I.

A < http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFQ7a43vrS8 > il caso della cornacchia albina, non accettata e attaccata dai suoi conspecifici a causa della livrea diversa, nonostante il suo verso sia tipico della specie.

Cfr. il proverbio inglese “Birds of the same feather flock together”, < http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/birds-of-a-feather-flock-together.html >

Meaning

Those of similar taste congregate in groups.

Origin

This proverb has been in use since at least the mid 16th century. In 1545, William Turner used a version of it in his papist satire *The Rescuing of Romish Fox*:

"Byrdes of on kynde and color flok and flye allwayes together."

The first known citation in print of the currently used English version of the phrase appeared in 1599, in *The Dictionarie in Spanish and English*, which was complied by the English lexicographer John Minsheu:

Birdes of a feather will flocke togither.

The phrase also appears in Benjamin Jowett's 1856 translation of Plato's *Republic*. Clearly, if it were present in the original Greek text then, at around 380BC, Plato's work would be a much earlier reference to it. What appears in Jowett's version is:

Men of my age flock together; we are birds of a feather, as the old proverb says.

Plato's text can be translated in other ways and it is safe to say it was Jowett in 1856, not Plato in 380BC, that considered the phrase to be old. The lack of any citation of it in English prior to the 16th century does tend to suggest that its literal translation wasn't present in *The Republic* - a text that was widely read by English scholars of the classics well before the 16th century.

In nature, birds of a single species do in fact frequently form flocks. Ornithologists explain this behaviour as a 'safety in numbers' tactic to reduce their risk of predation. In language terms, it was previously more common to refer to birds flying together than flocking together and many early citations use that form, for example Philemon Holland's translation of *Livy's Romane historie*, 1600:

"As commonly birds of a feather will flye together."

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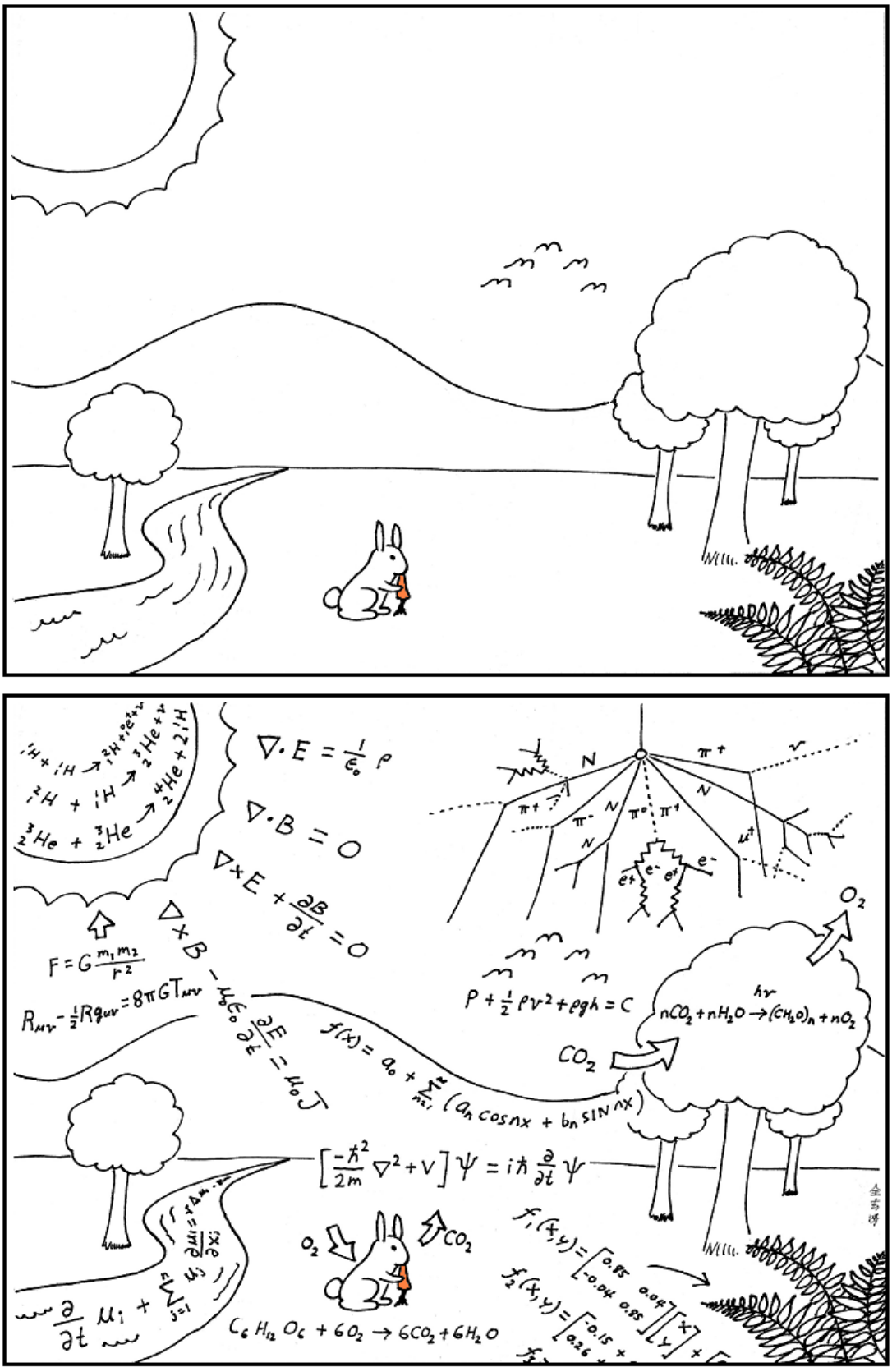
II. La vignetta "This is how scientists see the world" all'indirizzo < http://abstrusegoose.com/275 > (16 giugno 2012)



This is how scientists see the world.

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III.

“Non c'è infatti racconto, non c'è verbale, non c'è intercettazione che possano competere con l’occhio.”; Francesco Merlo, *La solitudine del satiro in quelle foto corsare*, “La Repubblica”, 5 febbraio 2011, http://www.repubblica.it/politica/2011/02/05/news/la_solitudine_del_satiro_in_quelle_foto_corsare-12081029/