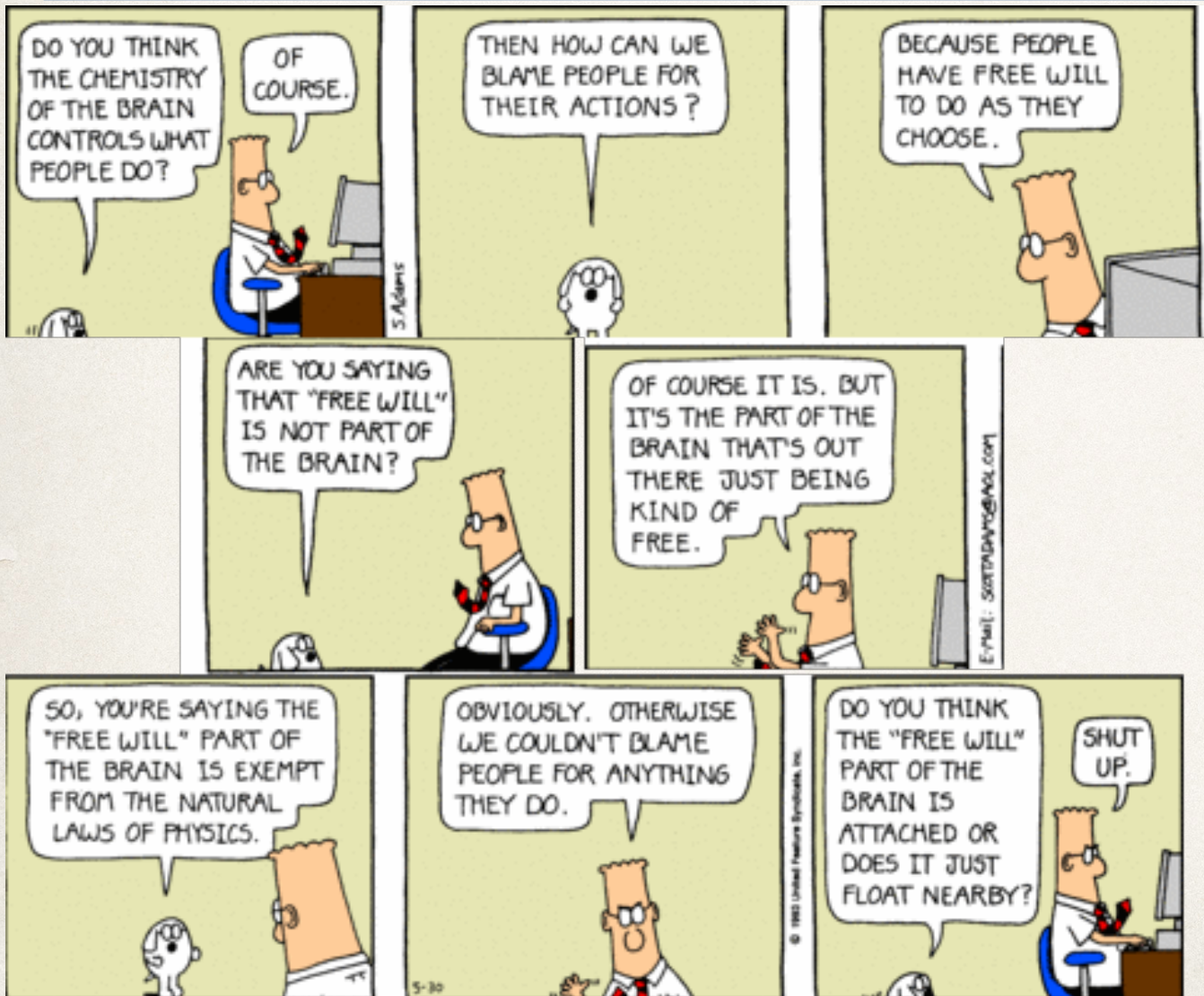


Fig. 140. A tangled tale.



# Free Will and the Future



Is the future predetermined?

Do we have free will? Are we free to choose?



# Consciousness and Artificial Intelligence

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Can  
consciousness  
be physical?

Are we just our  
bodies?

Can a machine  
think and  
understand?



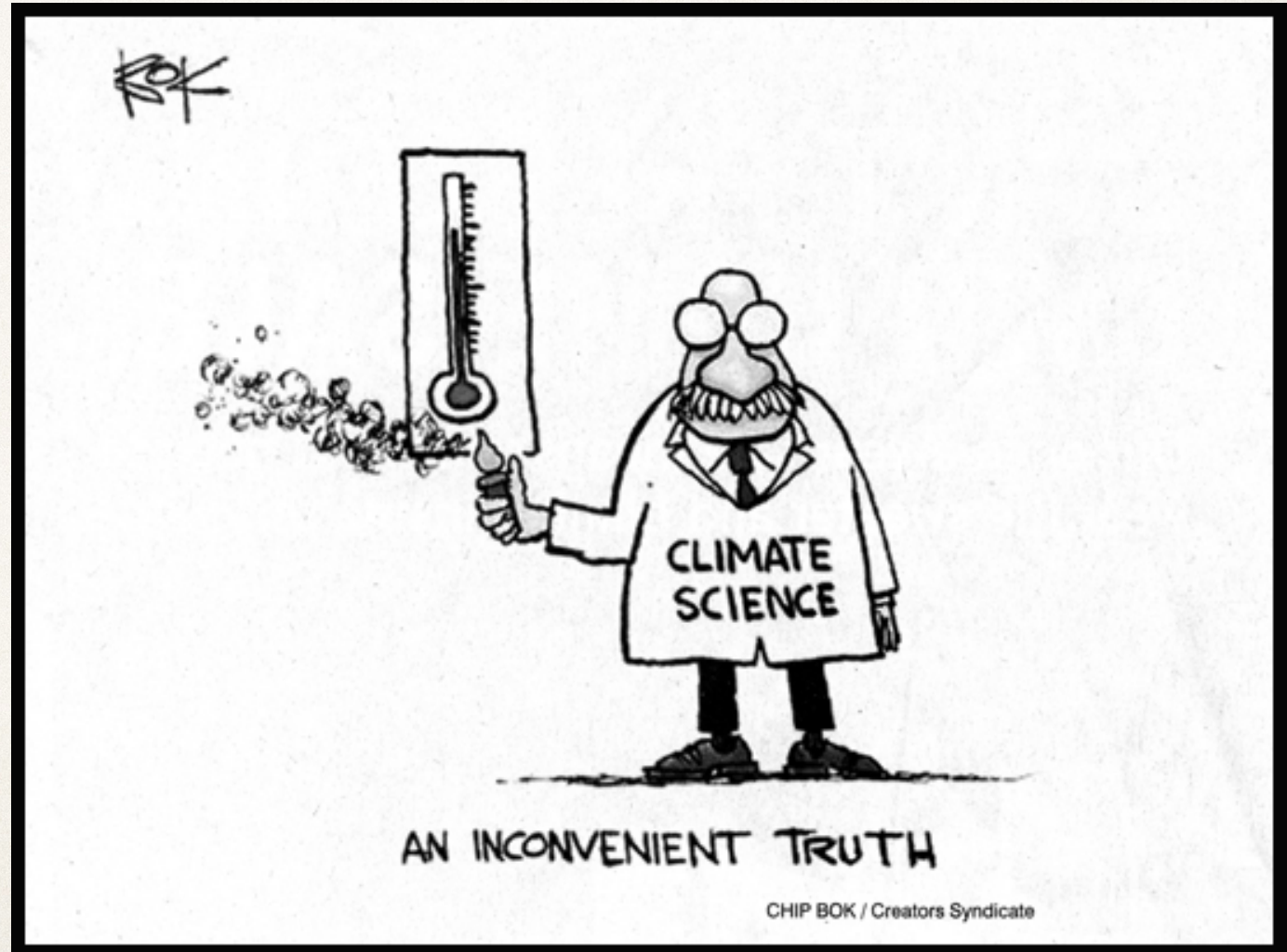


# Beliefs and Skepticism

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How do we  
justify our  
beliefs?

Can everything  
we believe be  
false?





# God, Suffering and Faith

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Can we prove  
that God exists?

If God exists,  
why is there  
suffering in the  
world?

Can we do  
away with  
faith?



Bruegel the Elder, *Tower of Babel*





# The Good and Justice

Angono, Philippines  
*Lester Garcia for  
National Geographic*

What's the right thing to do? Should we donate our money to the poor or be selfish?

What is a just society?  
Can economic inequalities be justified?