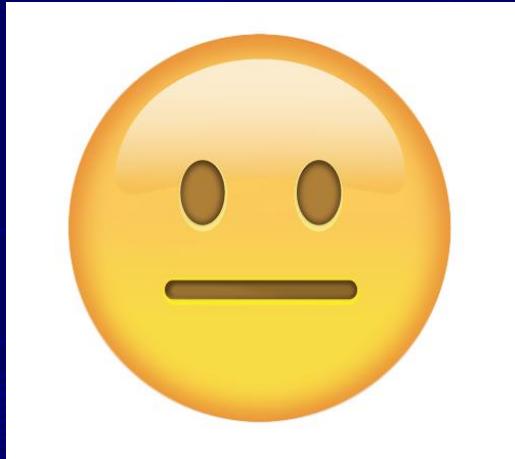


# HUMOR:

## I. DEFINITION, ORIGINS AND VARIETY

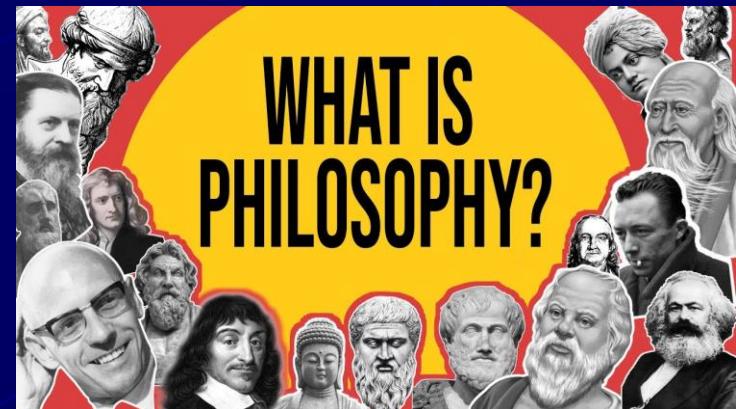


*V. V. Raman*  
*September 41, 2032*

# PHILOSOPHICAL & HISTORICAL

**One definition of Philosophy: Route leading from nowhere to Nothing.**

**History would be wonderful, if only it were true.**

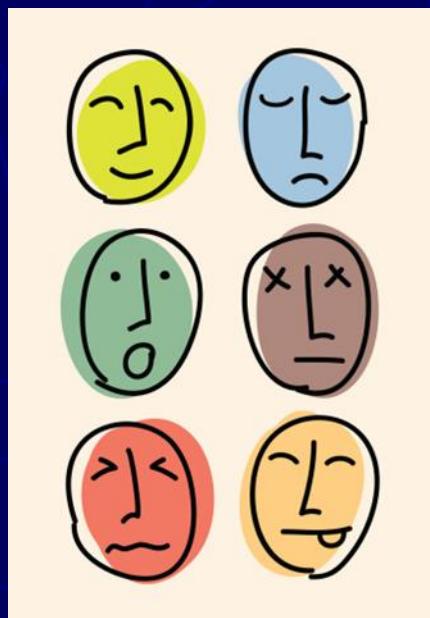


# DIMENSIONS OF LIFE

1. BODY. Physical:  
Eating,  
drinking, and  
procreating.



2. MIND.  
Psychological and  
Emotional: feeling,  
loving, gut-  
reacting.



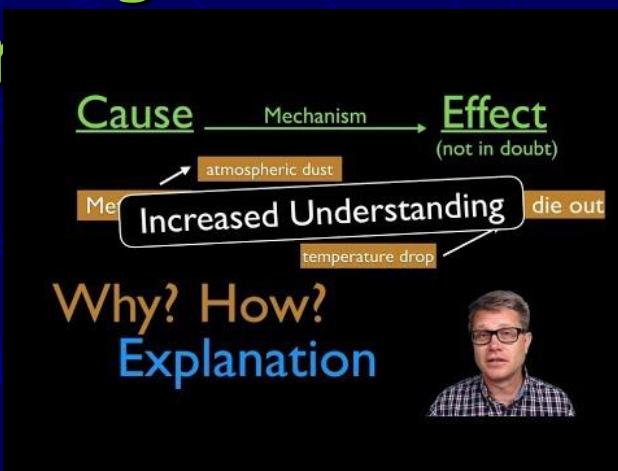
# DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE

1 Aesthetic: Contributing to our enjoyment.



2 Ethical: Providing guidance for the betterment of community.

3 Explanatory:  
Providing frameworks for under-



# MIND AND SPIRIT

Mind: Thinking,  
analyzing, reasoning,  
searching for causes.



Spirit: Contemplating,  
meditating, praying.



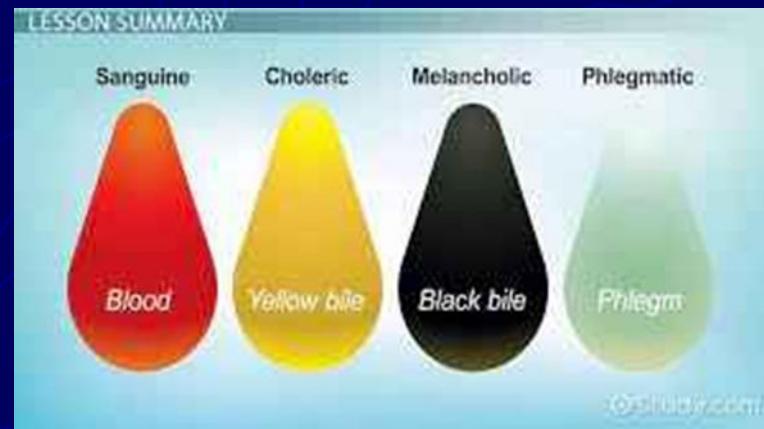
# ETYMOLOGY OF HUMOR

Once Humor meant moisture (humid).

In Greek Science one talked of 4 body fluids:  
Humors : blood, Phlegm.  
Choler, black bile).

Choleric: Irritable, hyper-energetic. Phlegmatic:  
Calm, relaxed.

Sanguine: caused by blood.



# FUNNY

By late 17<sup>th</sup> century humor came to mean: Funny, Amusing.

Originally **fon** meant a fool.  
Later, it meant a jester or buffoon.

What is really funny is the way the meanings of words change.

**Nice:** once meant silly, foolish, simple.



**Silly:** The word referred to things worthy or blessed; then it meant the weak and vulnerable, and now to foolish.



**Awful:** meant “worthy of awe. “the awful majesty of God.”



**Fizzle:** The verb fizzle referred to the act of producing quiet flatulence.



**Naughty:** Someone who had naught or nothing.

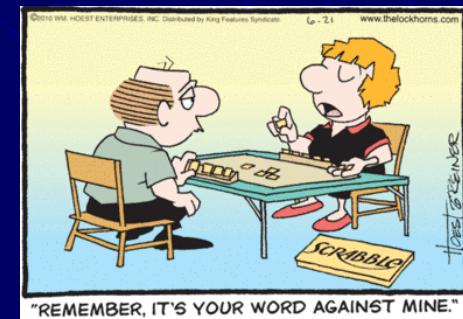
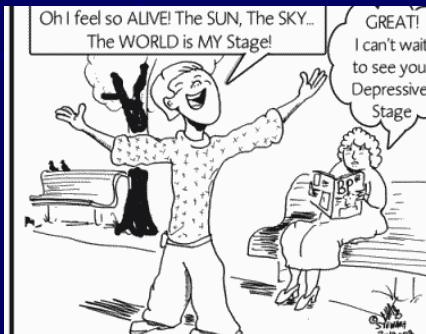


# TWO ASPECTS OF HUMOR

Humor generally involves both intellectual and emotional dimensions.

It calls for thought and understanding, reflection and reasoning.

End result is chuckle or laughter, sometimes forced.



# HUMOR IS LIKE ART

Humor is a work of creativity. Creation of the human mind.

It is not in the external world: It is not material, like painting or sculpture, but abstract, like music.

More people enjoy humor than create it.



"Why don't more of you appreciate my wry sense of humor?"

# ASPECTS OF LIVING

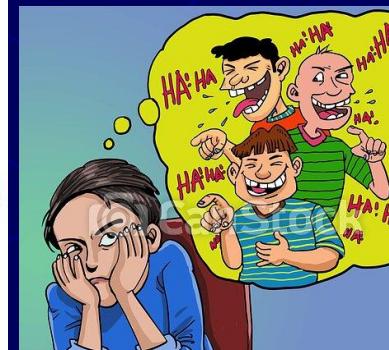
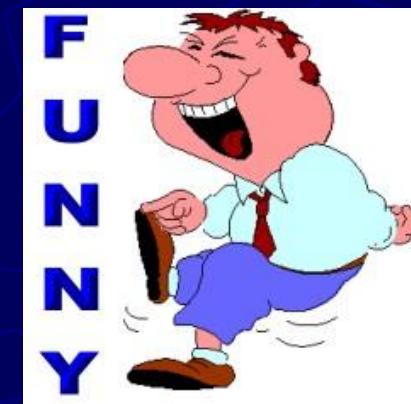
Everyone eats every day, and (if able) one also walks every day. But not everybody laughs every day.



Those who laugh are fortunate because laughter adds to one's enjoyment.



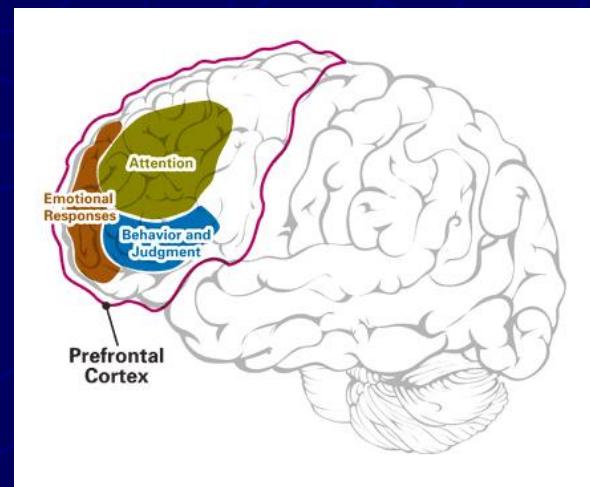
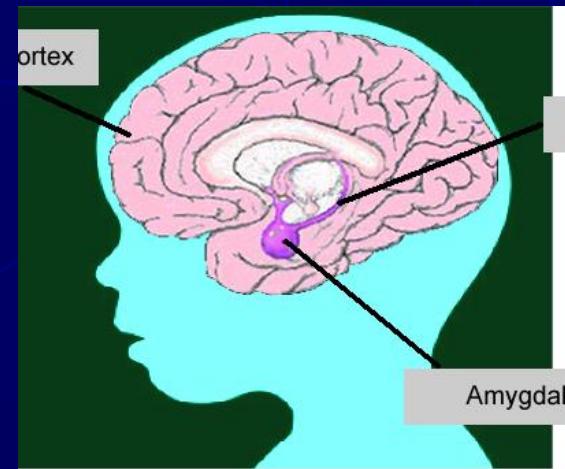
It is better to laugh at something than to be laughed at for something.



# GELOTOLOGY (γέλως laughter) SC OF LAUGHTER

Laughter is associated with the ventromedial prefrontal cortex that produces endorphins.

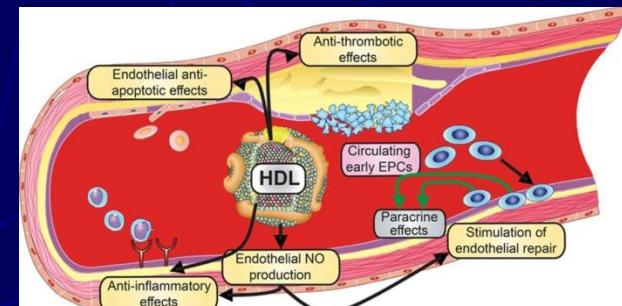
The structures in the limbic system involved in Laughter are: Hippocampus and amygdala.



# IMPORTANCE OF LAUGHTER

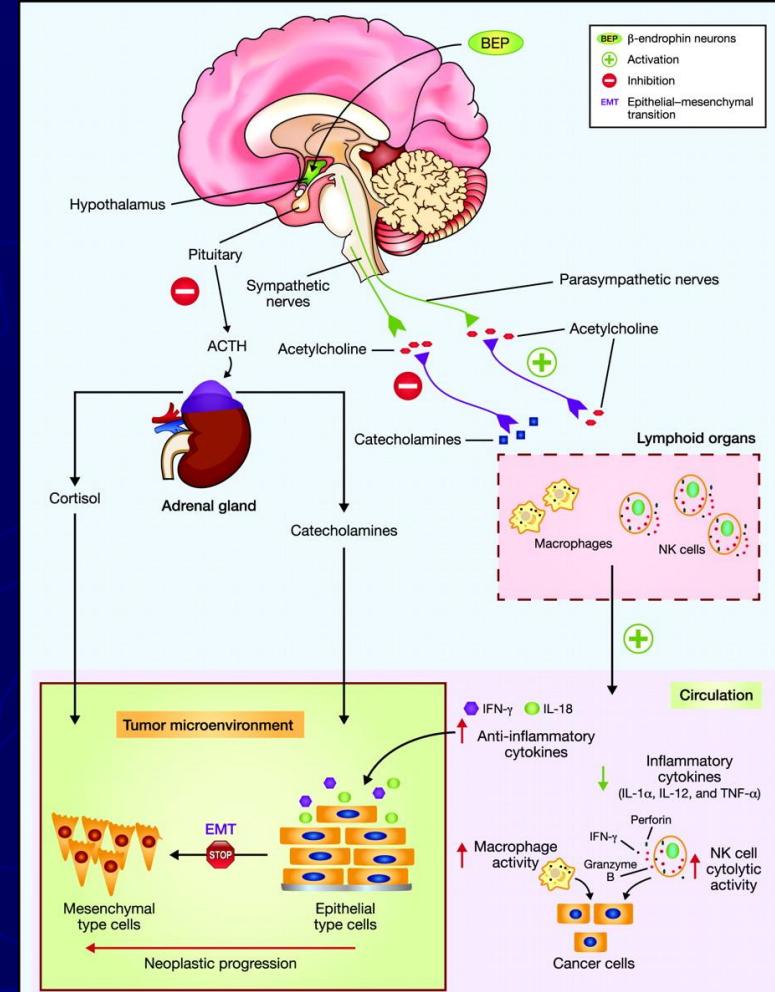
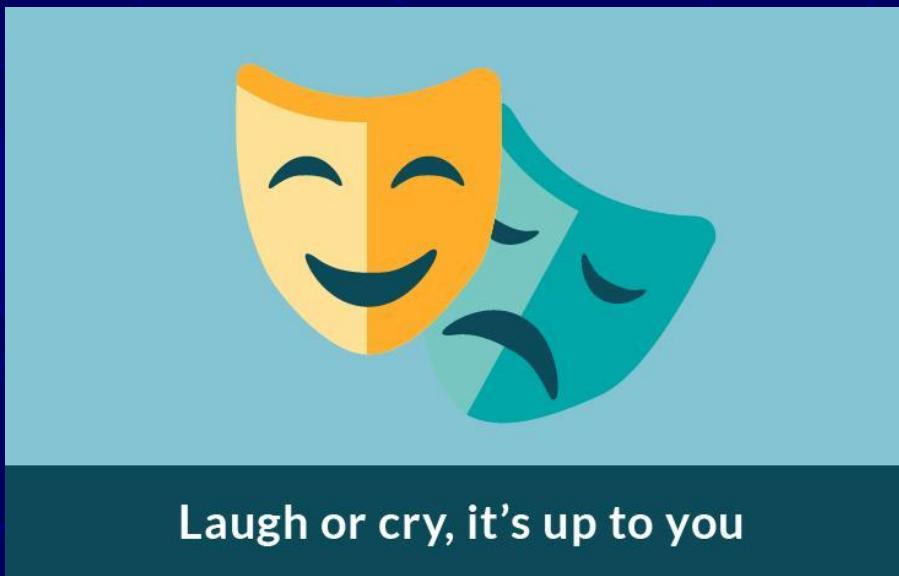
Laughter causes dilatation of inner lining of blood vessels, endothelium, increases blood flow. Beta-endorphin compounds from hypothalamus make receptors on endothelial surface release nitric oxide: and dilate vessels.

Cardioprotective Nitric Oxide reduces inflammation and decreases platelet aggregation.



# EXPLANATION NOT FUNNY

If that does not make you laugh you must at least cry.

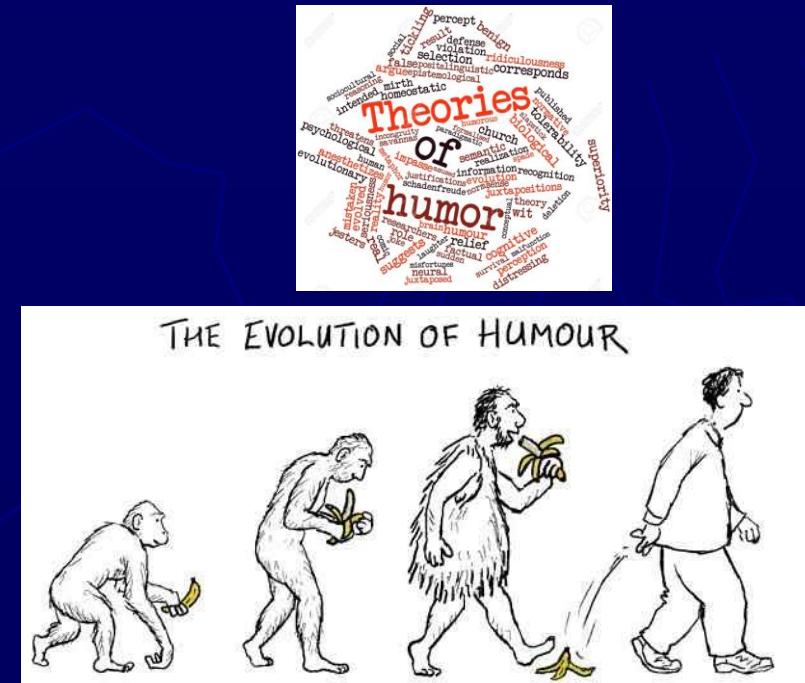


# ANALYSIS OF HUMOR

# Superiority Theory (Plato & Aristotle); Humor arises from a sense of superiority)

# Incongruity Theory: something strange, absurd suddenly appears.

Relief Theory: nervous energy is released through laughter.



**Hello....  
It's Coffee Time!**

**Be Back  
Soon!**



**Koffee  
Addict**

# THEORIES OF HUMOR

Awkward Situations. Surprise turn or end. Removal of seriousness.

Self-Deprecation.

Recognition of the absurd.

Non-natural behavior in a context.

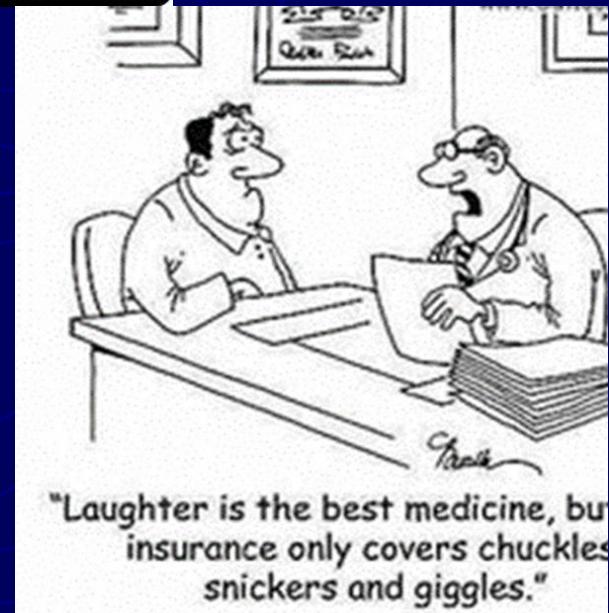
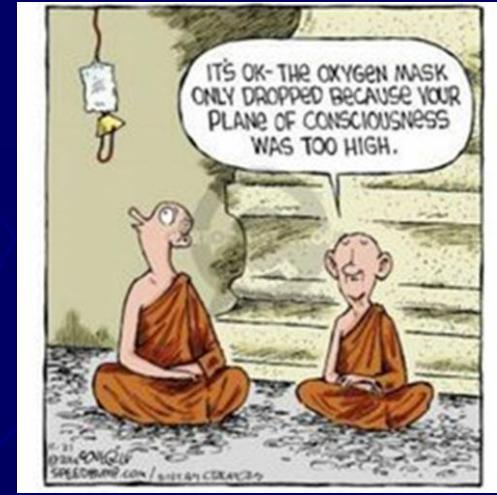


That awkward moment when you make a self-deprecating comment, and no one disagrees...



# SIGMUND FREUD'S THEORY

Laughter releases tension and psychic energy.  
It is a coping mechanism when one is upset, angry, or sad.  
(Irishman's wish.)



# SOME OTHER THEORIES

Laughter has its sociological origins as a shared expression of relief at the passing of danger.

(Contributions to Church.)

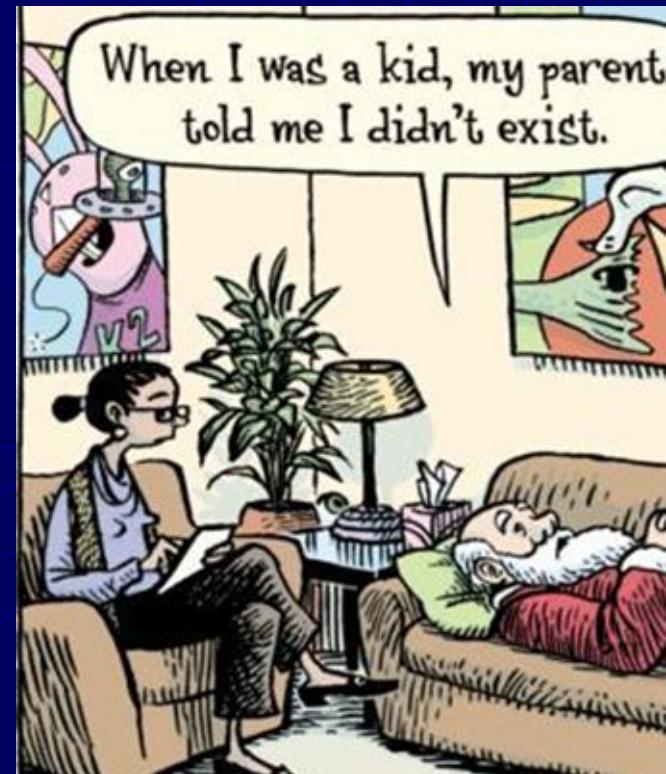
Not all people laugh the same way. Commonly: Facial muscular distortion.



# FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

Laughter is a reaction  
to doubt about Life.

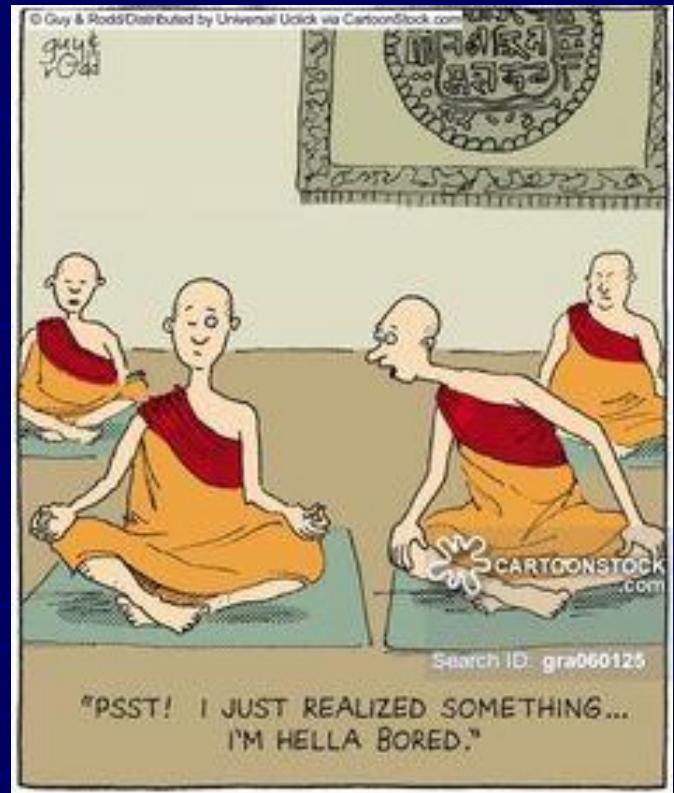
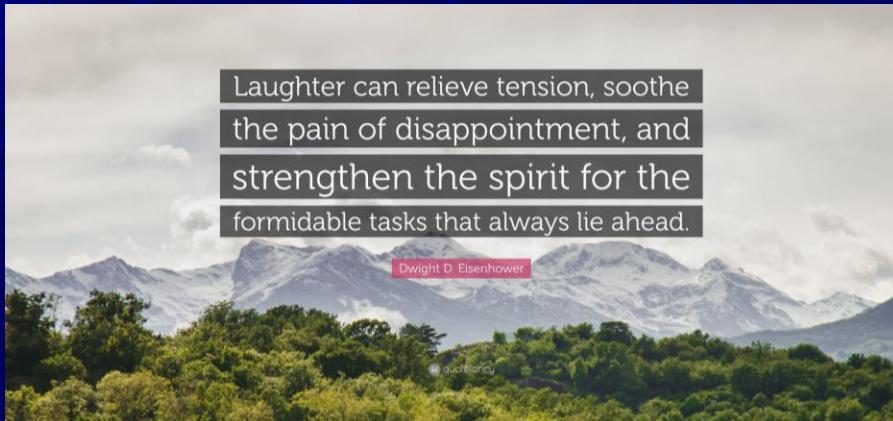
It is the sense of  
existential loneliness and  
mortality.



# OTHER THEORIES

Kant's Incongruity Theory: the comic is an expectation that comes to nothing.

Realization: From Sublime to Ridiculous (Rabbi)



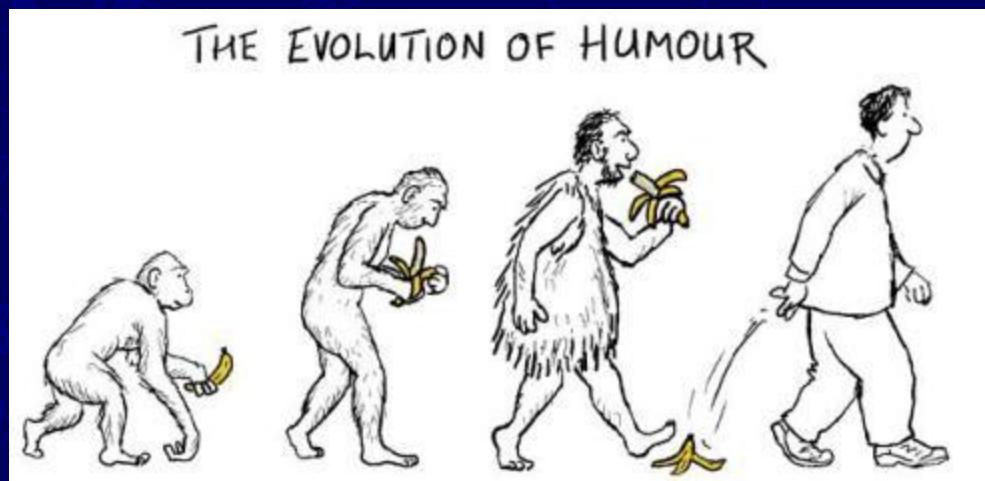
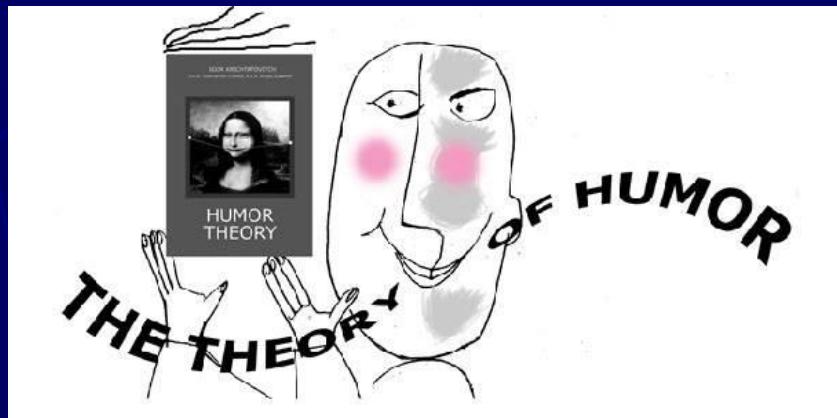
# BERGSON'S MECHANICAL THEORY

Laughter arises when the living is reduced to the mechanical.

(Lots of people sleeping in town tonight)



# DEBATES ON HUMOR

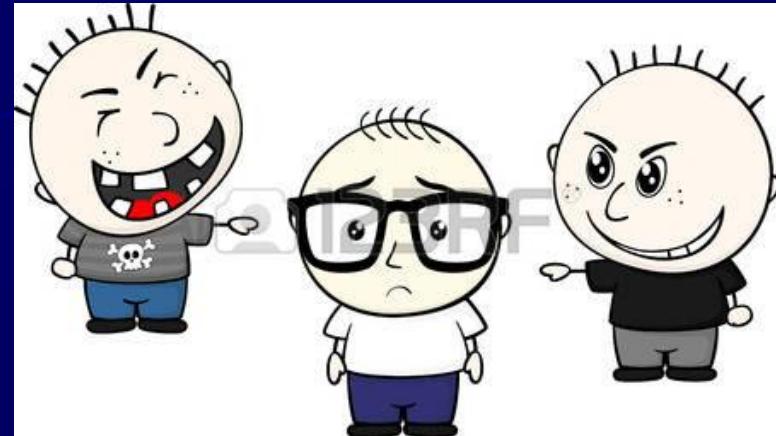


# SUPERIORITY THEORY

Taunts and teases produce laughter while shaming others.

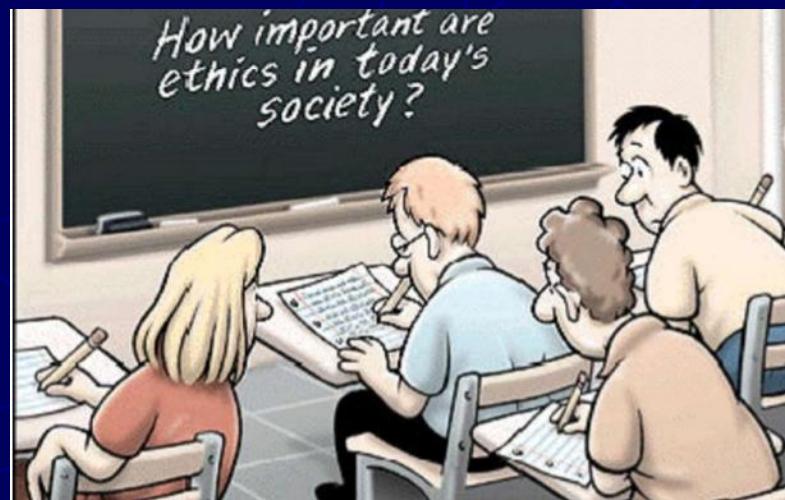
Many jokes about famous people we don't like. Trump seeing B in prison.

Ridicule is a not uncommon mode of humor.



# BENIGN VIOLATION THEORY

We laugh when something is violated – like morals, social codes, linguistic norms, or personal dignity. But the violation isn't threatening.



# INCONGRUITY THEORY

People laugh at an incongruous situation when they realize the incongruity can be interpreted in a different way.

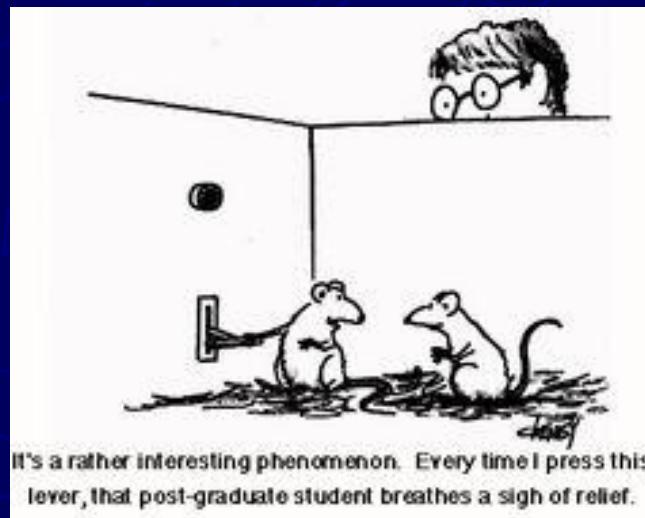
To the Gym teacher: "Can you teach me to do the splits?" He said: "How flexible are you?" I said: "I can't make Tuesdays."



# RELIEF THEORY

Humor calls into question conventional social requirements.

Thus, it affords us relief from the restraint of conforming to these.



# VARIETY OF LAUGHTER

Sounds and facial distortions provoked by laughter cross cultural.

All humans undergo similar facial disfiguration when they laugh aloud.

Individuals laugh in many ways: hearty, more subdued, some merely giggle while others burst into a roar.



# LAUGHTER SANS HUMOR

Humor makes us laugh or smile. Not everything that causes laughter is humor.

When a person slips on a banana peel we may laugh, but that is not humor.

Someone makes a gaffe, we may laugh, but that is not humor. (English Civics Book on Queen)



# JOKE: GAOL IS TO CAUSE LAUGHTER

It may be an Anecdote

Question and answer.

Often have a punch-line.

Success depends on delivery.

Every good joke is funny, but not necessarily humor.

Humor demands intelligence that a joke need not have.



# VARIETY OF JOKES

Jokes may be:

Funny or Unfunny

Short or Long

Silly or Intelligent

Refined or Vulgar

Universal or Ethnic

Realistic or Fantastic

Clear or opaque

Fresh or Repeated



# VARIETY OF JOKES

A horse walks into a bar.

Bar-tender: Why do you have a long face?



What did the hamburger name his daughter?

Patty.



# Unfunny Jokes

A horse walks into a bar.

Bar-tender: Whose horse  
is this?

What did the hamburger  
name his daughter?

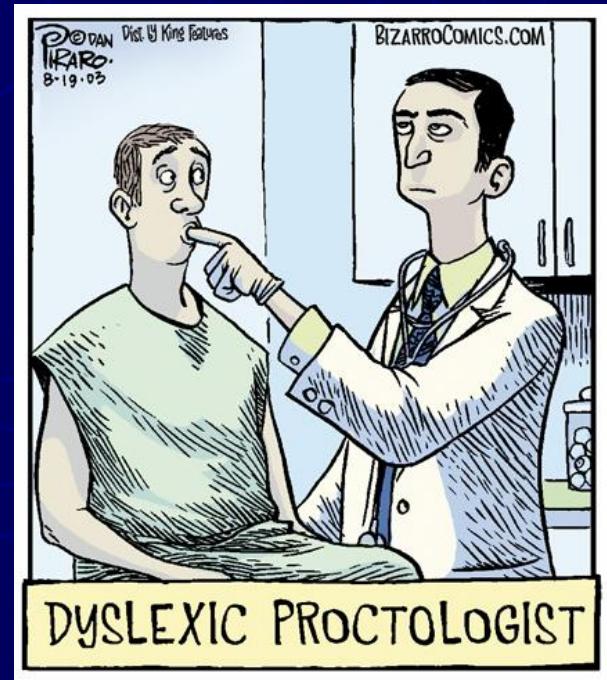
How can a hamburger  
have a daughter?



# SHORT JOKES

I am a dyslexic atheist  
insomniac.

I stay up all night  
wondering if there is  
really a DOG.



# LONG JOKE

General Manager to: Department Heads

On Friday evening at 5 p.m., Halley's Comet will be visible in this area—an event which occurs only once every 76 years.

Please have the students assemble in the park and I will explain this rare phenomenon to them.

In case of rain, we will not be able to see anything, so assemble the employees in the canteen and I will show a film.



## Superintendent to Foreman

On Friday at 5 p.m., the General Manager will appear in the canteen with Halley's Comet, something which happens every 76 years. But if it rains, the General Manager will order the comet into the area outside the building.

## Foreman to Team Leader

When it rains on Friday at 5 p.m. the phenomenal 76 year old Bill Halley, accompanied by his comet will drive the General Manager through the area outside the building into the canteen.



## Bill Halley & His Comets







# Major Sources of Humor

Words: misused or cleverly used.

Situations: if seen or described humorously

Concepts and institutions in human society.

can also be made the subject of humor.



# Life and Health Concepts

Many aspects of culture and religion are associated with matters of life, health, and death.

The best doctors are Dr. Diet and Dr. Quiet.



# Long Joke

From: General Manager To: Departmental Heads

- On Friday evening at 5 p.m., Halley's Comet will be visible in this area—an event which occurs only once every 76 years. Please have the employees assemble in the park area outside the building and I will explain this rare phenomenon to them. In case of rain, we will not be able to see anything, so assemble the employees in the canteen and I will show them a film of it.

Superintendent to Foreman

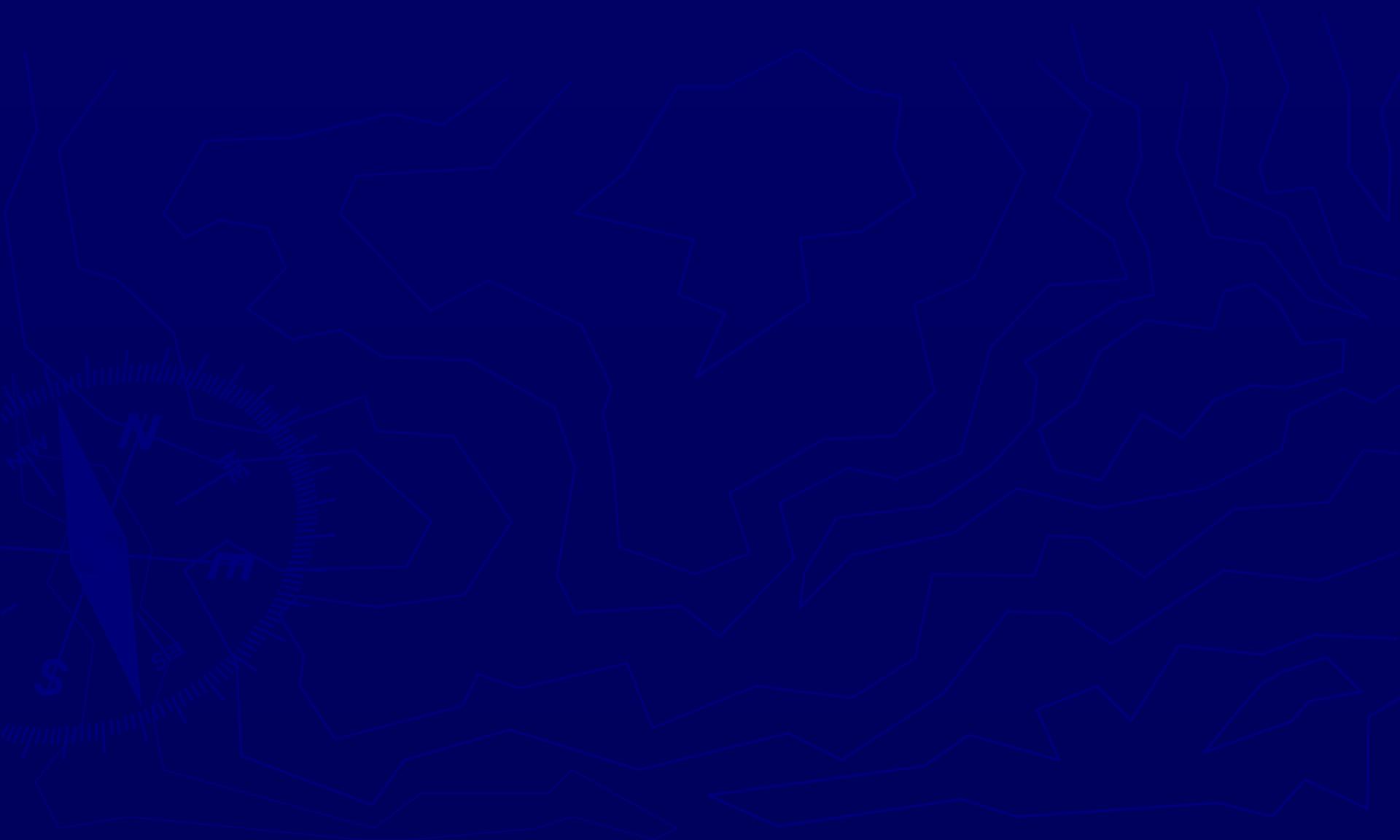
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Foreman to Team Leader

When it rains on Friday at 5 p.m., the phenomenal 76 year old Bill Halley, accompanied by his comets, will drive the General Manager through the area outside the building into the canteen.



# Funny Joke



# Long Joke

- ▶ A horse walks into a bar.
- ▶ Bar-tender: Why do you have a long face?
- ▶ The horse does not respond because it can't understand.
- ▶ It can't understand because it neither speaks nor writes English.
- ▶ It is confused by its surroundings.
- ▶ It gallops out of the bar, knocking over some tables.

# Long Joke

- ▶ Nobody laughed.
- ▶ A professor asked, “Why don’t you laugh?”
- ▶ The man replied, “Because they were my horses.”
- ▶ The professor laughed.
- ▶ “Why do you laugh?”
- ▶ “Because you should say, That was my horse.”

# Short Jokes

There will be 1000s of  
people in Ames tonight.

Why?

'Cause they live here.

# Silly Joke

**John, you think I'm an caring mother?  
My name is Paul, Mom.**

# Clever Joke

Which travels faster, heat or cold?  
Heat, because you can catch cold.

# Unrealistic Jokes

Last night I dreamt of a beautiful walk on a sandy beach.

At least that explains the footprints I found in the cat litter box this morning.

Man in speeding train: How did you count there were 42 cows?

Easy: I counted their legs and divided the number by four.

# Opaque Jokes

On what basis can it be reasonably argued that a Marsupial Macropodiae can leap to significantly higher altitudes than the residential edifice of townspeople?

Answer: Because residential edifices cannot and do not leap at all.

# Clear Joke

Can a kangaroo jump higher  
than a house?

Of course, a house doesn't  
jump at all

# Fresh Jokes

- ▶ A man to a psychiatrist: "How do you select who should be admitted to your facility?"
- ▶ The psychiatrist replies: "We fill a bathtub with water and give the person a spoon, a cup and a bucket. Then we ask that person to empty the bathtub."
- ▶ The man smiles: "Ah, I understand, if you are sane you would take the bucket."
- ▶ The Psychiatrist replies: "No, a sane guy pulls the plug. Do you want a room with or without a balcony?"

# Dumb Jokes

- ▶ Patient: Doctor help me please, every time I drink a cup of coffee I get this intense stinging in my eye.  
Doctor: I suggest you remove the spoon before drinking.

# Smart Jokes

- ▶ Which is the longest word in English?
- ▶ SmileS
- ▶ How come?
- ▶ Who is bigger, Mr. Bigger or his son?
- ▶ His son.
- ▶ How come?

**SMILES**



E-mail is the happy medium between male and female."

"A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking."



**MALE &  
FEMALE  
EMAIL LISTS &**





# Prolongation of Life

Prolongation of life through artificial support systems is not religiously sanctioned.

Death is regarded as a transition to another life in the birth-death cycle.



# Stages and Pursuits in Life

## Stages (ashramas)

1. Student stage.
2. Householder stage.
3. Retirement stage.
4. Renunciant stage.

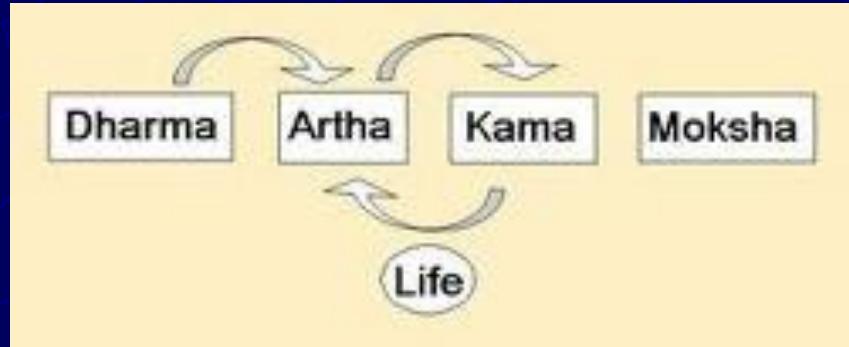
## Pursuits (purusharthas)

1. Knowledge and values.
2. Economic independence.
3. Enjoyment.
4. Liberation.

### Stages of Life\*

1. Apprentice  
learns roles within religion, politics, or trades
2. Householder  
works and raises a family
3. Forest Dweller  
focuses on spiritual matters and helps with grandchildren
4. Renoucer  
renounces ties to family and property, focuses on liberation

\* These stages of life are for Hindus choosing to follow the Vedic way. The stages of life are not considered necessary for laborers.



Indian culture certainly gives the Indian mind, including the mind of the Indian scientist, the ability to think out of the box.

Roland Joffe

