

When the overwhelming power that makes me feel that something used to be there,

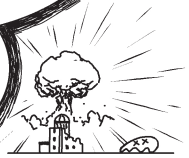


Traces



though all that appears before my eyes are traces,

comes at me from these remnants,



I call this overwhelming power the past that springs up into "now."

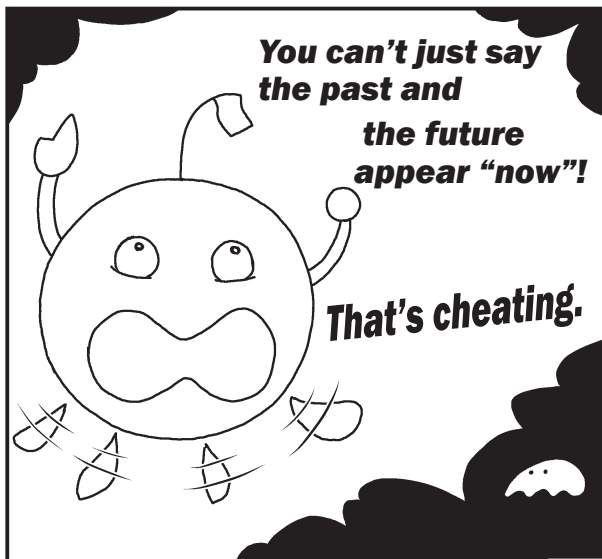
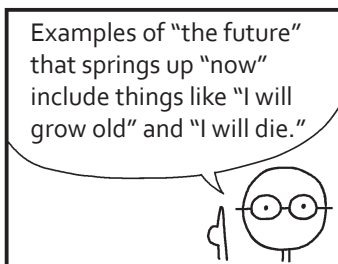
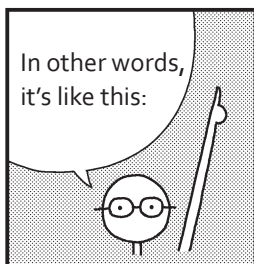
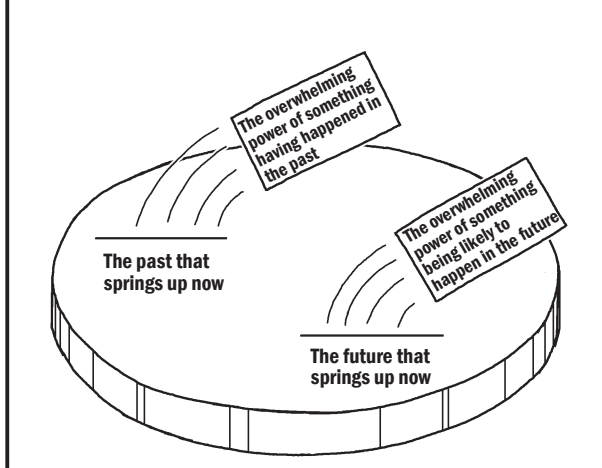
The past that springs up into "now" is this "power."

It is not past events themselves.



The future, too, springs up as power. Both the past and the future overflow into the arena of "now."

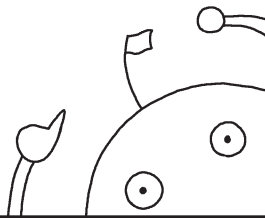




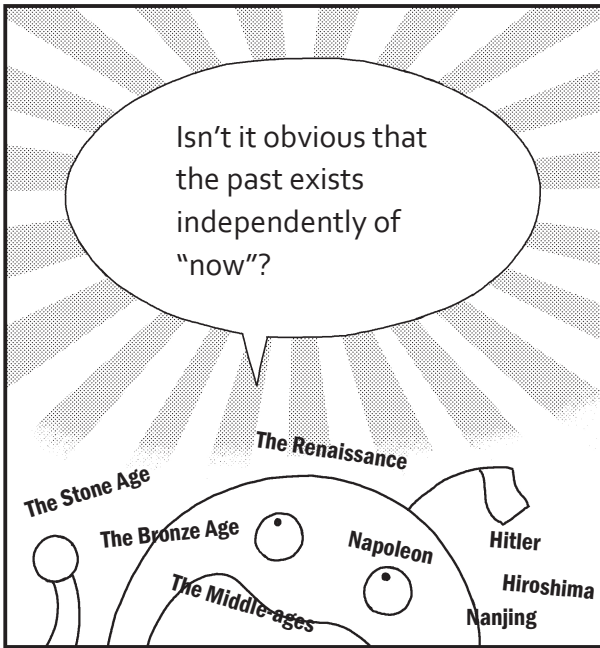
Hasn't time been flowing since long before I was born, and hasn't history been continuously unfolding?



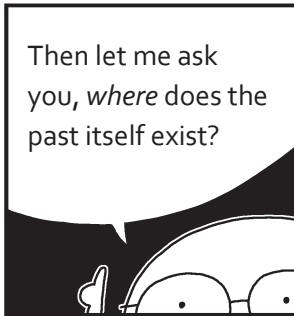
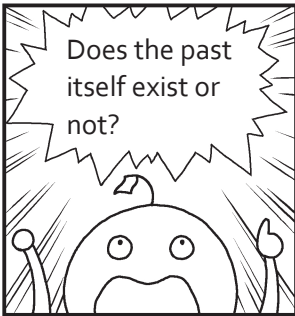
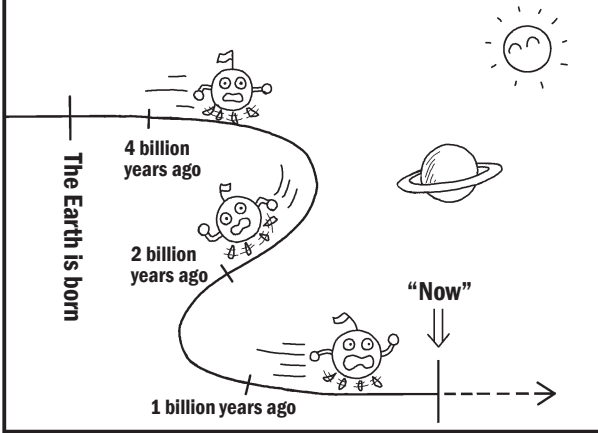
Time has been flowing objectively since forever.



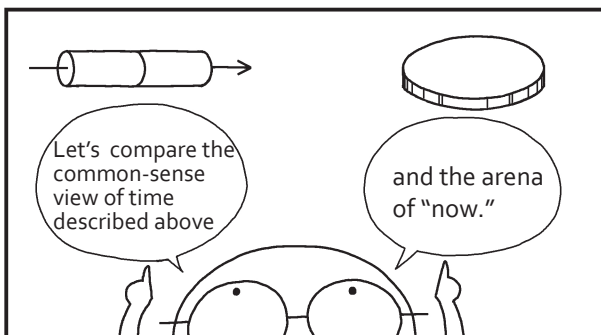
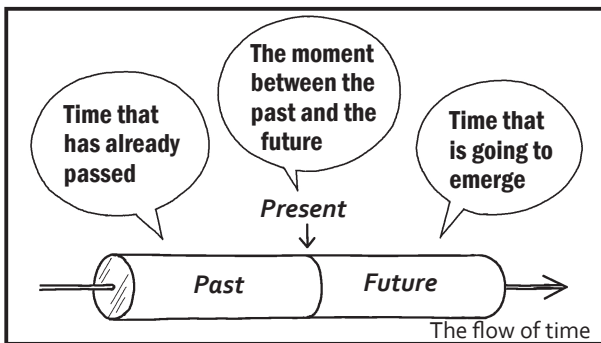
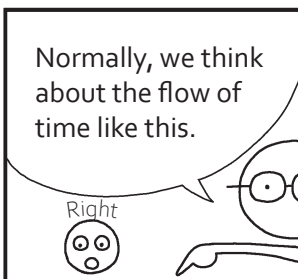
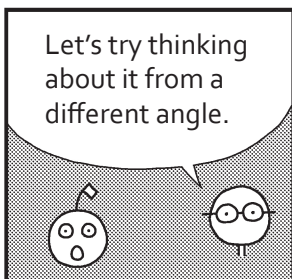
Isn't it obvious that the past exists independently of "now"?

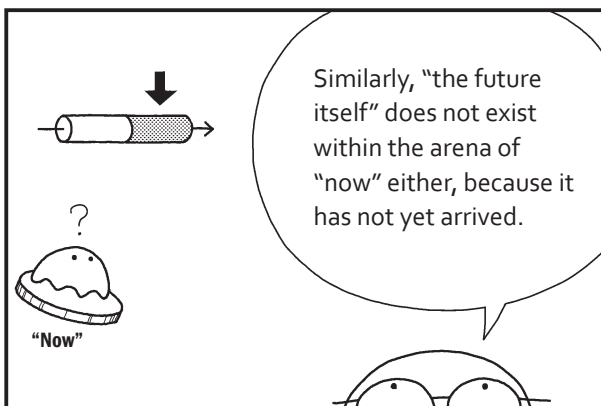
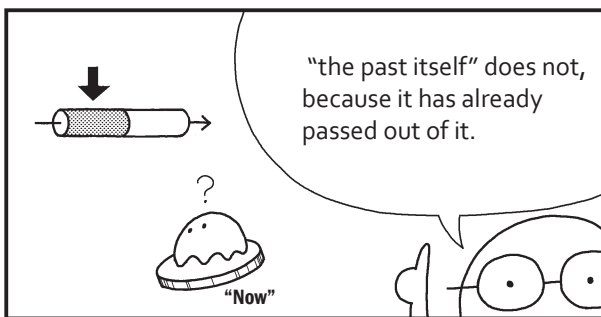
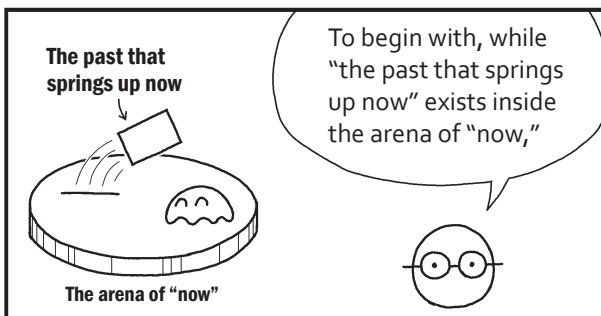


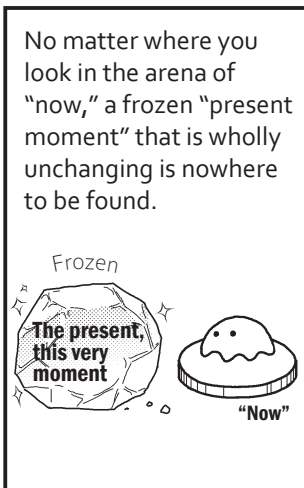
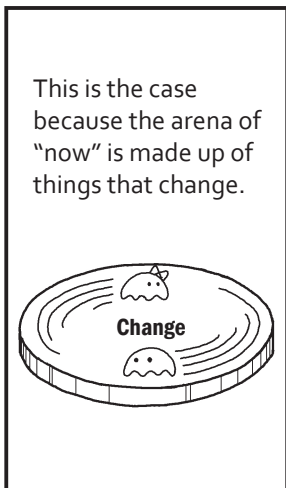
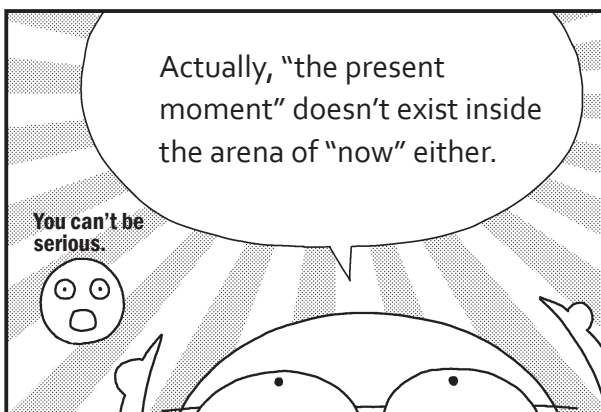
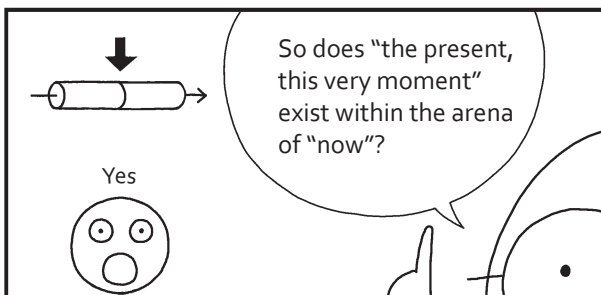
Doesn't "now" stand at this end of the 4.6 billion-year history of the Earth?

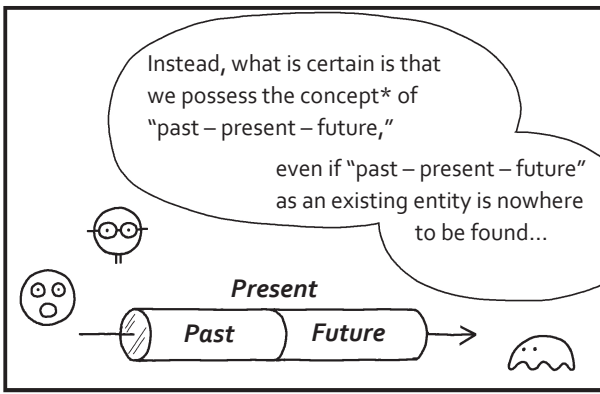
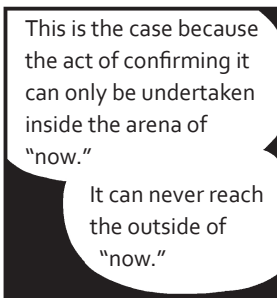
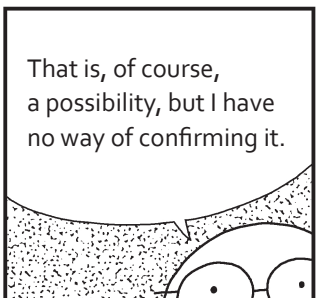
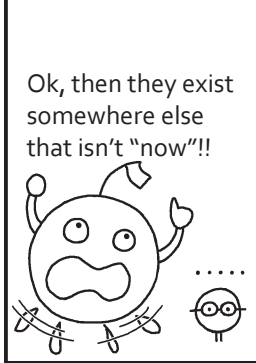
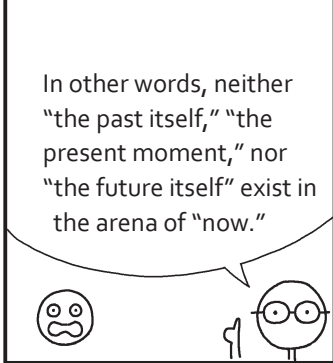






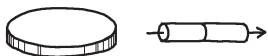




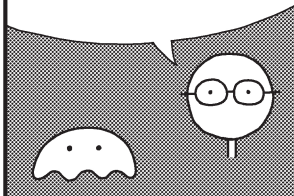


\*Concept means "an abstract image in your head"

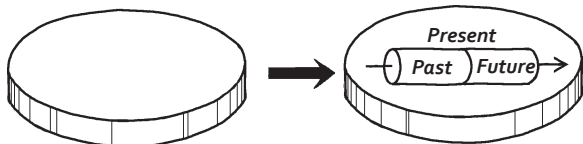
And to understand time we need both the arena of "now" and the concept of "past-present-future."



In other words, we end up with something like this:



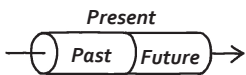
First there is the arena of "now," and then the concept of "past-present-future" springs up into it.



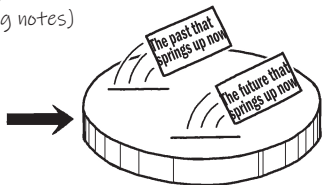
**The arena of "now"**



(Taking notes)



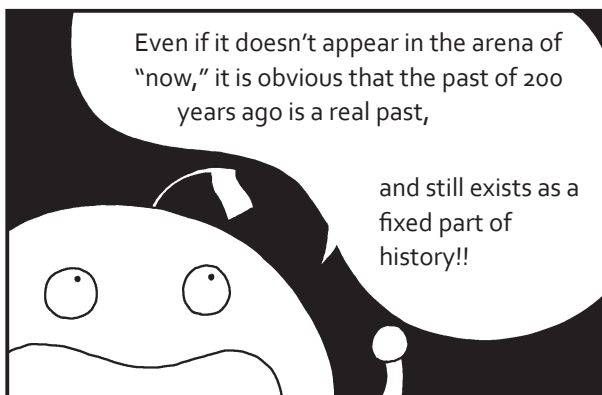
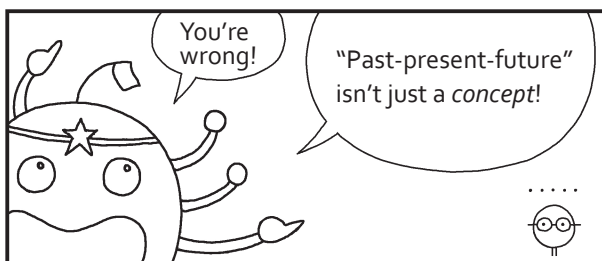
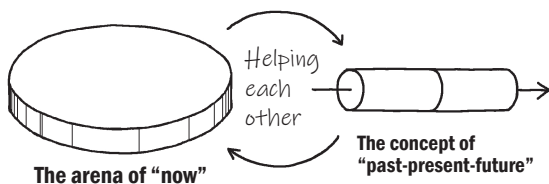
**The concept of "past-present-future"**



**The arena of "now"**

Once there is a concept of "past-present-future," it becomes possible to grasp "the past that springs up now," "the arena of now," and "the future that springs up now" as a three-part set.

In other words, these two conceptions arise with each other's help.



You want to say that  
"past-present-future"  
isn't just a concept of  
some sort, but really  
exists somewhere.

That's right!



I understand.  
Let me explain.

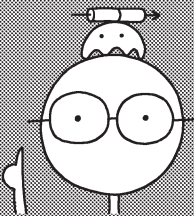


"Past-present-future"  
itself cannot be seen  
or touched, and its  
location cannot be  
determined.

But we cannot help  
thinking it really  
exists.

Day by day we live  
our lives believing  
that it really exists.

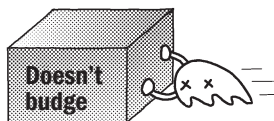
In other words, we live  
with a strong conviction  
that there really is a  
"past-present-future,"  
and that this is no  
dream or illusion.



Well then, what sort of conviction is "the past really exists"?



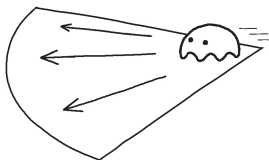
It is a conviction that what has passed enters a world of things I cannot change and becomes fixed.



Next, what sort of conviction is "the future really exists"?



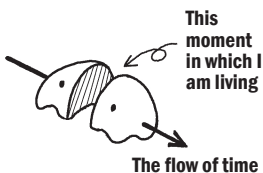
It is a conviction that going forward there is a limitless horizon that stretches before my eyes.



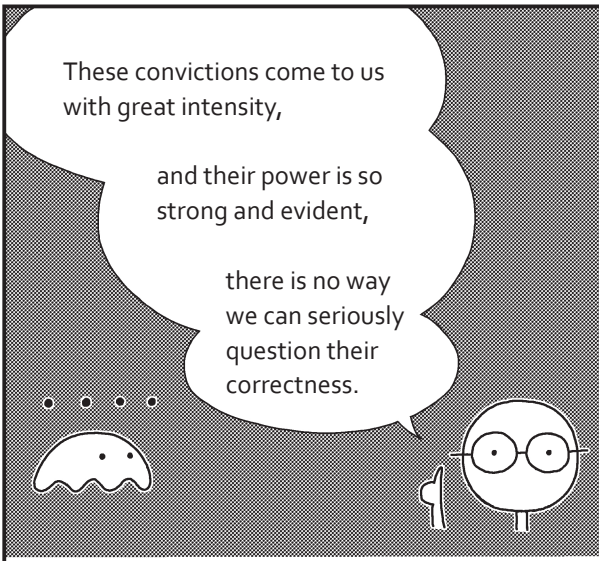
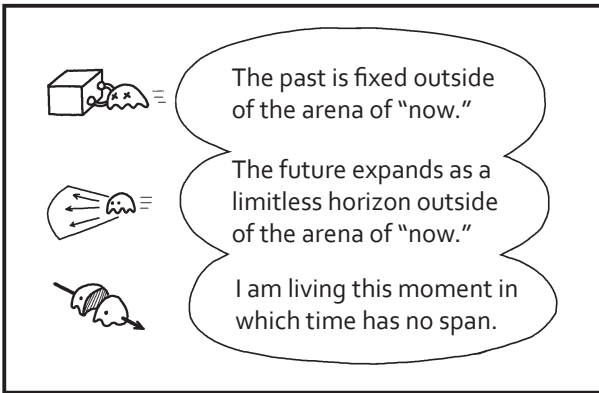
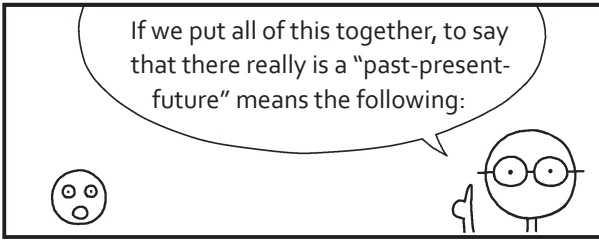
Finally, what sort of conviction is "the present really exists"?



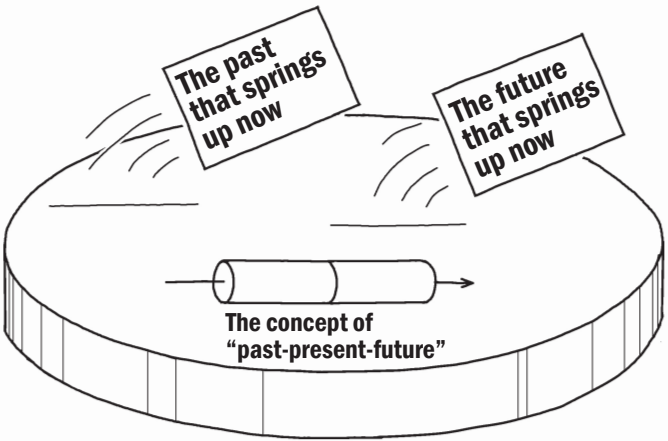
It is a conviction that I am living in this very moment in which time has no span.







The arena of "now"



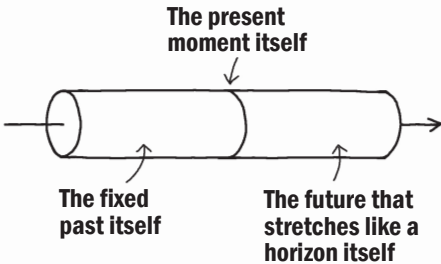
If we think about it rationally, what can be said to actually exist is only that which appears within the arena of "now."



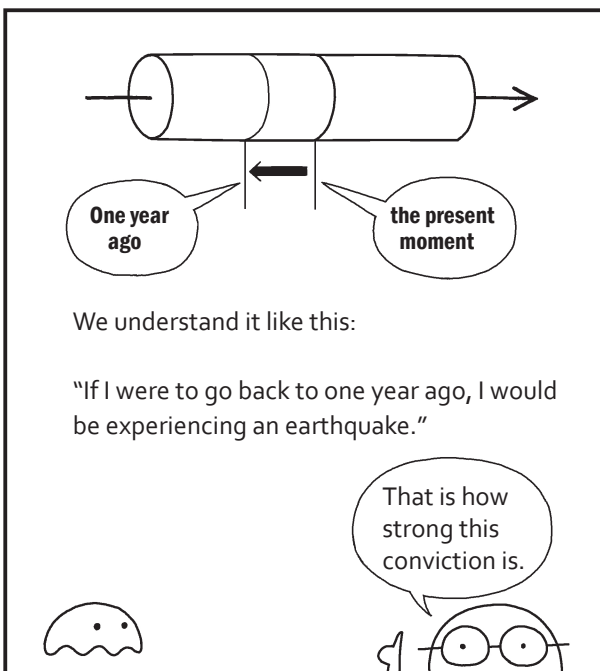
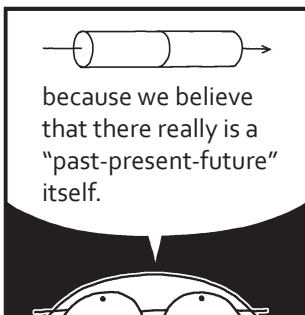
(Taking notes)



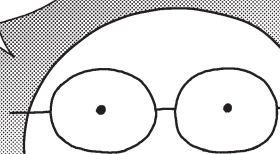
"Past-present-future" itself



As a conviction, however, we cannot help thinking a "past-present-future" itself that does not appear in the arena of "now" also really exists.



So why does the "past-present-future" itself come at us with such intense power that we cannot help but think it really exists?



**Because it is a social construct.**

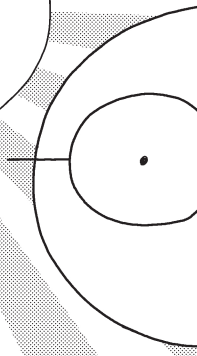
**Because it is a product of time tenses in language.**

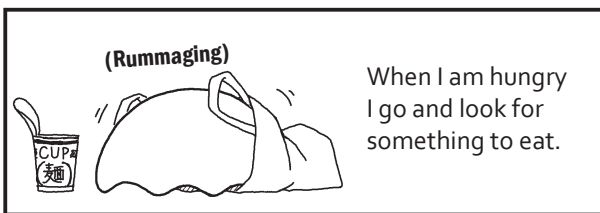
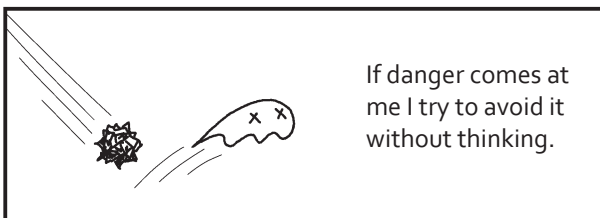
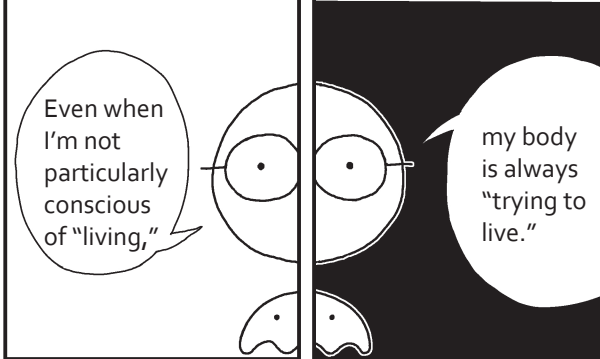
Various ways of thinking about it are possible,

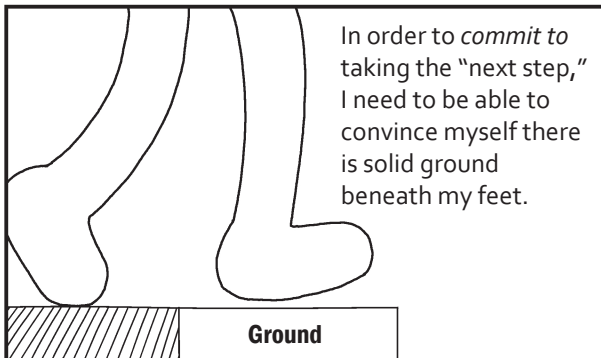
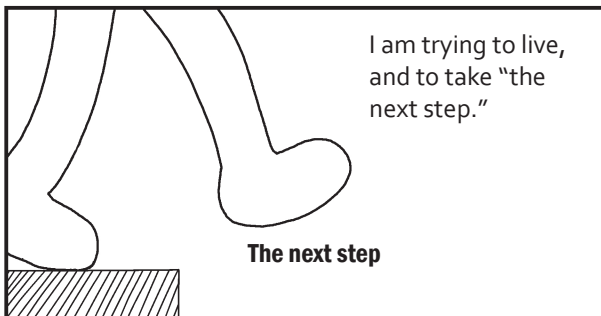
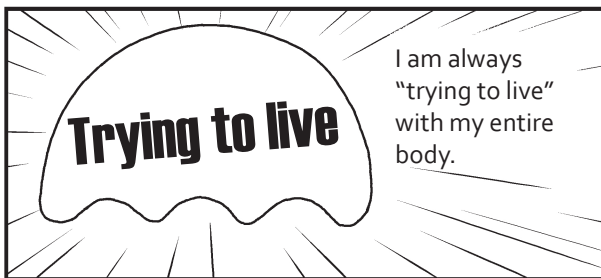
but I'd like to take the following approach:

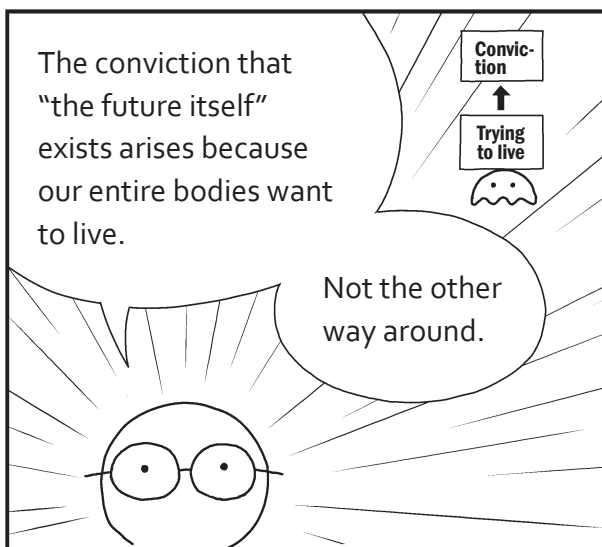
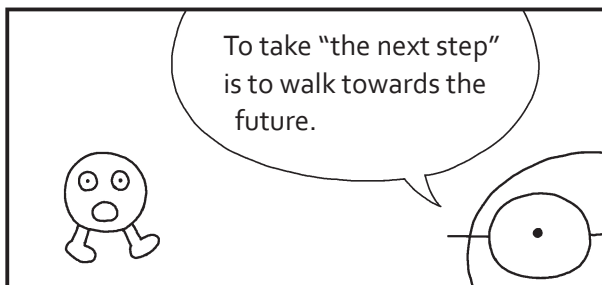
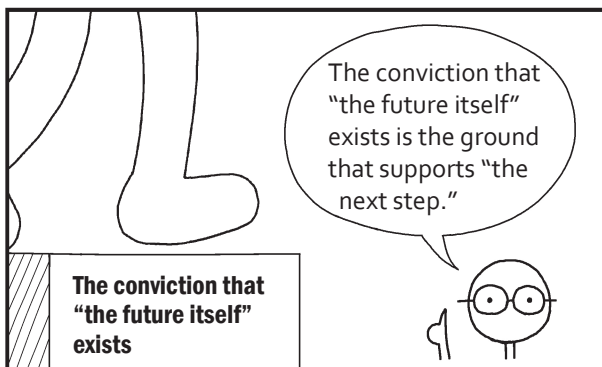


This intense power arises because I am "trying to live."









The conviction  
that the future  
itself exists

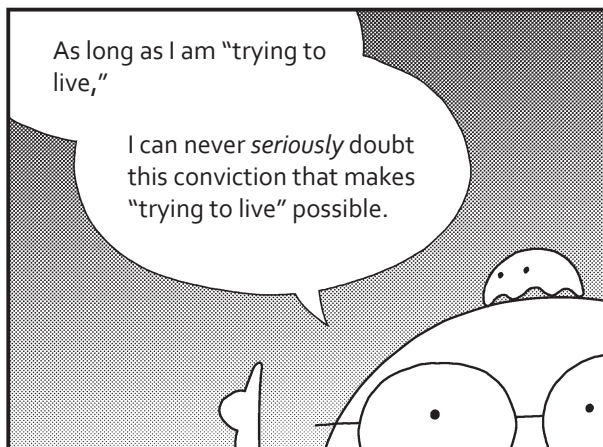
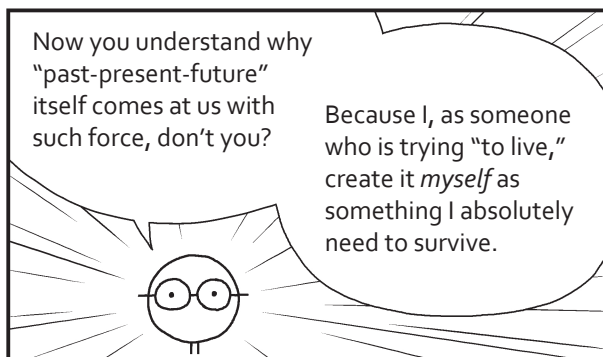


The conviction  
that the past  
itself exists

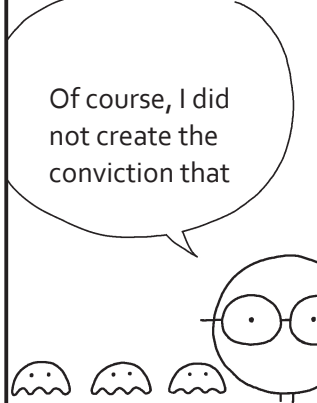


The  
conviction  
that the  
present itself  
exists as a  
link between  
the two

In this way various convictions  
then arise one after another.



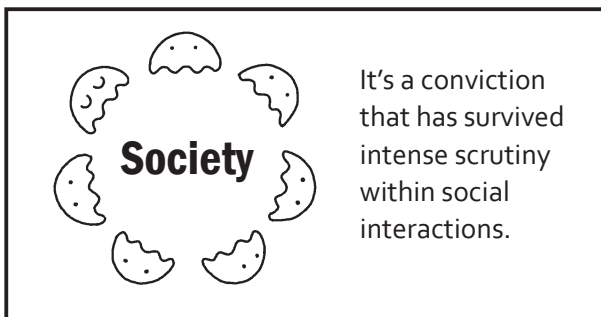




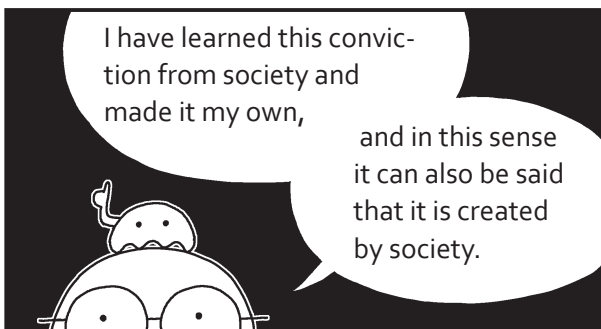
Of course, I did not create the conviction that



“past-present-future” itself exists all by myself.

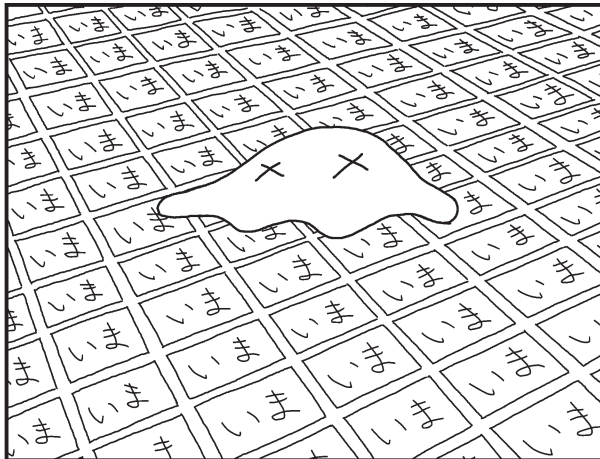
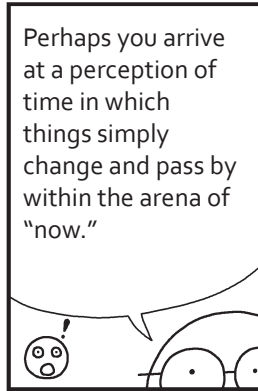
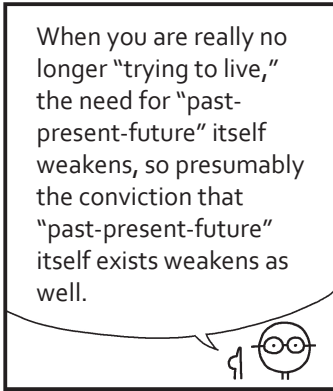
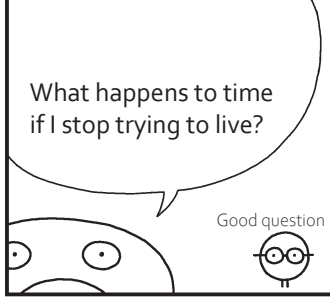
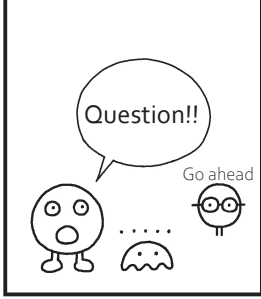


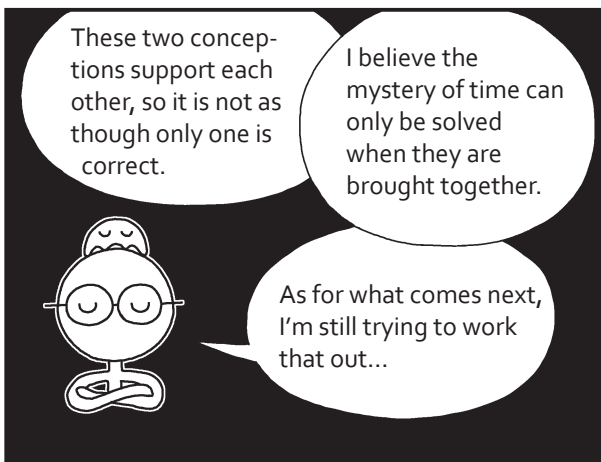
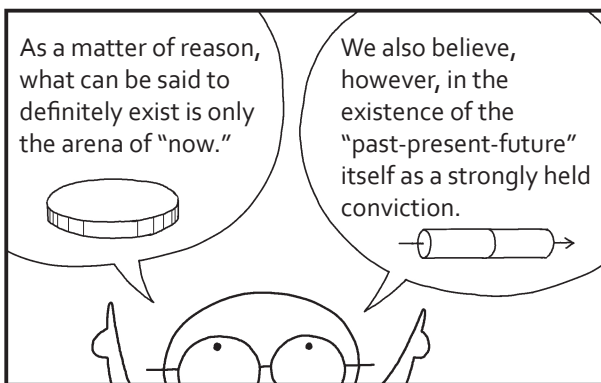
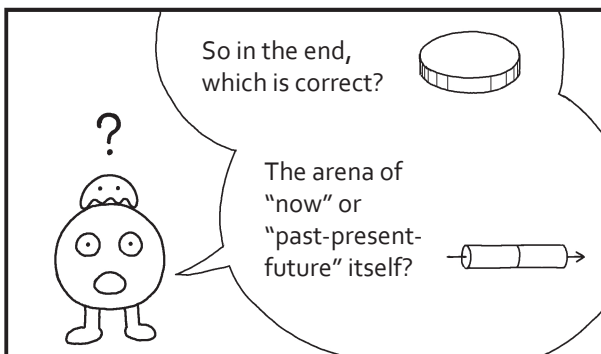
It's a conviction that has survived intense scrutiny within social interactions.



I have learned this conviction from society and made it my own,

and in this sense it can also be said that it is created by society.

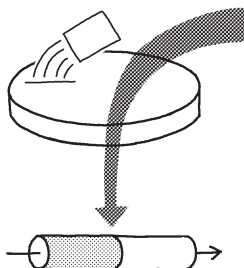




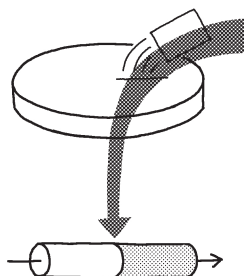
So what exactly does it mean to "try to live"?

It means trying to take the next step toward the future,

and to build new things on top of the past.

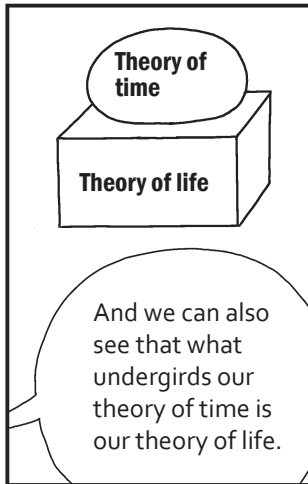
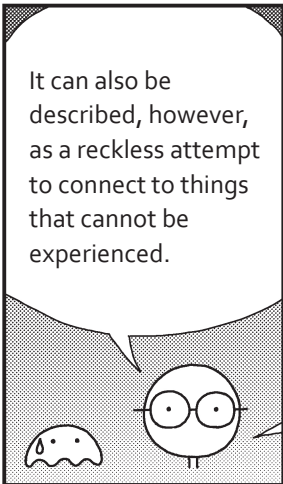
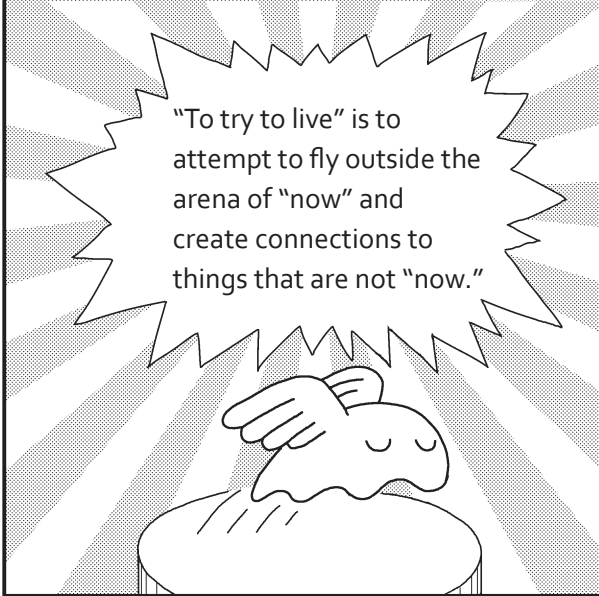


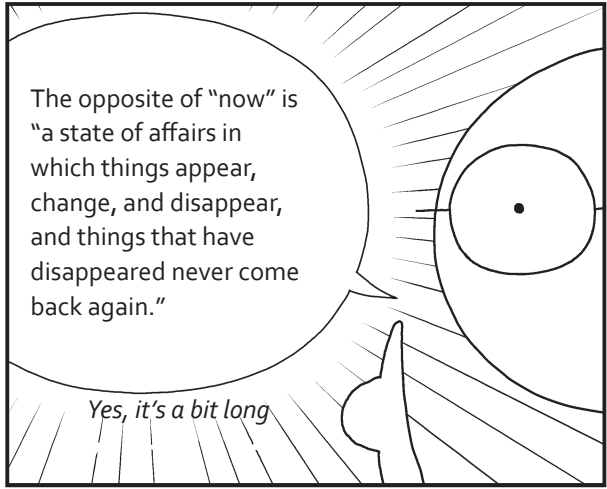
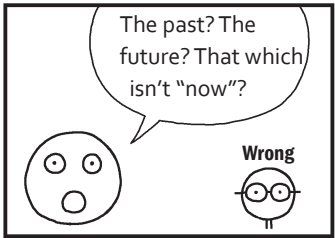
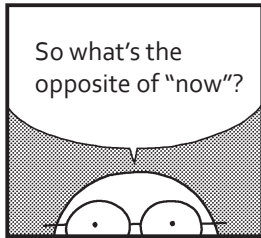
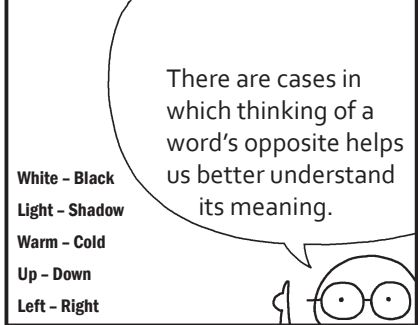
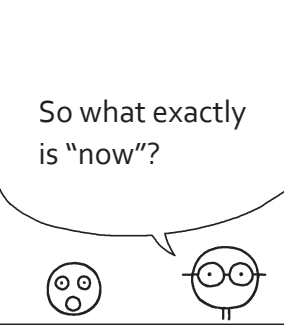
In other words, it means trying to create a direct connection to "the past itself" through "the past that springs up now,"

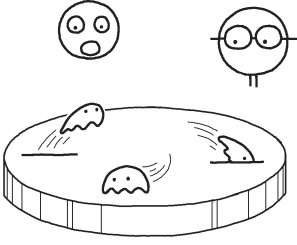


and to create a direct connection to "the future itself" through "the future that springs up now."

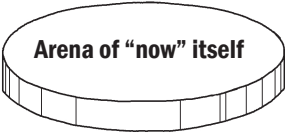








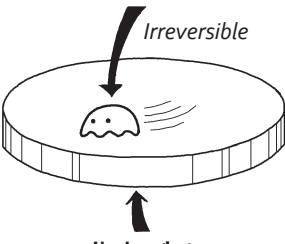
In other words, within the arena of “now” things appear, change, and disappear, and once they have disappeared they never come back again, but...



this arena of “now” itself never changes or disappears.

**Emerging/Changing/Disappearing**

*Irreversible*



**Unchanging**

No matter how many things appear, change, and disappear, the arena of “now” itself remains as it is, unchanging.

