



# HUPPY

*the Anarchist*



A graphic novel about a young man's journey to becoming a critical thinker through sociology.

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and sample pages,  
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[huppytheanarchist.com](http://huppytheanarchist.com)

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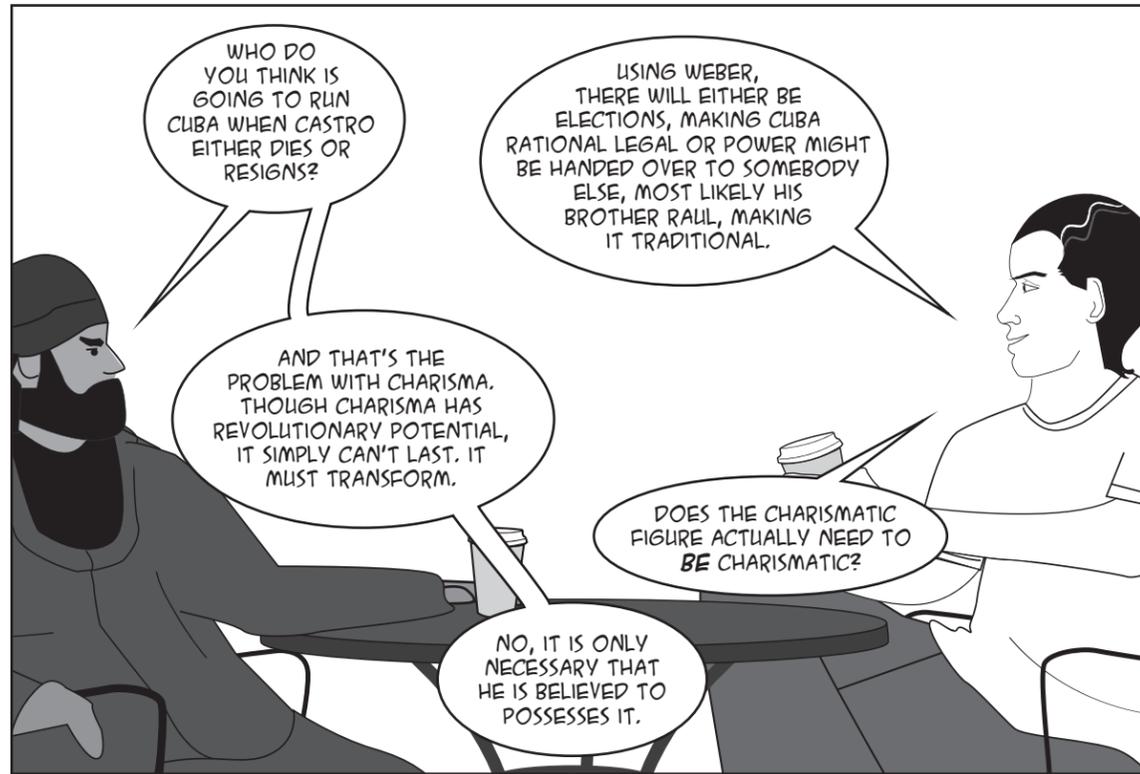
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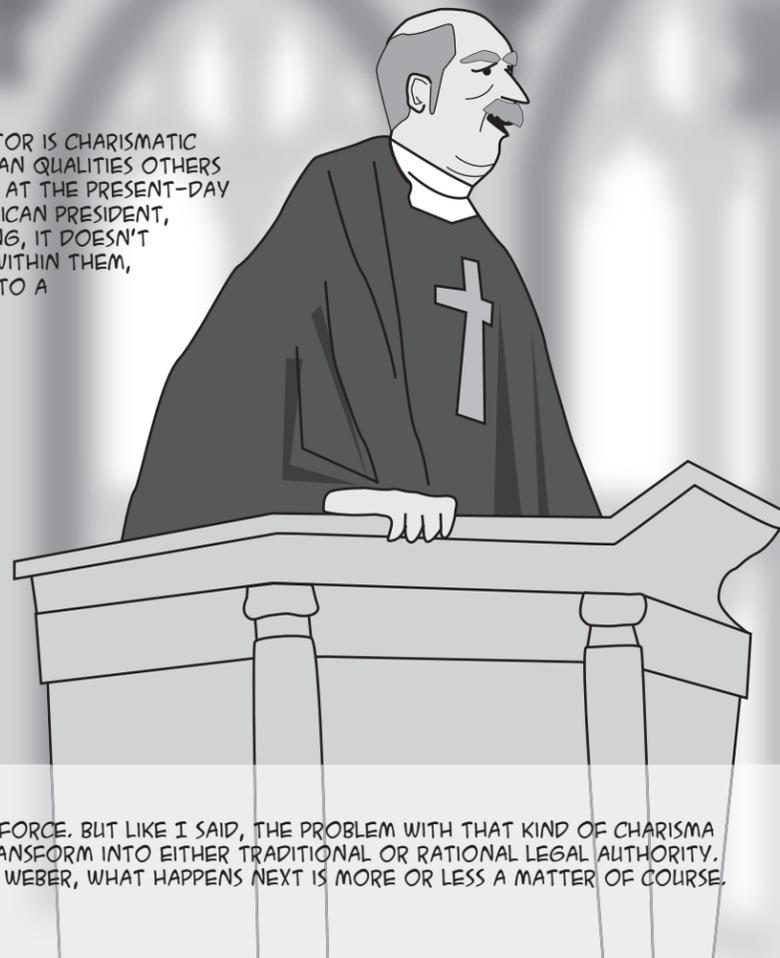
**PHOTOS BY**  
TODD NORMAN







FOR INSTANCE, A PENTECOSTAL PASTOR IS CHARISMATIC BECAUSE OF THE ALMOST SUPERHUMAN QUALITIES OTHERS PERCEIVE HE HAS. BUT IF YOU LOOK AT THE PRESENT-DAY CATHOLIC PRIEST, OR EVEN AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT, WHETHER THEY ARE DULL OR EXCITING, IT DOESN'T MATTER. THEIR CHARISMA LIES NOT WITHIN THEM, BUT IS PART OF THEIR ATTACHMENT TO A POWERFUL INSTITUTION.

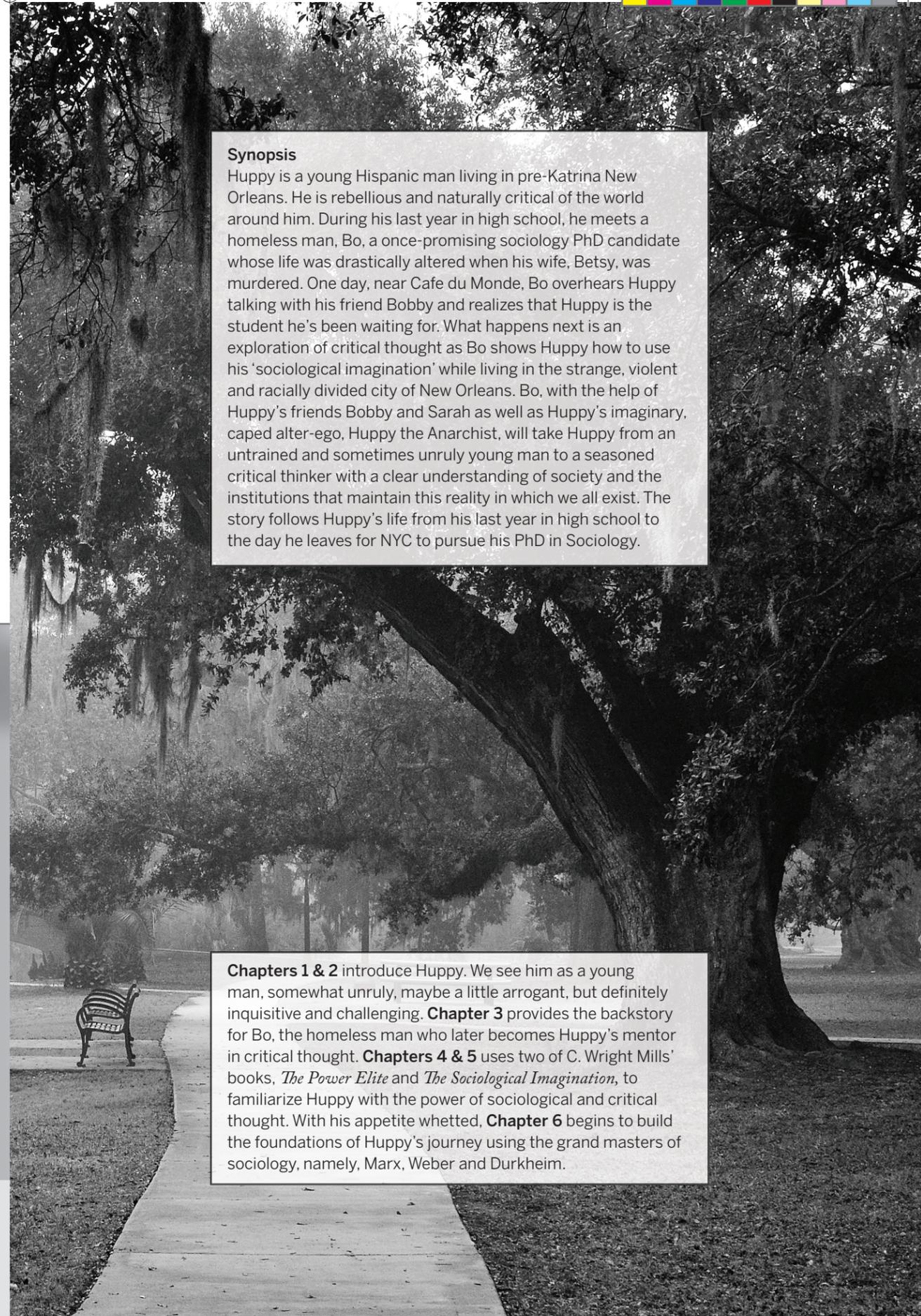


REAL CHARISMA IS A VERY POWERFUL FORCE. BUT LIKE I SAID, THE PROBLEM WITH THAT KIND OF CHARISMA IS THAT IT EVENTUALLY NEEDS TO TRANSFORM INTO EITHER TRADITIONAL OR RATIONAL LEGAL AUTHORITY. FIDEL HAS TO DIE OR RETIRE AND TO WEBER, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS MORE OR LESS A MATTER OF COURSE.

### Synopsis

Huppy is a young Hispanic man living in pre-Katrina New Orleans. He is rebellious and naturally critical of the world around him. During his last year in high school, he meets a homeless man, Bo, a once-promising sociology PhD candidate whose life was drastically altered when his wife, Betsy, was murdered. One day, near Cafe du Monde, Bo overhears Huppy talking with his friend Bobby and realizes that Huppy is the student he's been waiting for. What happens next is an exploration of critical thought as Bo shows Huppy how to use his 'sociological imagination' while living in the strange, violent and racially divided city of New Orleans. Bo, with the help of Huppy's friends Bobby and Sarah as well as Huppy's imaginary, caped alter-ego, Huppy the Anarchist, will take Huppy from an untrained and sometimes unruly young man to a seasoned critical thinker with a clear understanding of society and the institutions that maintain this reality in which we all exist. The story follows Huppy's life from his last year in high school to the day he leaves for NYC to pursue his PhD in Sociology.

**Chapters 1 & 2** introduce Huppy. We see him as a young man, somewhat unruly, maybe a little arrogant, but definitely inquisitive and challenging. **Chapter 3** provides the backstory for Bo, the homeless man who later becomes Huppy's mentor in critical thought. **Chapters 4 & 5** uses two of C. Wright Mills' books, *The Power Elite* and *The Sociological Imagination*, to familiarize Huppy with the power of sociological and critical thought. With his appetite whetted, **Chapter 6** begins to build the foundations of Huppy's journey using the grand masters of sociology, namely, Marx, Weber and Durkheim.





**Texts:**

Marx, Karl, Friedrich Engels & Robert C. Tucker. *The Marx-Engels reader (Second Edition)*. New York: Norton, 1978.  
Weber, Max. *The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. Lexington, KY: CreateSpace, 2010.  
Weber, Max. *Economy and society : an outline of interpretive sociology*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978.  
Durkheim, Emile. *The elementary forms of religious life*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2008.

CHARISMATIC AUTHORITY HAS THE POWER TO CHALLENGE BOTH THOSE TYPES OF AUTHORITY. CHARISMA CAN CRUSH RATIONAL LEGAL AND TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY. SO, OBVIOUSLY, FOR PEOPLE IN POWER, IT CAN ALSO BE VERY DANGEROUS.

CHARISMATIC FIGURES HAVE POPPED UP THROUGHOUT HISTORY. THINK OF PEOPLE LIKE CHE GUEVARA, FIDEL CASTRO, EVEN THE UNPOPULAR ADOLF HITLER, JUST TO NAME A FEW.



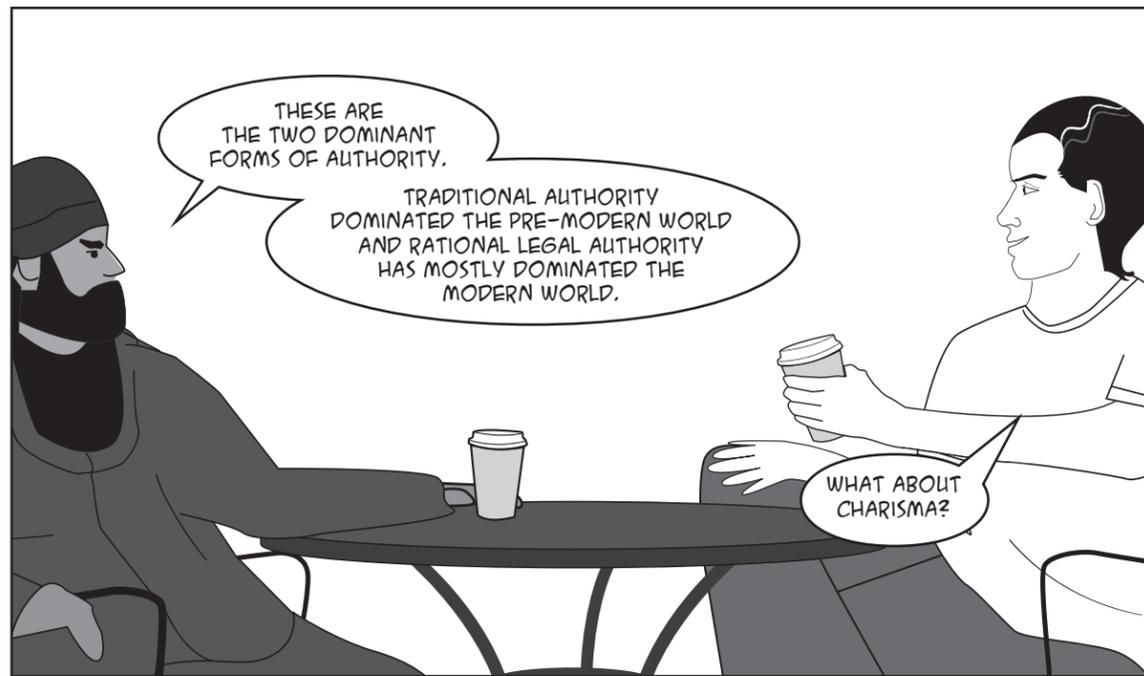
THE ONLY PROBLEM WITH CHARISMA, KIND OF LIKE WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE, IT CAN'T LAST. IT HAS TO TRANSFORM AND ACCORDING TO WEBER IT ALWAYS TRANSFORMS TO EITHER A TRADITIONAL OR A RATIONAL LEGAL AUTHORITY.



THE FIRST IS TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY, WHICH IS THE LONG-STANDING LEGITIMACY OF PEOPLE IN POWER BASED ON TRADITION. THE ROMAN EMPIRE OR MONARCHS ARE GOOD EXAMPLES OF THIS. NO ONE QUESTIONS IT AND IT IS THE ACCEPTED REALITY.



THEN THERE'S RATIONAL LEGAL AUTHORITY. THIS IS TYPICAL BUREAUCRATIC AUTHORITY, WHERE POWER IS PASSED DOWN THROUGH BUREAUCRATIC MEANS AND IS LEGITIMATED THROUGH THE BUREAUCRATIC INSTITUTION. MODERN NATION-STATES, LIKE THE UNITED STATES, ARE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS.



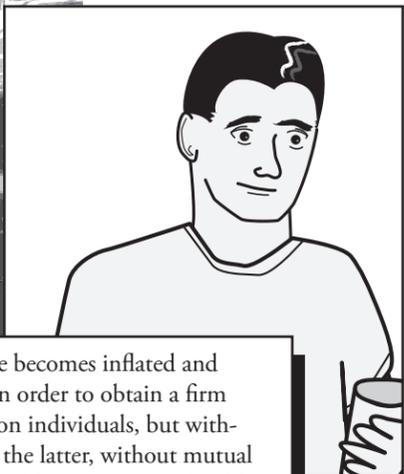
# CHAPTER 6

BRACE YOURSELF...





"The bureaucracy is an iron cage from which no one can escape. Its hierarchy is a hierarchy of knowledge."



"The fate of our times is characterized by rationalization and intellectualization and, above all, by the disenchantment of the world."

"While the State becomes inflated and hypertrophied in order to obtain a firm enough grip upon individuals, but without succeeding, the latter, without mutual relationships, tumble over one another like so many liquid molecules, encountering no central energy to retain, fix and organize them."

IN A RATIONAL SYSTEM, EVERYTHING IS CALCULABLE, CONTROLLABLE, EFFICIENT AND PREDICTABLE. LIKE A GIRL IN A SHORT SKIRT, NOTHING IS LEFT TO THE IMAGINATION. A RATIONALIZED WORLD IS WHAT WEBER CALLS A DISENCHANTING WORLD. ALL ROMANTIC IDEAS OR MYSTICISM, MAGIC AND WONDER ARE ALL REPLACED WITH SCIENCE AND RATIONALITY. SCIENCE IS BELIEVED TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, INCLUDING HUMAN BEHAVIOR.



FOR WEBER, RATIONALITY WOULD CONTINUE AND EVENTUALLY MAN WOULD TRAP HIMSELF INTO AN IRON CAGE THAT HE HIMSELF CANNOT GET OUT OF.



HEY THERE OLD MAN.

BOY, DON'T TELL ME YOU READ ALL OF IT ALREADY! IT'S ONLY BEEN A WEEK!



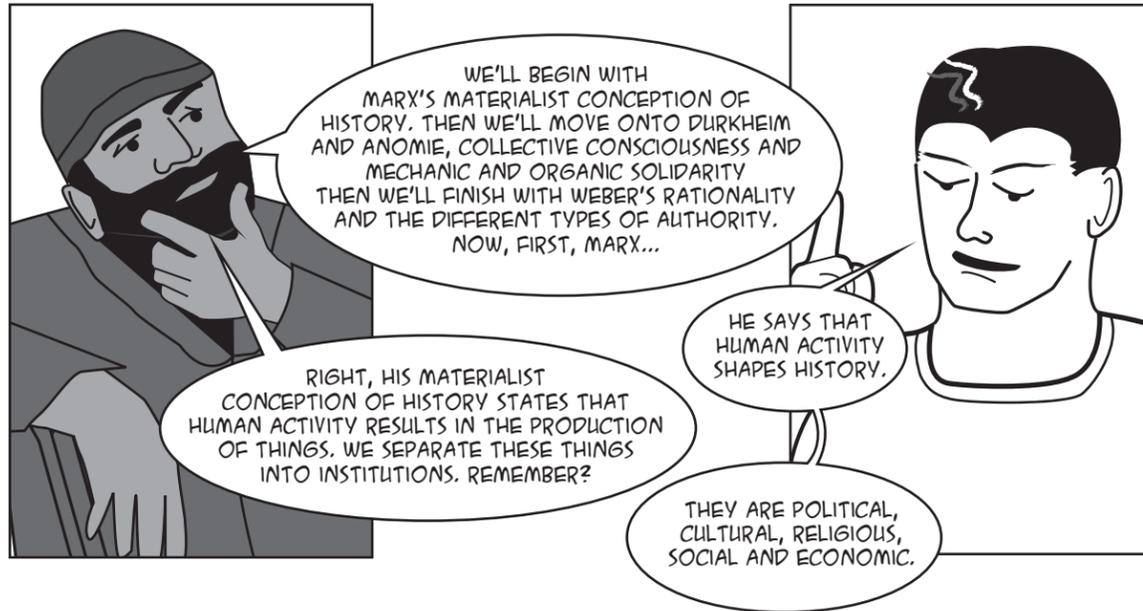
THOUGH TO UNDERSTAND HOPES FOR REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE, WE HAVE TO LOOK AT WEBER'S THREE NOTIONS OF AUTHORITY.

ANOMIE IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUFF FOLKS THOUGHT WAS TRUE AIN'T NO LONGER TRUE AND NEVER WAS TRUE. HELL, IMAGINE IF WE FOUND OUT WE WEREN'T THE ONLY INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM IN THIS GALAXY? THAT WOULD HAVE AN ANOMIC EFFECT ON A LOT PEOPLE.



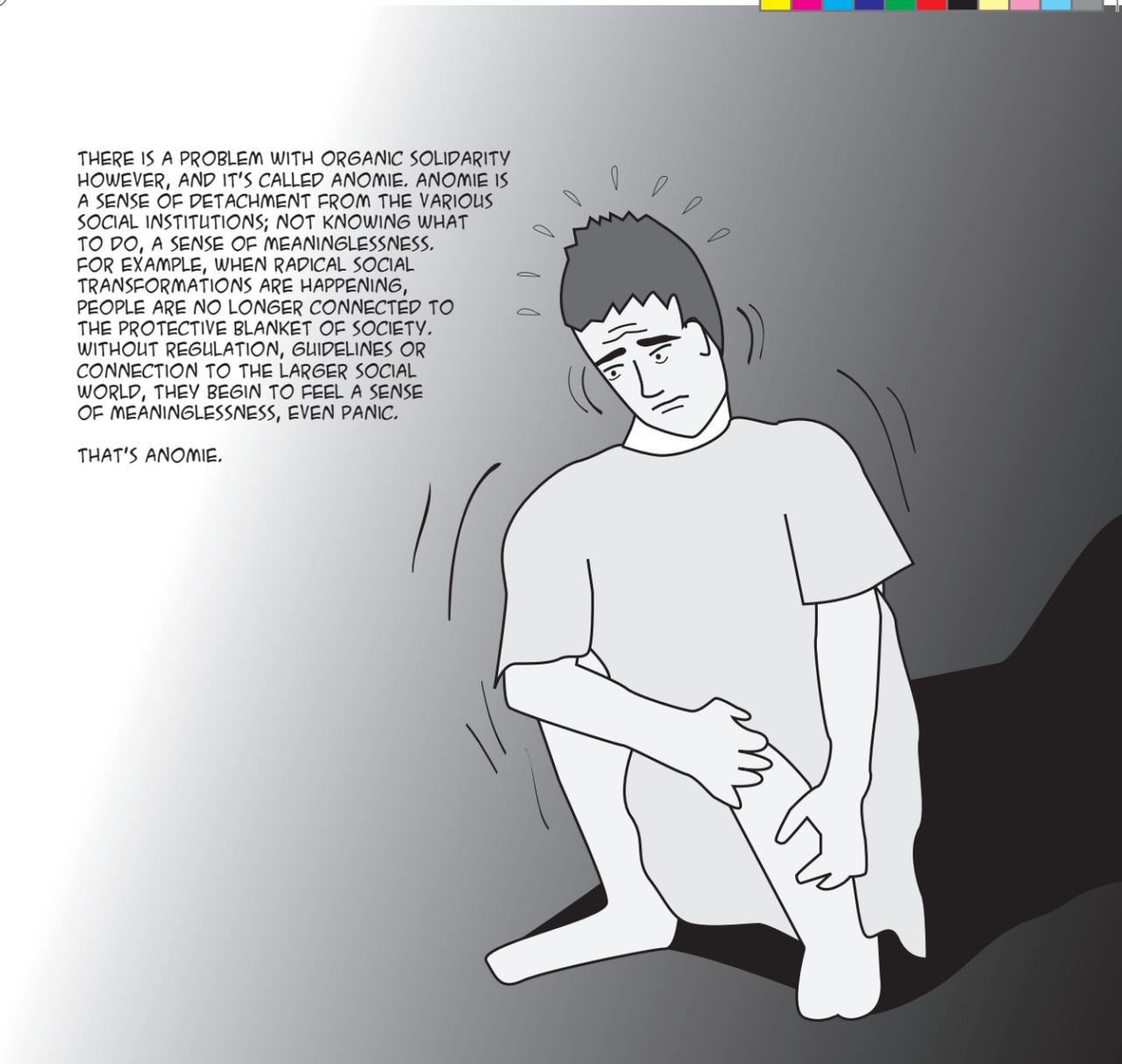
OK, NOW THE LAST GUY WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT IS WEBER. WEBER SAW MODERNITY AS A RATIONALIZING PROCESS IN ALL OUR INSTITUTIONS. THE PROBLEM WITH RATIONALITY IS THAT THE WHOLE WORLD BEGINS TO LOOK LIKE A BUREAUCRACY.





THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH ORGANIC SOLIDARITY HOWEVER, AND IT'S CALLED ANOMIE. ANOMIE IS A SENSE OF DETACHMENT FROM THE VARIOUS SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS; NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO, A SENSE OF MEANINGLESSNESS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN RADICAL SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS ARE HAPPENING, PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER CONNECTED TO THE PROTECTIVE BLANKET OF SOCIETY. WITHOUT REGULATION, GUIDELINES OR CONNECTION TO THE LARGER SOCIAL WORLD, THEY BEGIN TO FEEL A SENSE OF MEANINGLESSNESS, EVEN PANIC.

THAT'S ANOMIE.



DURKHEIM SAYS THAT SOCIETIES IN THE PAST HAD WHAT HE CALLED MECHANICAL SOLIDARITY, OR A SOCIETY HELD TOGETHER BY SAMENESS. EVERYONE SHARED A COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS BECAUSE THEY ALL PERFORMED THE SAME ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOR, THERE WEREN'T MANY BELIEFS, ACTIVITIES OR IDEAS TO CHOOSE FROM. WHEN PEOPLE SHARE THE SAME THOUGHTS AND IDEAS, THEY SHARE A COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUS.



IT IS NATURAL FOR HUMAN BEINGS TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITY AND FROM THIS ACTIVITY, A WORLD IS CREATED.

IN THE NATURAL PRODUCTION PROCESS, PEOPLE ARE CONNECTED TO THEIR OWN PRODUCTION ACTIVITY, THE PRODUCTS THEY PRODUCE, TO THE RAW MATERIALS THEY USE, TO THEIR FELLOW HUMANS THEY PRODUCE WITH AS WELL AS TO THEIR SPECIES BEING, OR SOUL.



AND HE CAN NOW SHARE IT WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO OCCUPY HIS SAME REALITY; A HUMAN ONE.



BUT OVER TIME, LABOR BECAME SPECIALIZED. AS AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPANDED, PEOPLE HAD MORE FREE TIME TO ENGAGE IN OTHER TASKS AND DEVELOP NEW IDEAS. SOME PEOPLE BECAME CRAFTSMEN, OTHERS MADE SHOES, OTHERS WERE BUTCHERS, TEACHERS, COPS, PRIESTS, LAWYERS, WHATEVER. DURKHEIM CALLED THIS ORGANIC SOLIDARITY. AND SINCE EVERYONE IS SO SPECIALIZED AND MUTUALLY DEPENDENT, SOCIETY IS HELD TOGETHER.

IN CAPITALISM, THIS HUMAN CREATIVITY IS STIFLED AND HUMANS BECOME ALIENATED, WHICH MEANS THAT HUMANS NO LONGER CONTROL THEIR OWN ACTIVITY. AS A RESULT, THEY NO LONGER RECOGNIZE THE SOCIAL WORLD AS A PRODUCT OF THEIR ACTIVITY. THAT ACTIVITY IS NOW CONTROLLED BY A CAPITALIST THAT TELLS THEM HOW TO THINK AND WHAT TO DO.



AND THE REALITY THAT IS CREATED ACTUALLY DENIES MAN'S EXISTENCE WHILE REINFORCING THE POWER OF THE CAPITALIST.



SO, IN CAPITALISM, PEOPLE ARE SEPARATED IN FOUR WAYS: FROM THE PRODUCTS THAT THEY PRODUCE, FROM THEIR OWN PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY, FROM THEIR FELLOW HUMANS, AND FROM THEIR SPECIES BEING, OR THEIR ABILITY TO REALIZE THEMSELVES THROUGH THEIR PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY. AND ALL OF THIS TOGETHER CREATES THE ALIENATED INDIVIDUAL UNDER CAPITALISM.



YES. AND THE REASON CAPITALISM IS A PROBLEM IS BECAUSE WHILE UNDER NATURAL CONDITIONS THEY ARE CONNECTED TO THOSE FOUR THINGS, UNDER CAPITALISM, THEY'RE DISCONNECTED FROM THOSE FOUR THINGS.



WELL, FIRST, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO WORK A BAR AND SECOND, YOU SHOULDN'T RUN YOURSELF SO RAGGED.

FIRST, C'MON, THIS IS NEW ORLEANS, AND SECOND, I NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE AND THE TIPS WERE GOOD.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING... I SUPPOSE.

LET'S CONTINUE.

ACCORDING TO MARX, THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS OF MODERN SOCIETY ARE ALIENATION AND FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS. BUT DURKHEIM WANTED TO KNOW HOW IS SOCIETY EVEN POSSIBLE?



BUT THERE ARE MORE WORKERS AND THE CAPITALISTS ARE FEWER IN NUMBER, YOU'D THINK THE WORKERS WOULD JUST TAKE OVER AND GET RID OF THE CAPITALISTS.

IT'S TRUE THAT AS CAPITALISM CONTINUES TO EXPAND, THERE ARE MORE AND MORE WORKERS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAVE LESS AND LESS POWER WHILE THE CAPITALISTS, THOUGH DECREASING IN NUMBER, ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE POWERFUL.



BEFORE WE GO ON, I REALLY NEED SOME MORE COFFEE. YOU WANT SOME?

IF YOU'RE BUYIN'. DID YOU HAVE A LATE NIGHT?

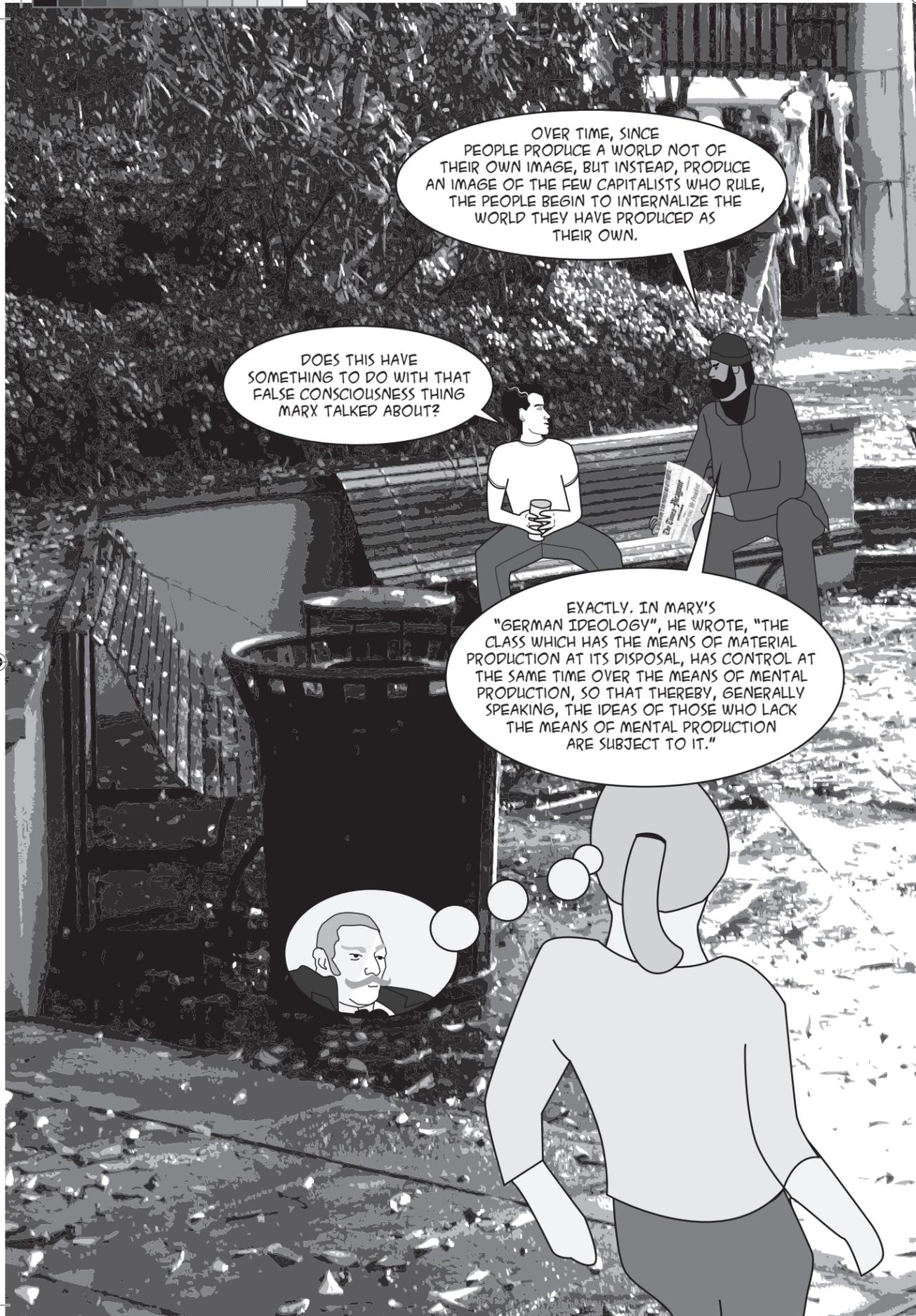
YEAH, I HAD TO WORK.  
I THOUGHT YOU WORKED AT THE AQUARIUM? THEY'RE NOT OPEN LATE.  
THEY ARE IF THERE'S A PARTY. I WAS WORKING THE BAR.

THE WORKERS—WHO MARX CALLED THE PROLETARIAT—DO NOT OWN THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND INSTEAD, ENGAGE IN WAGE SLAVERY, SELLING THEIR BODIES AND LABOR, OR PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY, TO THE CAPITALISTS, ALSO KNOWN AS THE BOURGEOISIE. IN RETURN, THE PROLETARIAT GET A SUBSISTENCE WAGE, WHILE THE BOURGEOISIE EXTRACT SURPLUS VALUE IN A PROCESS OF EXPLOITATION TO GET BIG MONEY.



MOO-WAH-HA-HAAA!

MARX CALLED THEM *CAPITALIST VAMPIRES* BECAUSE THEY LITERALLY SUCK THE LABOR OUT OF THE PROLETARIAT. THE MORE LABOR THE CAPITALIST SUCKS FROM THE WORKERS, THE MORE SUCCESSFUL AND WEALTHY THE CAPITALIST BECOMES.



OVER TIME, SINCE PEOPLE PRODUCE A WORLD NOT OF THEIR OWN IMAGE, BUT INSTEAD, PRODUCE AN IMAGE OF THE FEW CAPITALISTS WHO RULE, THE PEOPLE BEGIN TO INTERNALIZE THE WORLD THEY HAVE PRODUCED AS THEIR OWN.

DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS THING MARX TALKED ABOUT?

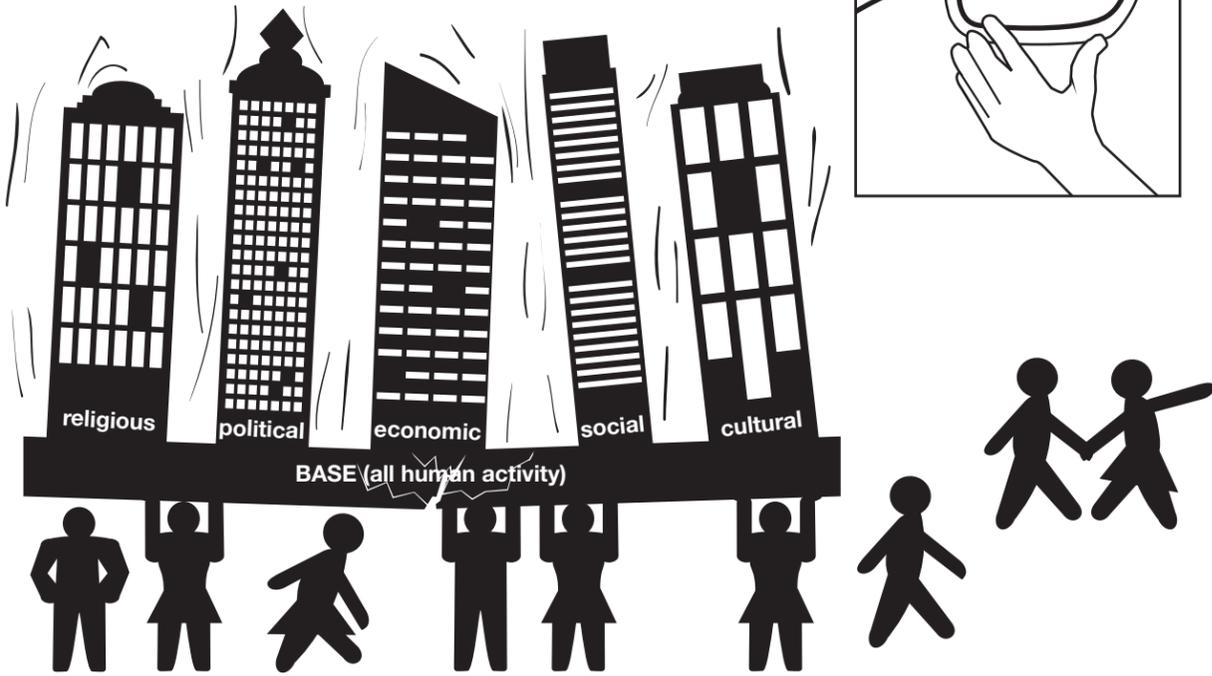
EXACTLY. IN MARX'S "GERMAN IDEOLOGY", HE WROTE, "THE CLASS WHICH HAS THE MEANS OF MATERIAL PRODUCTION AT ITS DISPOSAL, HAS CONTROL AT THE SAME TIME OVER THE MEANS OF MENTAL PRODUCTION, SO THAT THEREBY, GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE IDEAS OF THOSE WHO LACK THE MEANS OF MENTAL PRODUCTION ARE SUBJECT TO IT."



I'M NOT JUST RAGGING ON RELIGION. ALL THE INSTITUTIONS IN THE SUPERSTRUCTURE ARE SUPPORTED BY THE BASE WHICH IS HUMAN ACTIVITY.

AND SHOULD THE WORKERS EVER ACTUALLY SUCCEED IN CHANGING THE BASE, THEN ALL THE INSTITUTIONS WILL COME CRUMBLING DOWN. BY OVERTHROWING THE CAPITALISTS, THE WORKERS WOULD NO LONGER BE ALIENATED.

SO, IF HUMAN BEINGS CAN FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THE CAPITALISTS, THEY WOULD CHANGE THEIR ACTIVITY, WHICH IS THE BASE AND THAT, IN TURN WOULD DESTROY THE SUPERSTRUCTURE.



THE RESULT WOULD BE THE CREATION OF A WORLD IN THE IMAGE OF THE PEOPLE, NOT A FEW CAPITALISTS. PEOPLE WILL BEGIN TO INTERNALIZE THIS NEW WORLD IN THEIR OWN IMAGE AND DEVELOP THEIR OWN CONSCIOUSNESS, WHAT MARX CALLS TRUE CONSCIOUSNESS. THE PROLETARIAT NEEDS TO BECOME NOT ONLY A CLASS IN ITSELF, BUT ALSO A CLASS FOR ITSELF.

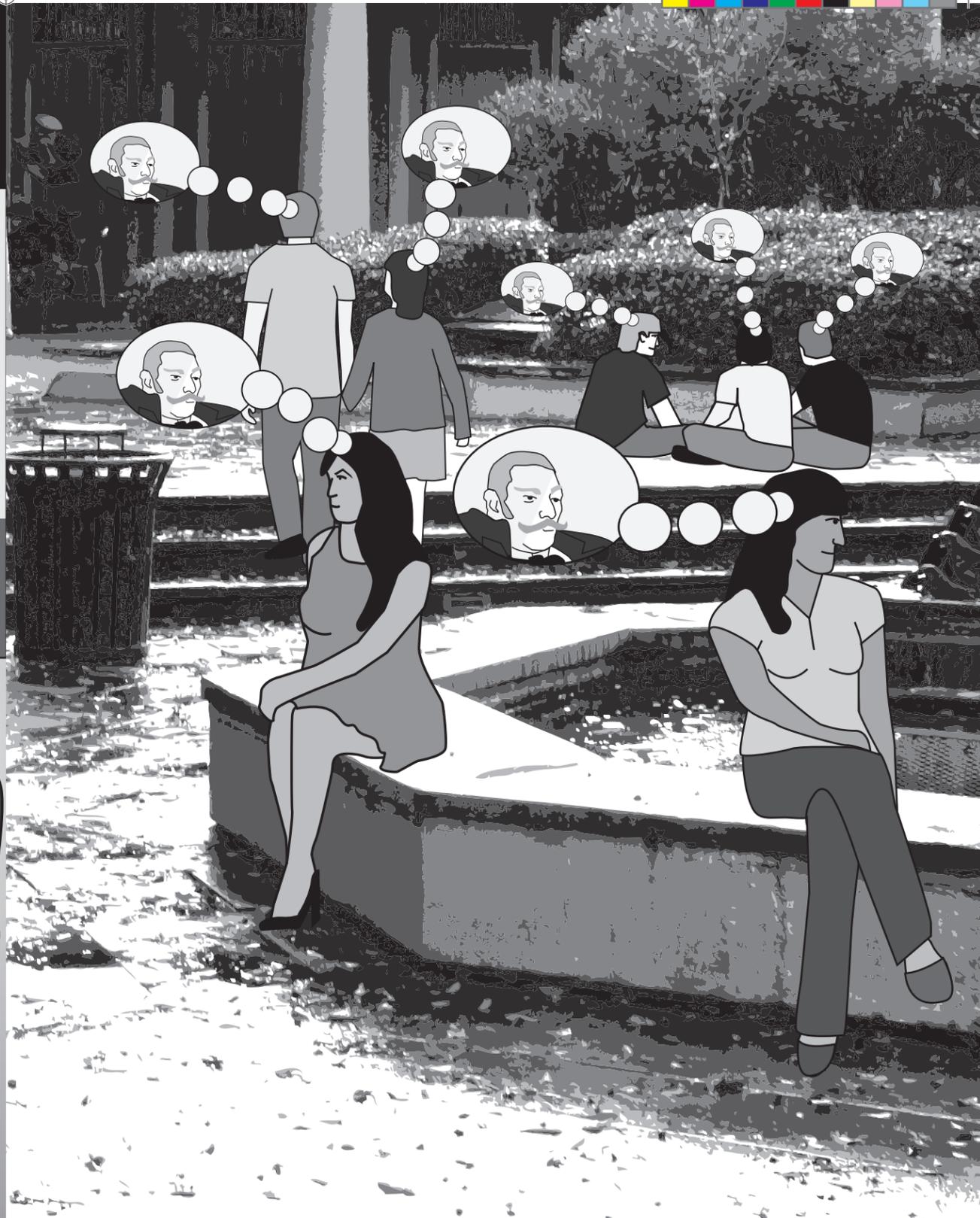
LET'S LOOK AT HOW JUST ONE OF THESE INSTITUTIONS, RELIGION, PACIFIES THE MASSES. IT DIRECTS THEIR ATTENTION TOWARDS ONE THING TO DIVERT THEIR MINDS AWAY FROM THEIR TRUE SOURCES OF OPPRESSION. SO LONG AS RELIGION EXISTS, PEOPLE WILL NEVER SEE THE OPPRESSION, THEY WILL ALWAYS DIRECT THEIR ATTENTION TO RELIGION AND NOT REALIZE THAT THEY SHOULD DIRECT THEIR ATTENTION TO THE CAPITALIST, THEIR TRUE SOURCE OF SUFFERING.



AND PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY'RE THE ONES WHO CREATED RELIGION AND THE CONCEPT OF GOD IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE WHAT THEY MADE. IT'S LOST IN THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS AND NOW, THEY BOW DOWN BEFORE THEIR OWN CREATION.

YET AT THE SAME TIME, PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTED BY THIS ALIENATED WORLD. CONTRARY TO WHAT MOST FOLKS THINK ALIENATION IS, ALIENATION CAN BE COMFORTING. IT'S ABOUT BELONGING, IT CAN MAKE PEOPLE FEEL GOOD, WHILE DISGUIISING THEIR OPPRESSION.



IT IS NO LONGER THE PROLETARIAT'S WORLD, SINCE THEY DID NOT PRODUCE IT IN THEIR OWN IMAGE; IT IS THE IMAGE OF THE CAPITALIST. AND NOW THAT THEY INTERNALIZE THE WORLD OF THE CAPITALIST, THEY NOW BELIEVE THIS WORLD IS THEIR OWN. THEY BELIEVE IN ITS IDEAS AND VALUES. WHICH MEANS THEY BELIEVE IN THE REALITY OF A WORLD THAT DENIES THEM. THEY IN ESSENCE LIVE IN A WORLD OF FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS.



AFTER A WHILE, WORKERS NO LONGER RECOGNIZE THEMSELVES IN THE WORLD THAT THEY HAVE PRODUCED, AND RIGHTLY SO. EVEN THOUGH THEY PRODUCED IT, IT'S THE CAPITALIST WHO CONTROL WHAT IS PRODUCED. AND THE PROLETARIAT DOES THIS WITHOUT KNOWING IT. SO, YOU CAN SEE THAT THE SUPERSTRUCTURE WORKS TO REINFORCE THE IDEAS OF THE WORLD AND THE IDEAS OF THE CAPITALIST. ALL OF OUR INSTITUTIONS SERVE TO REINFORCE THE WORLD THAT THE CAPITALISTS HAVE IMAGINED FOR THEMSELVES. IT LEGITIMIZES THEIR AUTHORITY AND POWER. IN FACT, IT ALMOST APPEARS AS COMMON SENSE REALITY.



MARX CALLED ALL HUMAN ACTIVITY AND PRODUCTIVITY "THE BASE." THE "SUPERSTRUCTURE" THEN CONSISTS OF ALL THE INSTITUTIONS. PEOPLE MAKE THEM AS WELL, BUT AT THE COMMAND OF THE CAPITALIST, SO THE ENTIRE WORLD IS FASHIONED THE WAY THE CAPITALIST WANTS, WITH THE WORKERS DOING ALL THE WORK.