

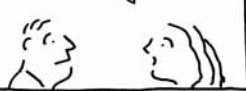
ONE RESEARCHER CLAIMS HE'S DISCOVERED THE SYMBOLISM! A TREE, FOR EXAMPLE, STARTS ITS ENCODING WITH TWO PERPENDICULAR LINES!



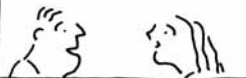
MAYBE IT ALL DEPENDS ON HIGHER-ORDER THOUGHT BALLOONS REFERRING TO OUR REGULAR THOUGHT BALLOONS!



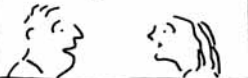
MAYBE OUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS JUST AN ILLUSION CREATED BY OUR THOUGHT BALLOONS!



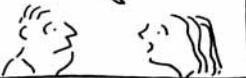
BUT ARE OUR THOUGHT BALLOONS DRAWN IN THE SAME KIND OF INK THAT DRAWS US?



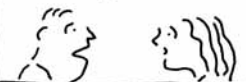
AND WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A THOUGHT BALLOON AND A SPEECH BALLOON?



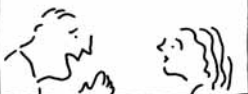
SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THE CONTENTS ARE THE SAME, BUT THE OUTLINES ARE SOMEHOW DIFFERENT!



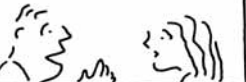
MY ESSENCE, MY EXPERIENCE, MY VERY SOUL, COULD IT ALL JUST REDUCE DOWN TO THOUGHT BALLOONS?



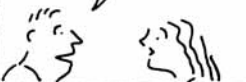
OUCH!



I'LL BE OKAY... I JUST STUBBED ONE OF MY LINE EXTREMITIES!



THIS PAIN I'M FEELING... IS IT JUST BECAUSE "OUCH!" IS WRITTEN IN MY BALLOON?



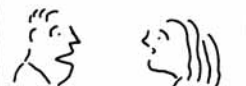
AND WHAT ABOUT THE BINDING PROBLEM... I KNOW I'M MADE UP OF LOTS OF TINY, DISCONNECTED LINES!



THEY CLAIM OUR THOUGHT BALLOONS ARE MADE UP OF DISCONNECTED SYMBOLS, TOO!



THEN WHY DO I HAVE SUCH A UNIFIED SENSE OF MYSELF?

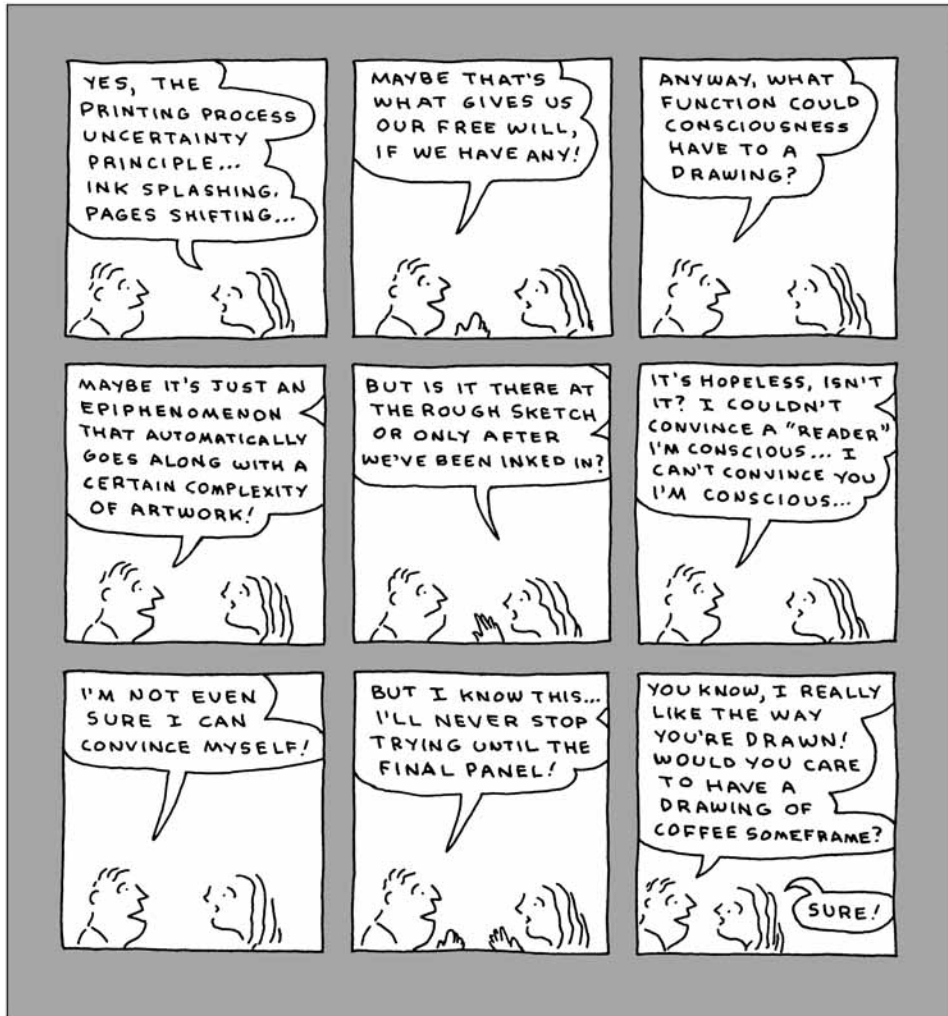


MAYBE IT'S JUST WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LETTERED TO THINK!



MAYBE CONSCIOUSNESS TAKES PLACE AT THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN THE PRINTING PRESS AND WHAT'S PRINTED!





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