

"It's time, follow me. Mind the step here."

"The hall is at the end of this corridor. When you enter, you will be momentarily blinded by the sunlight, don't lose time."

The Chair will stand on your left. She will greet you. Then, you will have 12 minutes to present your case. A clock in front of you will count back the time, and when it stops, you shall stop. Then, the jury will ask some questions. When they are done, you are done.

"After you leave the room, they will weigh your proposal against the feather."

"What feather?"

"A dinosaur feather."

"What color?"

"We have arrived. Go through this door, please. Good luck."

[13 minutes later]

"Thank you for your presentation. You can sit down.", said the Chair, pushing glasses up her beak. "The jury will ask some questions. Reviewer #2 will lead the discussion."

"You say you want to change the world", whispered the serpent, "hasn't this all been done in the 70s?"

"What, the world change?"

"New methods."

"The methods?"

"Your methods."

"We need more methods, always more. You know that 40% of our method harvest is paid away as taxes. Since the moon has changed, methods don't wax anymore, only wane. Plus, we sacrifice at least one virgin method per year on the holy fire."

"You claim your project will have an impact on the real world, what real world?"

"Where domain experts live."

"What do they do?"

"During day time, they are invisible."

"How will you find them?"

"We'll send a rescue team, which will set traps."

"And then?"

"And then we will wait."

"How many ounces of results will you give to them?"

"Not results, we'll spray our methods on their fields from a helicopter."

"Did they ask for it?"

"No."

"Do they know about it?"

"Not yet."

"Thank you for your presentation. You can sit down.", said the Chair, pushing glasses up her beak. "The jury will ask some questions. Reviewer #2 will lead the discussion."

"You say, you want to keep the *status quo*", whispered the serpent, "hasn't it been done in the 70s?"

"What, the *status quo*?"

"This status, the statue, erected in the 70s."

"Nobody remembers, and it was done in a wrong way anyway."

"What was wrong?"

"Old-fashioned methods."

"But were they working?"

"Yes, but old-fashioned."

You say you will collect more data, where will you store them?"

"We won't need to store them, our data will never be ready."

"How do you know that it will work?"

"We will work."

"And then?"

"And then we will wait for a prophet."

"How many ounces of results will you give to the prophet?"

"Not results, we'll spray our data on their fields from a helicopter."

"And then?"

"And then we'll pray for good p-values to come back."

"Thank you, that's all we need. Wait outside, not here. By midnight, our elevators will turn into pumpkins. And be careful, this station area does not have a good reputation."