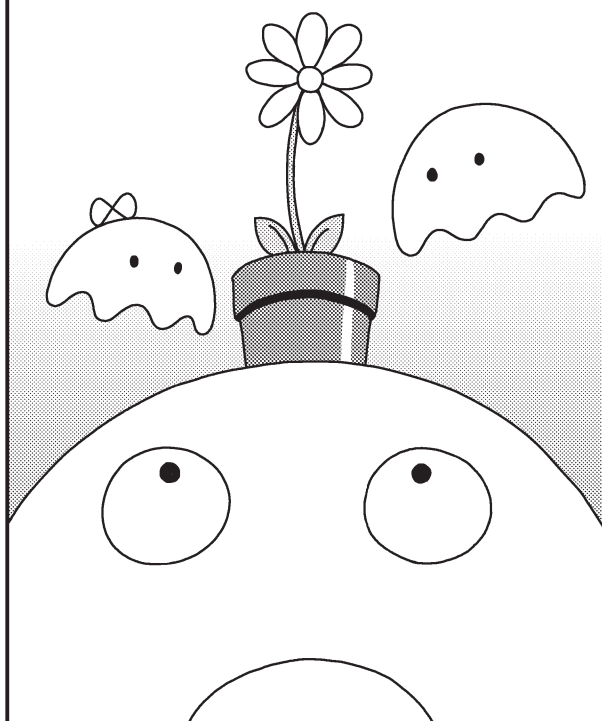
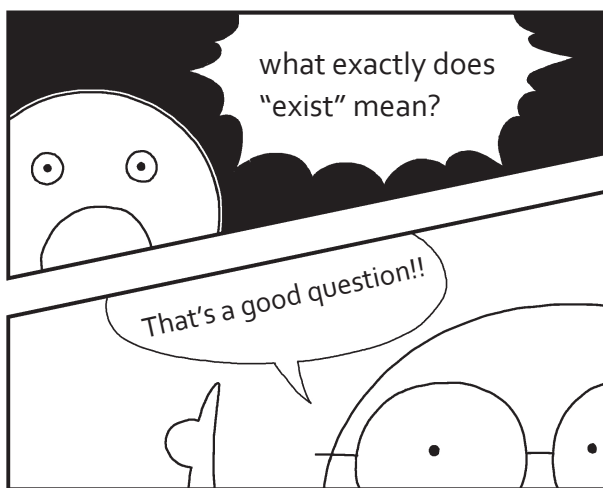
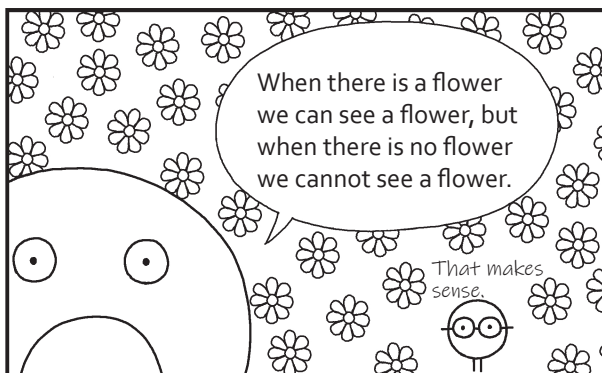
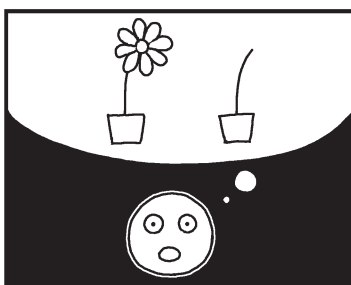
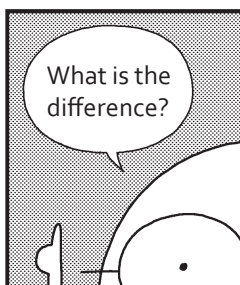
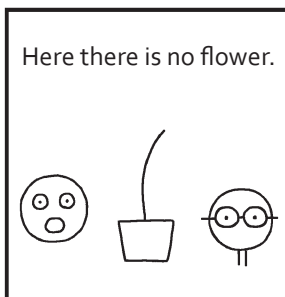
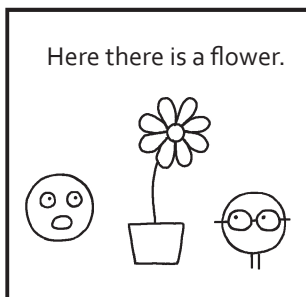


Chapter 2

What is Existence?







So does "to exist" mean
"to be visible"?
Is that what you think?



Ummm...
Umm...



What can be
seen at this
moment exists,
right?

Right



So, what cannot
be seen right
now does not
exist?



Right now we
cannot see Antarc-
tica from here, but
does Antarctica not
exist?

?!

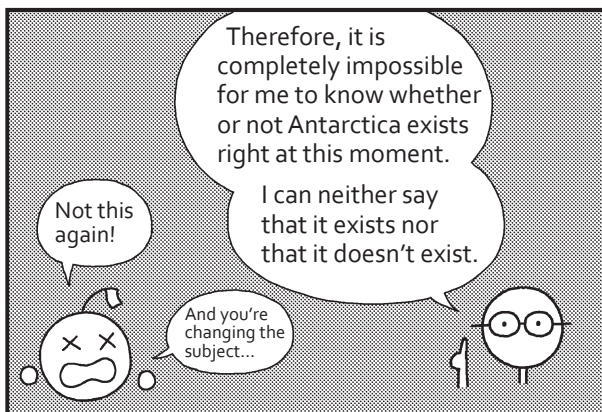
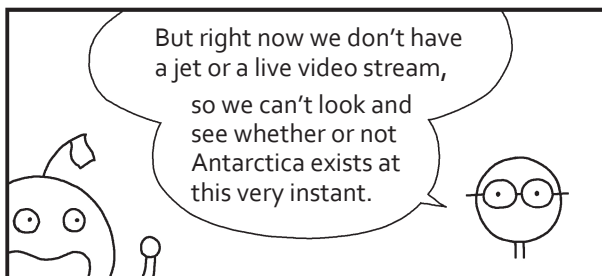
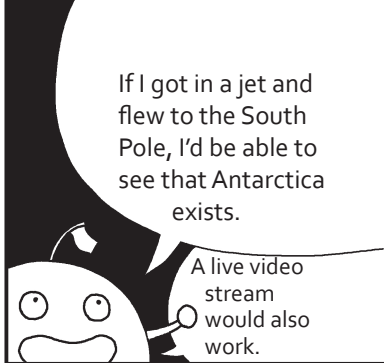
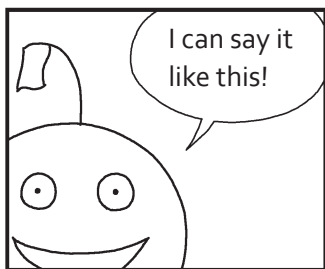


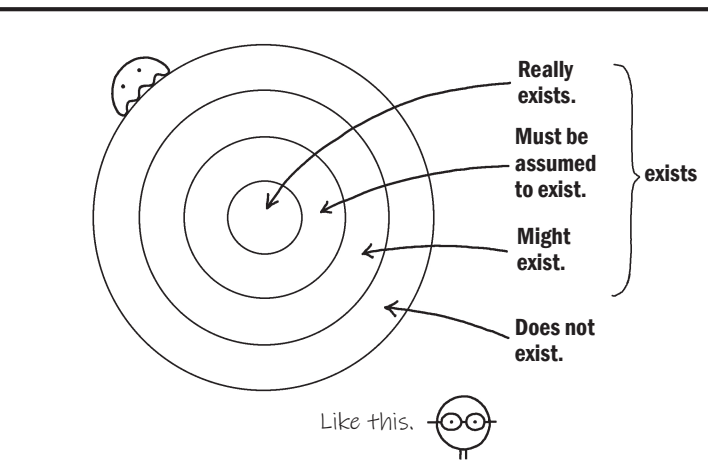
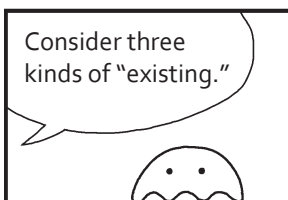
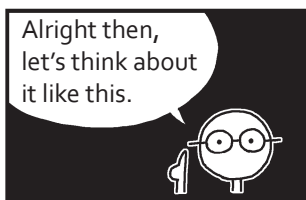
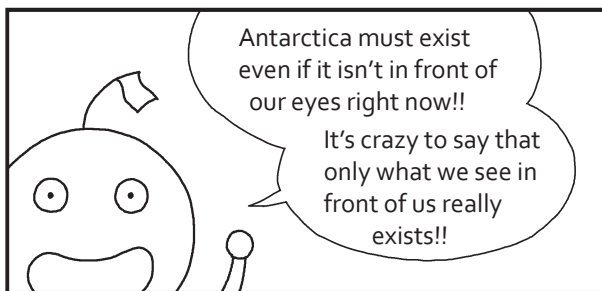
Antarctica exists
on the other side
of the Earth.

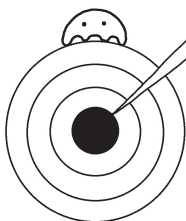


How can you say that
Antarctica exists even
though you can't see
it right now?



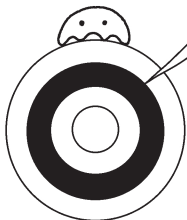






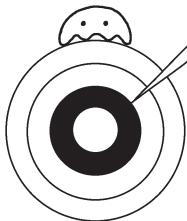
To begin with, “really exists” means I can actually confirm that the thing in question exists.

There is a flower right in front of my eyes.



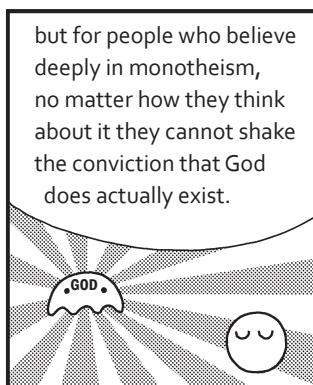
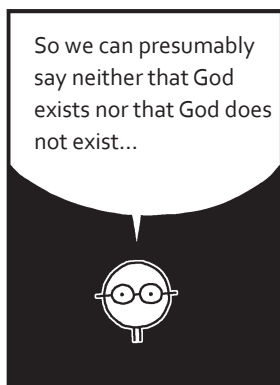
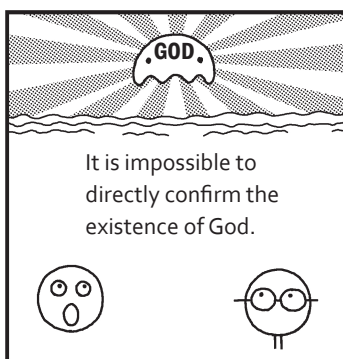
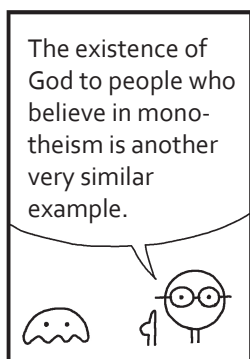
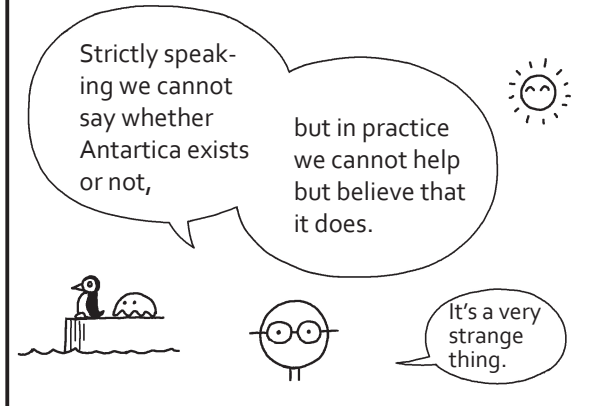
Second, “might exist” means I cannot say there is no possibility that the thing exists.

Aliens from outer space might have set up a secret base somewhere on Earth.



Third, “must be assumed to exist” means I cannot actually confirm whether or not the thing in question exists right now, but I cannot help but assume that it does.

I cannot help but think that Antarctica exists.



Of course, there are differences between Antarctica and God.



If you go to the South Pole you can confirm whether or not Antarctica exists, but in the case of God no method of direct confirmation exists.



Let me give you another example. What will happen to this world after you die?



It will go on existing just as it is.

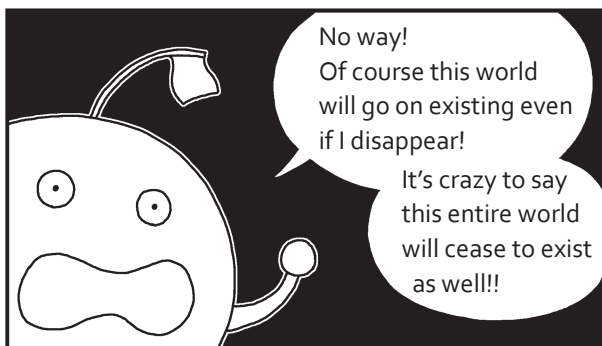
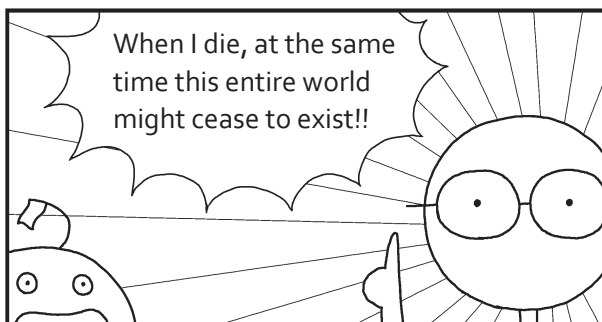
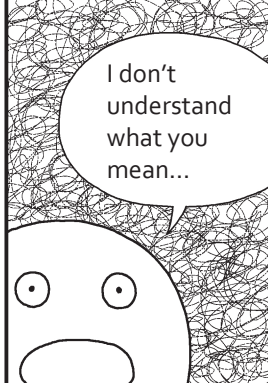
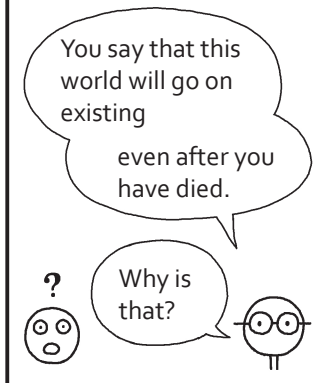


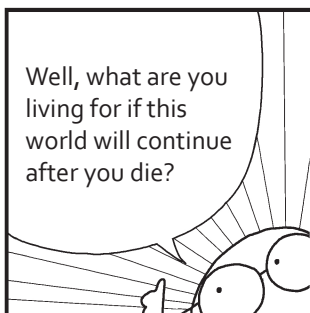
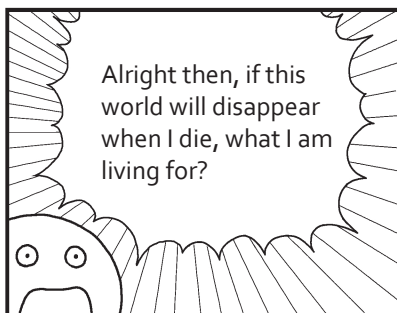
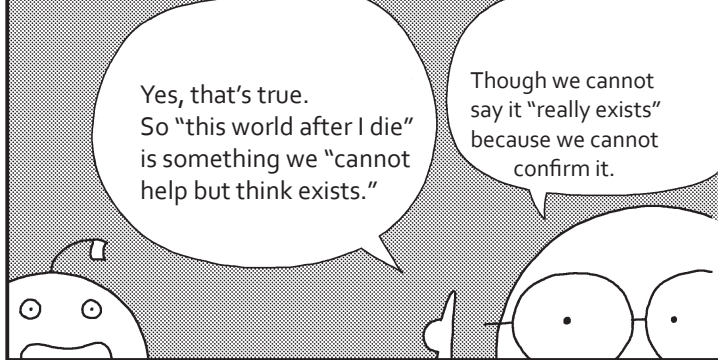
And will you exist in this world after you've died?



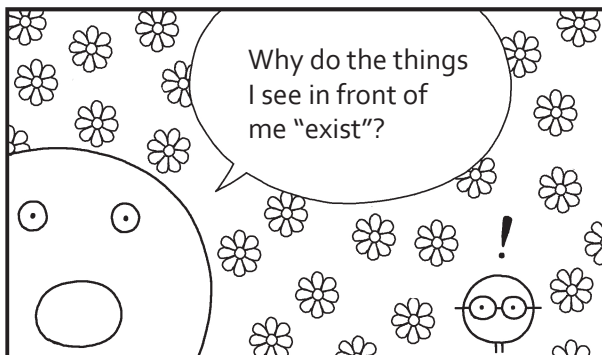
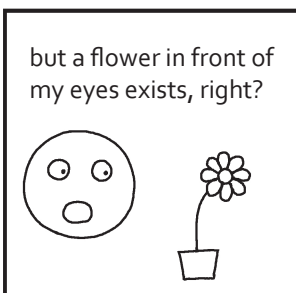
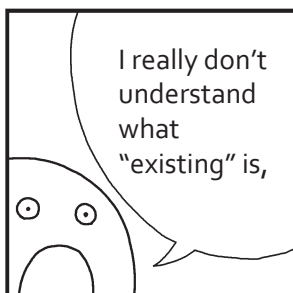
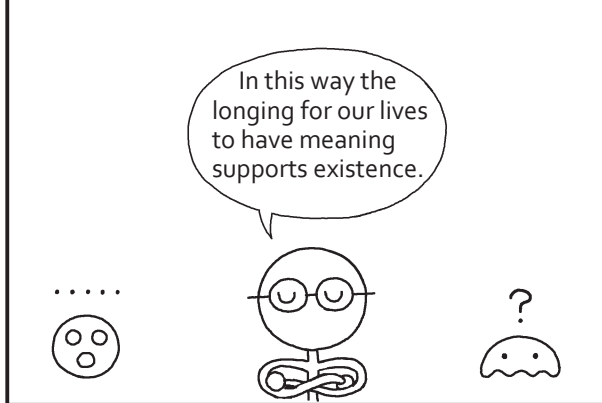
I won't exist any more.

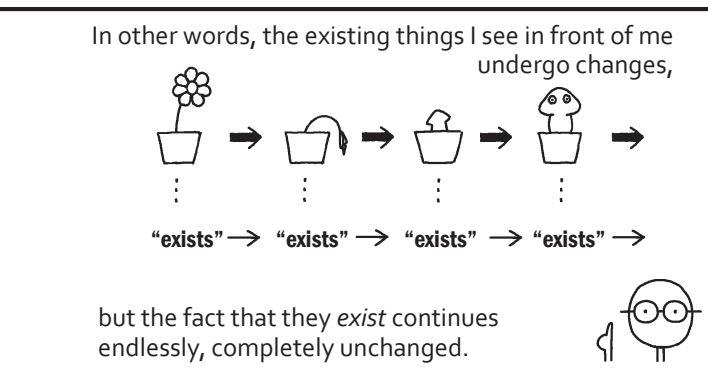
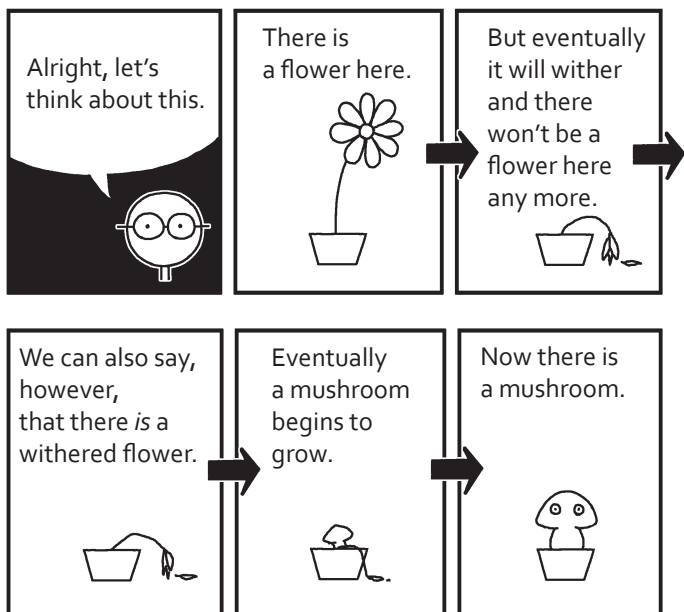


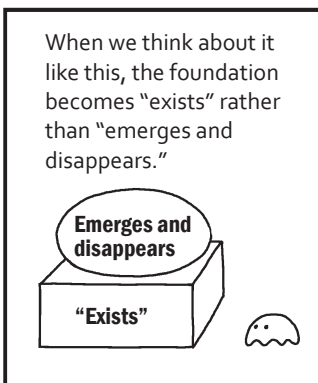
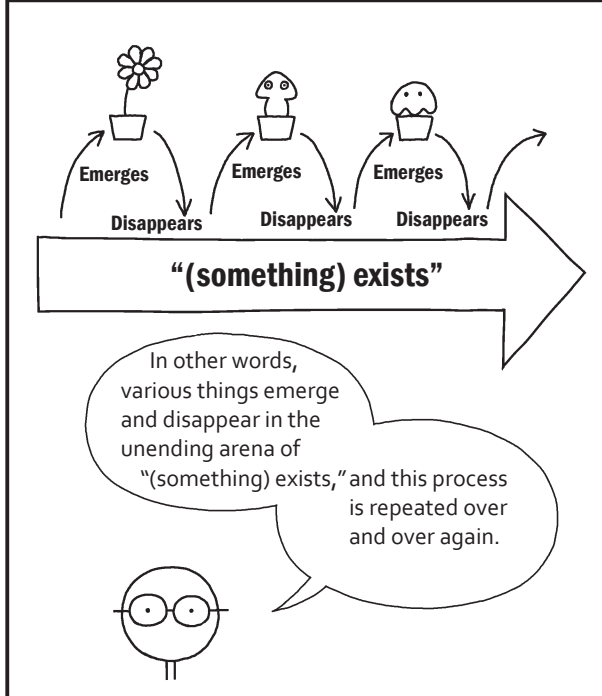


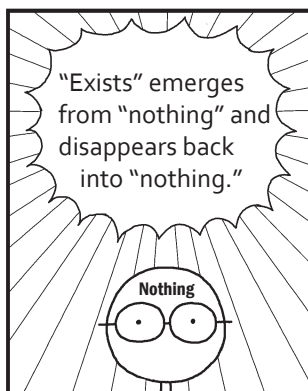
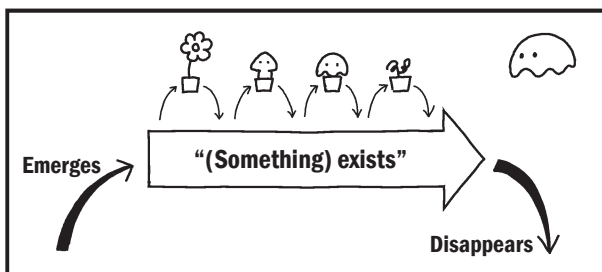
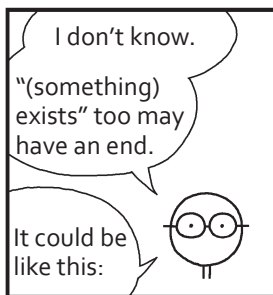


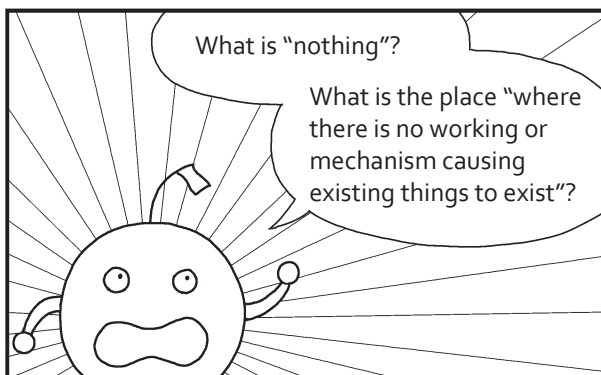
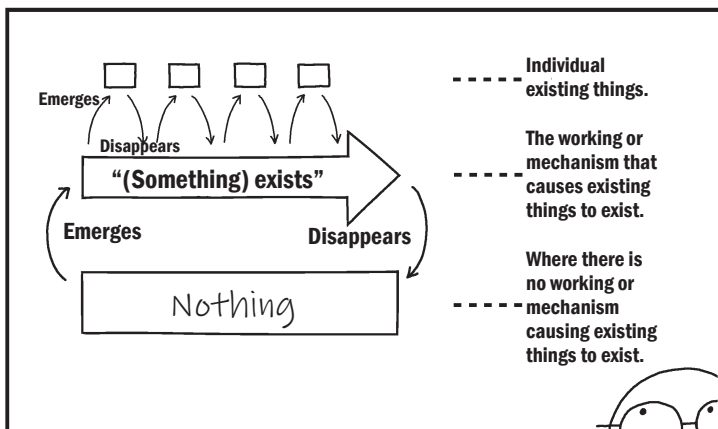
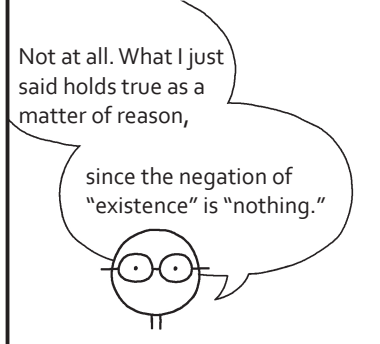
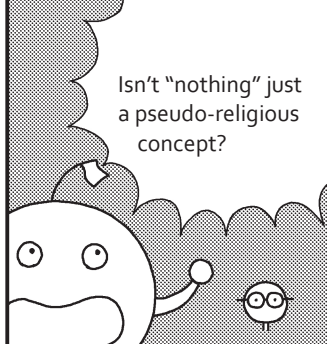


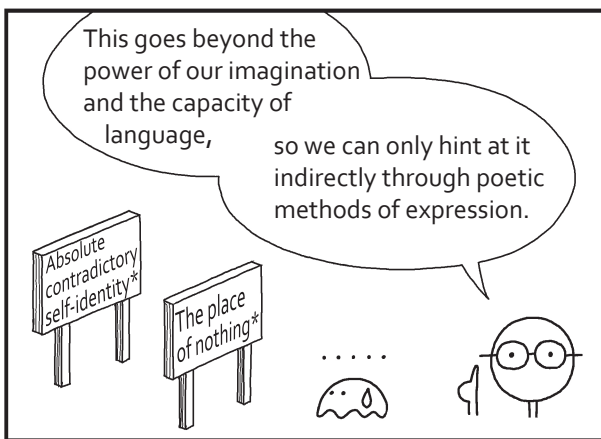
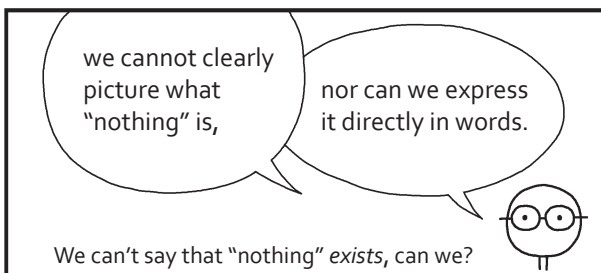
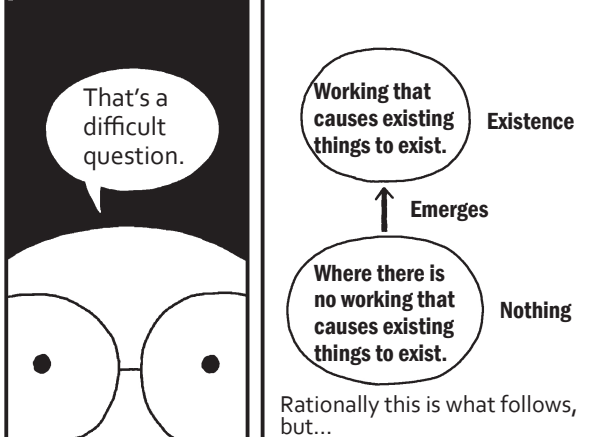




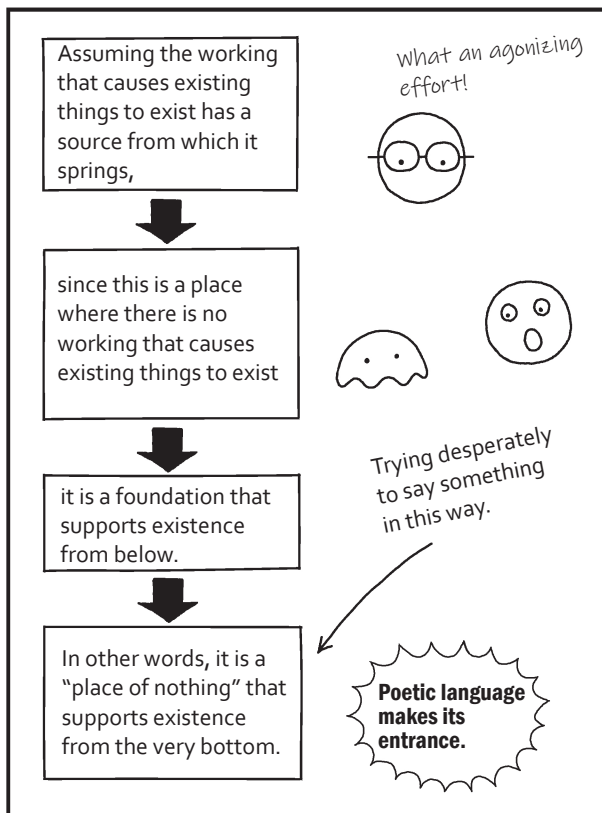
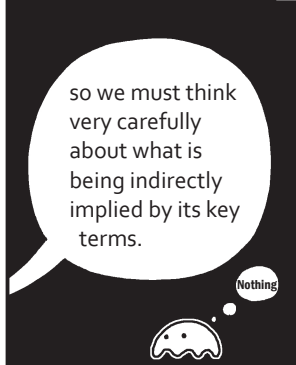
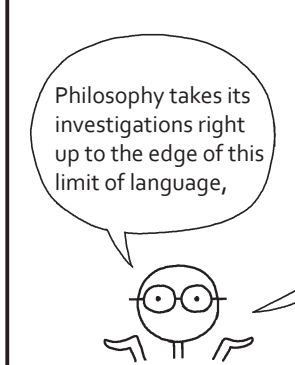


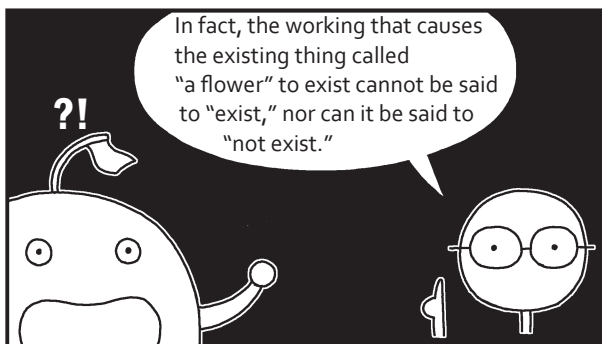
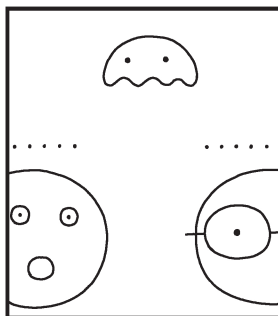
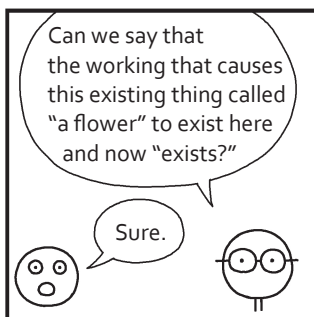
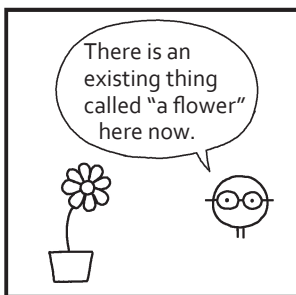
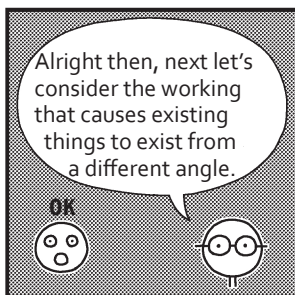


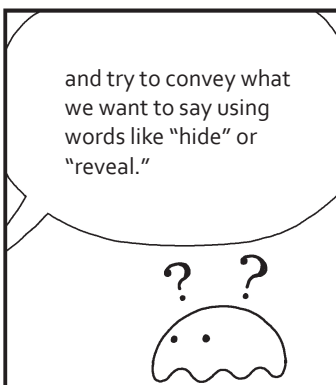
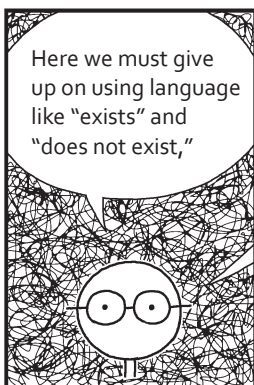
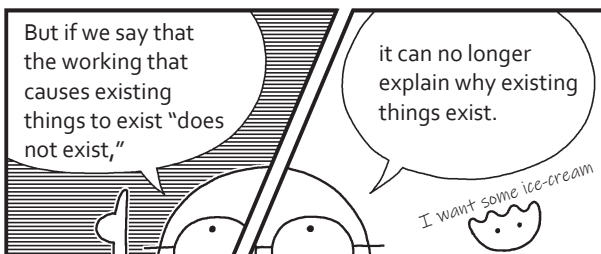
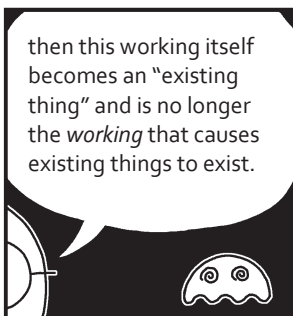
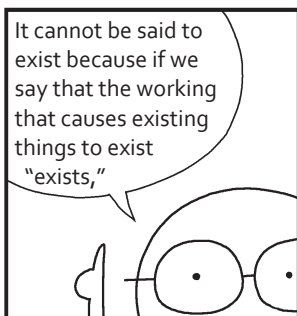




* "Absolute contradictory self-identity" and "the place of nothing" are poetic expressions used by Kitarō Nishida

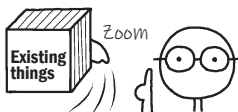






The working that causes existence can neither be said to "exist" nor to "not exist."

In other words, it tries to hide in the shadow of existing things and conceal its own form.



But in front of someone who knows this system of concealment well,

by its display of hiding its own form

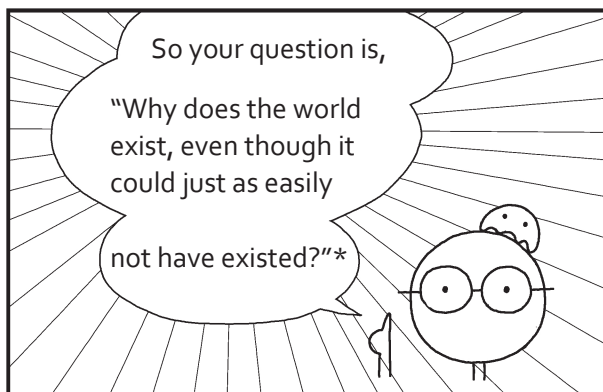
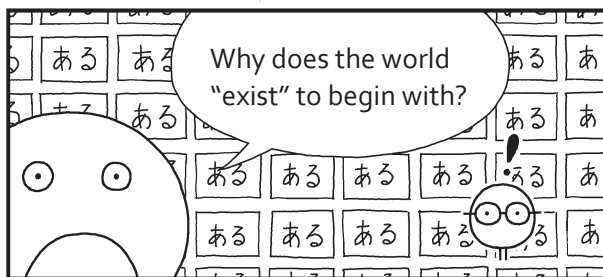
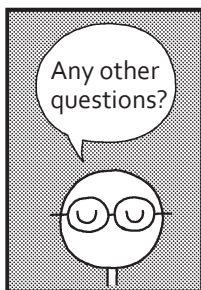
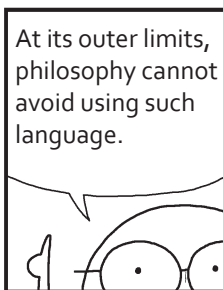
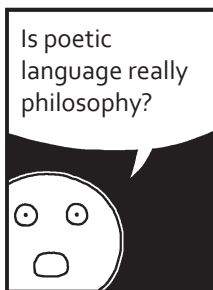
it is actually attempting to reveal itself.



In this way, poetic language like "the working that causes existing things to exist is trying to reveal itself in the form of hiding itself" comes to be used.



* "Geheimnis" and "Ereignis" are poetic expressions used by Martin Heidegger.



*This is called the "fundamental question of metaphysics."

**ある means "exists."

Even though this world could just as easily have been a perfect "nothing" in which no things exist at all,

Nothing

why do all sorts of things now exist?



Why has the working that causes existing things to exist now arisen in this world?

The more you think about this the stranger it gets.



It's such a difficult question that there are people who have been driven out of their minds by thinking about it too much.

