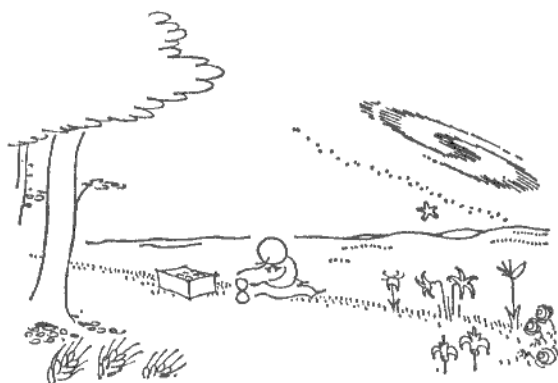


NOTHING IS INDISPENSABLE

Grook to warn the universe against megalomania

The universe may
be as great as they say.
But it wouldn't be missed
if it didn't exist.



TIME AND ETERNITY

Where the woods and ploughlands
of tradition and modernity
run into the never-ending
deserts of eternity,
there I have my daily task,
while time smoothly passes,
spooning the eternal sands
into hour-glasses.



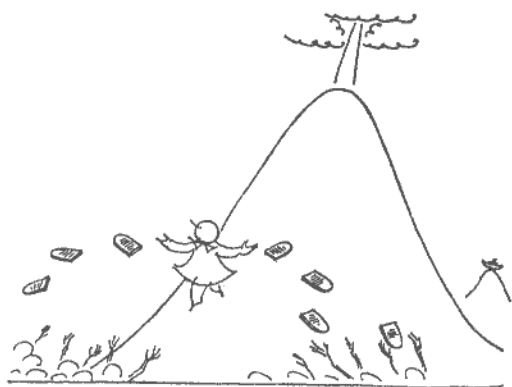
INVESTMENT POLICY

Anxieties yield
at a negative rate,
increasing in smallness
the longer they wait.



A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

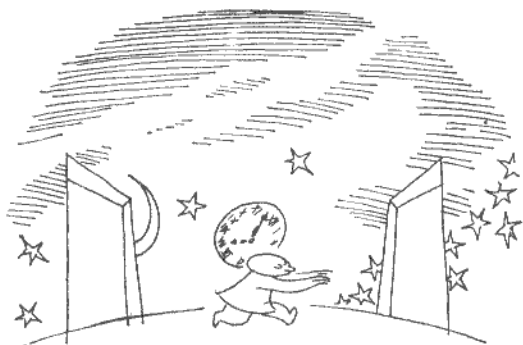
Stomach-ache can be a curse;
heart-ache may be even worse;
so thank Heaven on your knees
if you've got but one of these.



LARGESSE

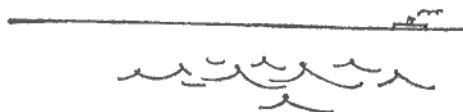
A grook about giving of one's plenty

It's pleasant to give
without feeling the price;
so let us be
nobly profuse of
the bottomless treasure
of moral advice
we anyhow
never make use of.



ALLOTMENT

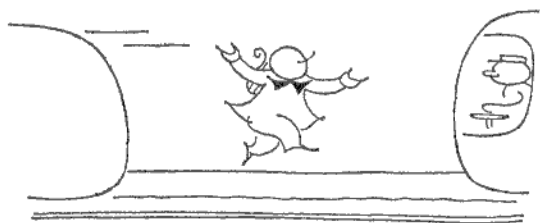
Your days on earth
are just so few
that there's exactly
time to do
the things that don't
appeal to you.



THE FINAL STEP

Motto: Il n'y a que le
dernier pas qui coûte.

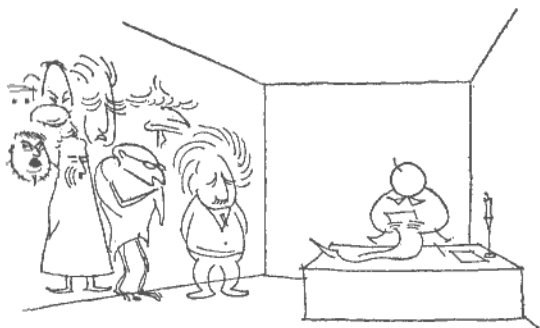
If they made diving boards
six inches shorter -
think how much sooner
you'd be in the water.



THOUGHTS ON A STATION PLATFORM

It ought to be plain
how little you gain
by getting excited
and vexed.

You'll always be late
for the previous train,
and always in time
for the next.



AN OLD SAW RESET

To keep an
ever-open door
is wisdom's true advancer;
so they are fools
who don't ask more
than ten wise men can answer.



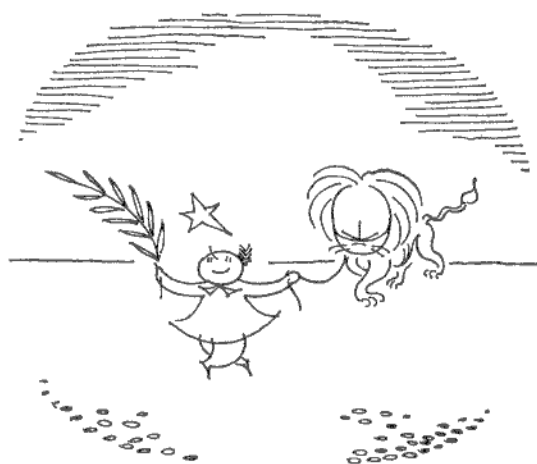
THE UNTENABLE ARGUMENT

My adversary's argument
is not alone malevolent
but ignorant to boot.
He hasn't even got the sense
to state his so-called evidence
in terms I can refute.



THE WISDOM OF THE SPHERES

How instructive
is a star!
It can teach us
from afar
just how small
each other are.



IT ISN'T ENOUGH

One paramount truth
our society smothers
in petty concern
with position and pelf:
It isn't enough
to exasperate others;
you've got to remember
to gladden yourself.



WHAT LOVE IS LIKE

Love is like
a pineapple,
sweet and
undefinable.



THE GRASSHOPPER'S GRIEF

A fable

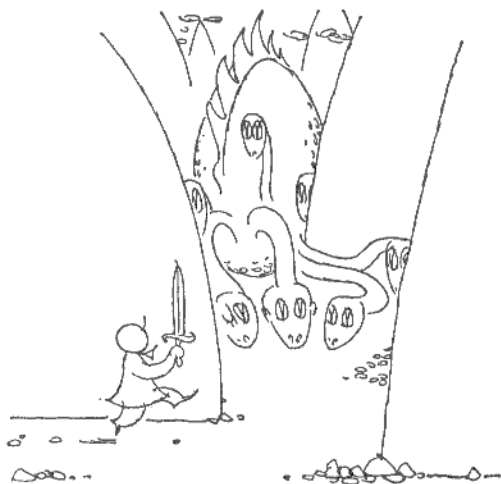
A grasshopper sat on a flagstone and wept
with a sorrow that few surpass.
He had painfully mastered his letters, and leapt
to a place where he knew an inscription was kept;
and of course it said:

KEEP OFF THE GRASS



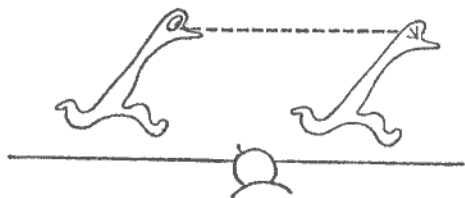
SMALL THINGS AND GREAT

He that lets
the small things bind him
leaves the great
undone behind him.



BRAVE

To be brave is to behave
bravely when your heart is faint.
So you can be really brave
only when you really ain't.



ABREAST

He who aims
to keep abreast
is for ever
second best.



ENOUGH

is more than enough

Of drink
and victuals
and suchlike
stuff
a bit
too little
is just
enough.



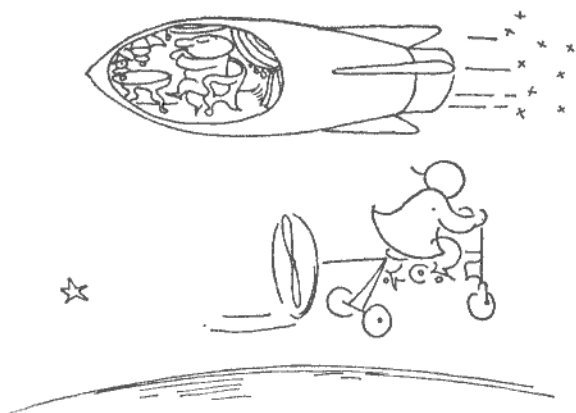
THE STATE

Nature, our father and mother,
gave us all we have got.
The state, our elder brother,
swipes the lot.



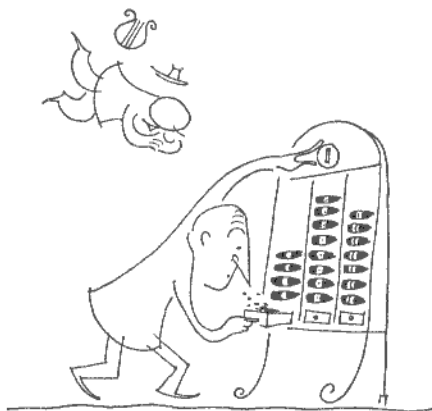
POW!

That baddies are baddies
is only too true,
however one studies
the things that they do.
But what I find sad is
how painfully few
have noticed that goodies
are too.



PRESENCE OF MIND

You'll conquer the present
suspiciously fast
if you smell of the future
—and stink of the past.



THE SLOT MACHINE

A contribution to the psychology of disappointment

Yes, life is a gamble;
but isn't it mean
that you're never the one
to win it,
when the thing is
a coin-in-the-slot machine,
and you did
put a shirt-button in it.



TIMING TOAST

Grook on how to char for yourself

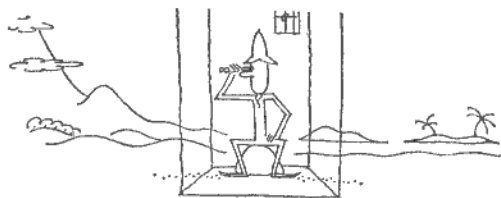
There's an art of knowing when.
Never try to guess.
Toast until it smokes and then
twenty seconds less.



AN ECHO FROM THE PAST

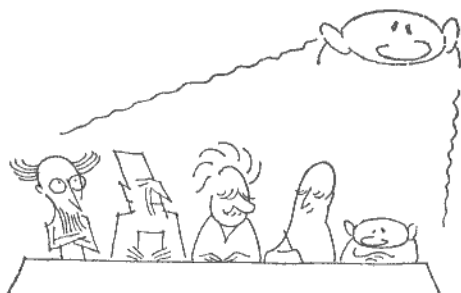
Exercise for military minds

Prehistoric monsters straying
on a Wellsian rampage?
Martian saucerers surveying
their terrestrial landing stage?
Say, what is that hideous braying,
eloquent of fear and rage?
Only Homo sapiens, playing
at the pre-atomic age.



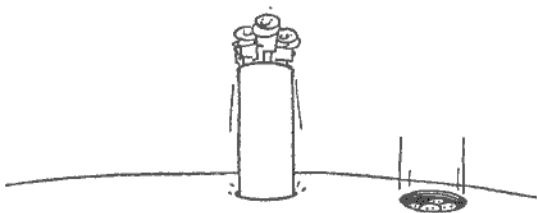
FREEDOM

Freedom means
you're free to do
just whatever
pleases you;
- if, of course
that is to say,
what you please
is what you may.



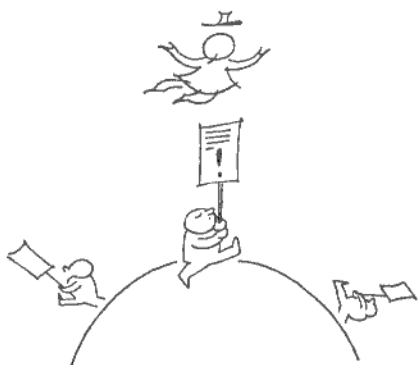
THE ARITHMETIC OF CO-OPERATION

When you're adding up committees
there's a useful rule of thumb:
that talents make a difference,
but follies make a sum.



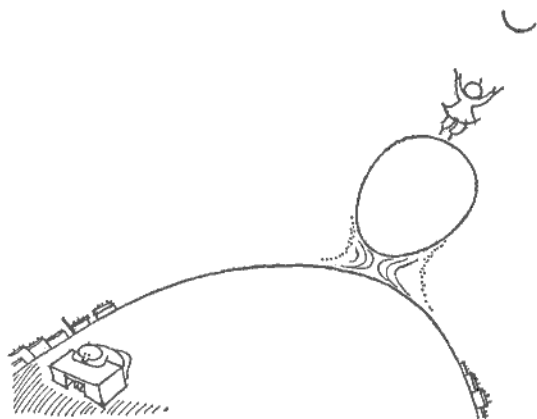
CONSTITUTIONAL POINT

Power corrupts,
whereas sound opposition
builds up our free
democratic tradition.
One thing would make
a democracy flower:
having a strong opposition -
in power.



THE OVERDOERS

Truth shall emerge from the interplay
of attitudes freely debated.
Don't be misled by fanatics who say
that only one truth should be stated:
truth is constructed in such a way
that it can't be exaggerated.



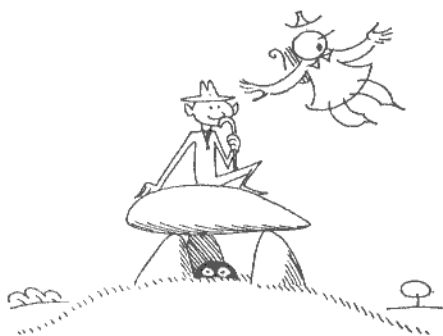
MAKING AN EFFORT

Our so-called limitations, I believe,
apply to faculties we don't apply.
We don't discover what we can't achieve
until we make an effort not to try.



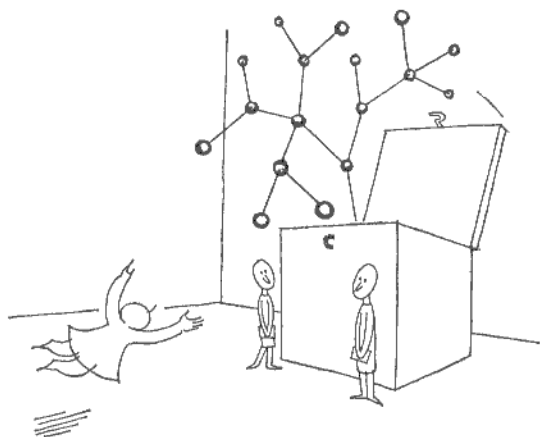
RHYME AND REASON

There was an old woman
who lived in a shoe.
She had so many children.
She didn't know what to do.
But try as she would
she could never detect
which was the cause
and which the effect.



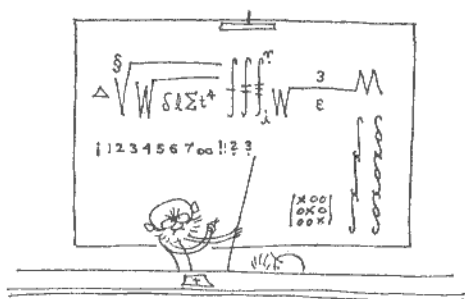
WHAT PEOPLE MAY THINK

Some people cower
and wince and shrink,
owing to fear of
what people may think.
There is one answer
to worries like these:
people may think
what the devil they please.



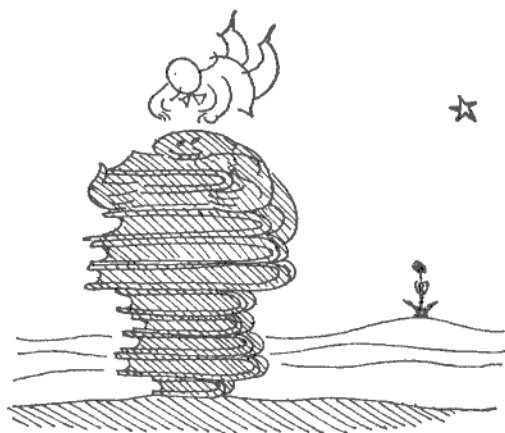
THE ONLY SOLUTION

We shall have to evolve
problem-solvers galore -
since each problem they solve
creates ten problems more.



WIDE ROAD

To make a name for learning when other roads are barred, take something very easy and make it very hard.



WHEN IGNORANTS-

We're leaving WISDOM
to starve and thirst
when we cultivate
KNOWLEDGE as such.

The very best comes
to the very worst
WHEN IGNORANTS
KNOW TOO MUCH.



DEAD REASONABLE

» ... that reason died
last night at eleven.«

Henrik Ibsen: »Peer Gynt«

Somebody said
that Reason was dead.
Reason said: No,
I think not so.



REFLECTION ON SIZE

Small people often overrate
the charm of being tall;
which is, that you appreciate
the charm of being small.



A REPROOF

Grook in answer to a long explanatory letter

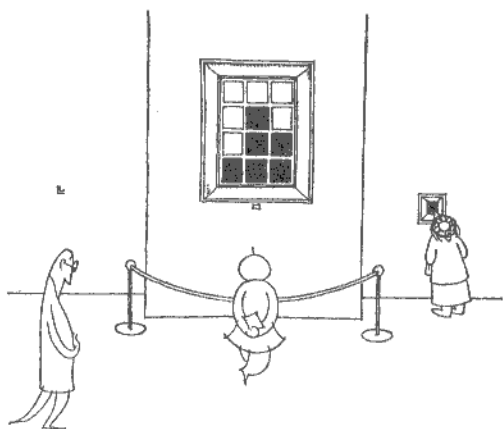
In view of your manner
of spending your days
I hope you may learn,
before ending them,
that the effort you spend
on defending your ways
could better be spent
on amending them.



THE FINAL TOUCH

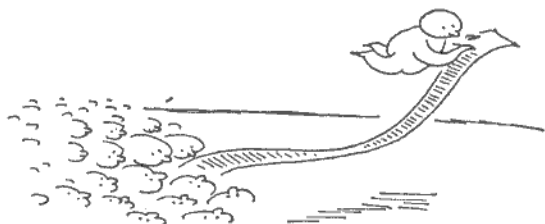
Portrait of nobody in particular

Idiots are really
one hundred per cent
when they are also
intelligent.



THE GIOCONDA SIMILE

Certainly Leonardo's
magical Mona Lisa
may be superbly rendered
using a dozen tiles.
Such things are not unusual.
Yet there are those who always
feel that there's something subtle
gone from the way she smiles.



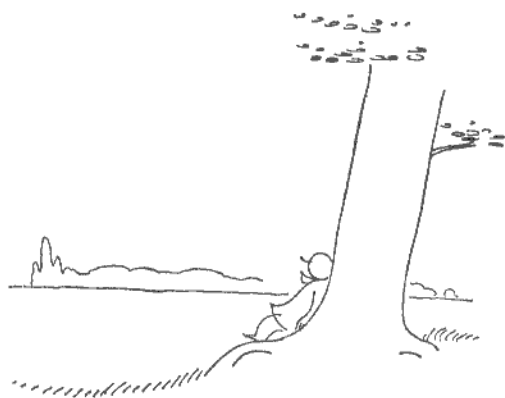
THAT'S WHY

Why do bad writers
win the fight?
Why do good writers
die in need?
Because the writers
who can't write
are read by readers
who can't read.



STONE IN SHOE

If a nasty jagged stone
gets into your shoe,
thank the Lord it came alone —
what if it were two?



LIKE A TALL, SOLID BEECH TREE

Spring grook

I'm sitting with my back against
a tall, solid beech tree,
feeling time flowing
in a strong, cool stream,
feeling life rising
like a tall, solid beech tree
emerging from Eternity's
unending dream.



MEMENTO VIVERE

Love while you've got
love to give.

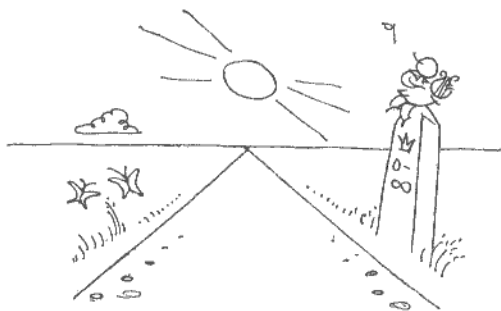
Live while you've got
life to live.



THE UNATTAINABLE IDEAL

We ought to live
each day as though
it were our last day
here below.

But if I did, alas,
I know
it would have killed me
long ago.

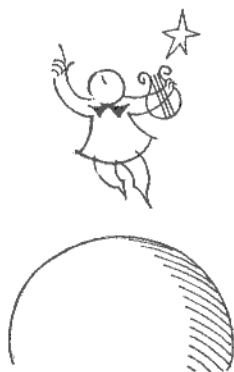


MEAN VALUE

We hope our share of luck will come
to some unlikely maximum.

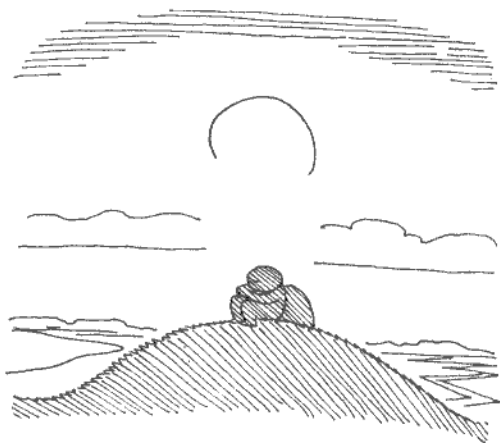
We fear, when nightmare fears benumb,
a catastrophic minimum.

But nonetheless the final sum
is Nature's well-known middlemum.



GOOD ADVICE

Shun advice
at any price -
that's what I call
good advice.



THE ME ABOVE THE ME

Giving in is no defeat.
Passing on is no retreat.
Selves are made to rise above.
You shall live in what you love.



SUB SPECIE -

Sub specie
aeternitatis
even the dearest bought
is gratis.



WHO AM I?

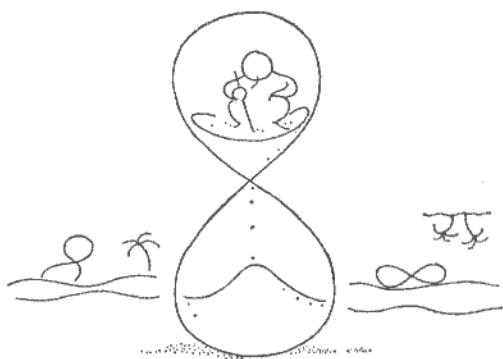
Who am I
to deny
that maybe
God is me?



THE ULTIMATE WISDOM

Philosophers
must ultimately find
their true perfection

in knowing all
the follies of mankind
- by introspection.



FORM AND MATERIAL

A grook about the impermanence of language

I see myself and what I write enclosed in
an hour-glass's uppermost retort.
The very stuff my patterns are composed in
must fall away, and crumble down to naught.

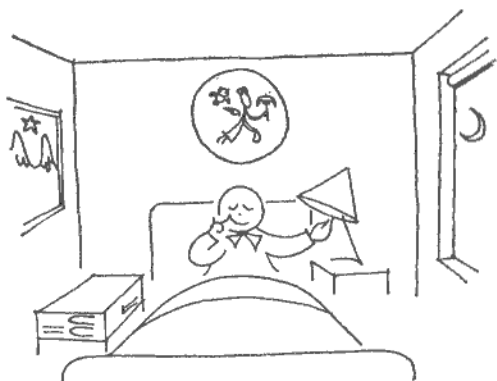
Yet stubbornly, and in despite of reason,
I still believe that what is fashioned there
will, when the sands run out in destined season,
remain unchanged, suspended in the air.



A TIP

to members of the literary profession

Those
who can write
have a
lot to
learn from those
bright
enough
not to.



ADVICE AT NIGHTFALL

Smile
a while
ere day
 is done
and all
your gall
will soon
 be gone.