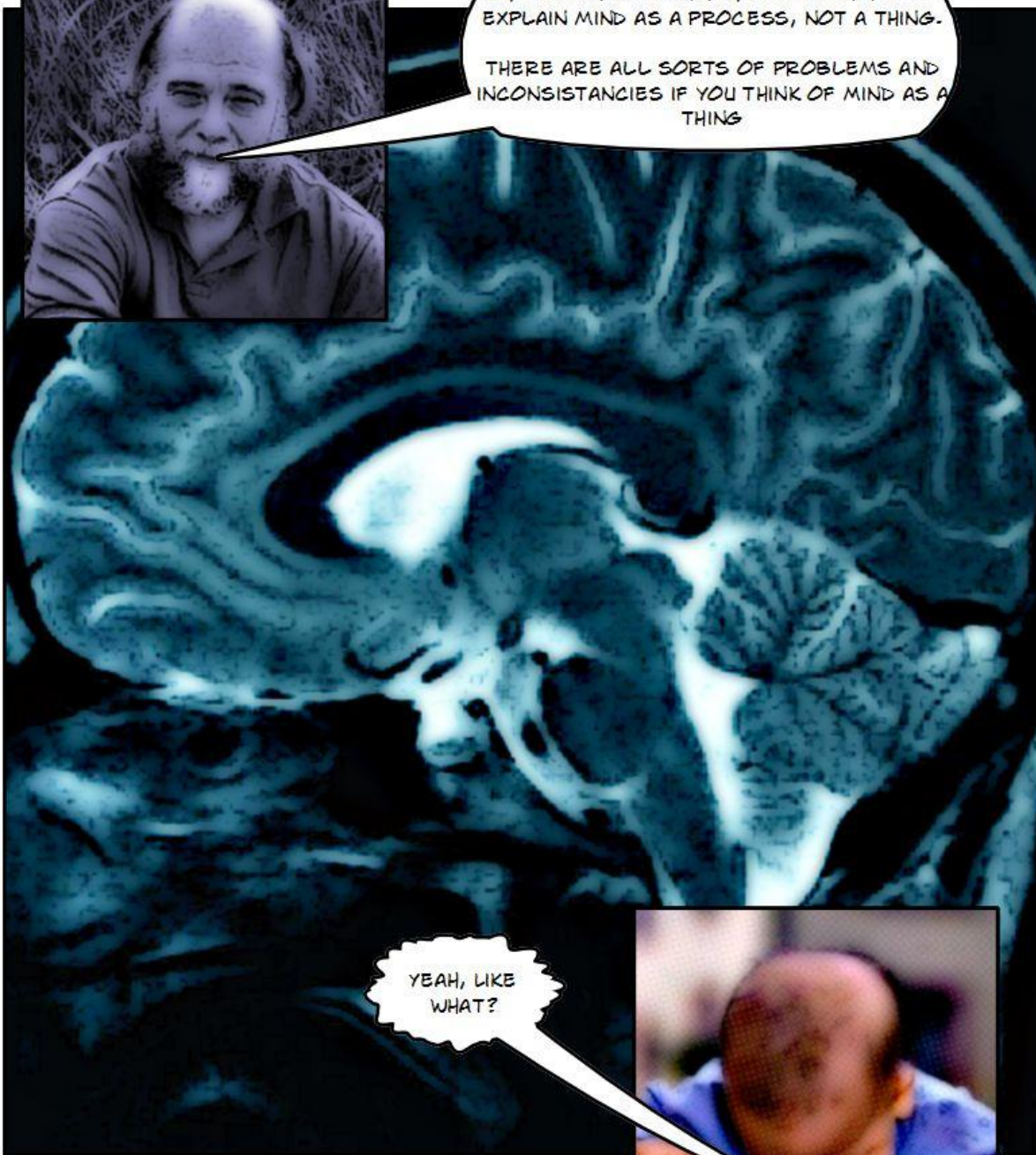




HI, I'M MARK BICKHARD, AND I'M HERE TO  
EXPLAIN MIND AS A PROCESS, NOT A THING.

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS AND  
INCONSISTENCIES IF YOU THINK OF MIND AS A  
THING



YEAH, LIKE  
WHAT?







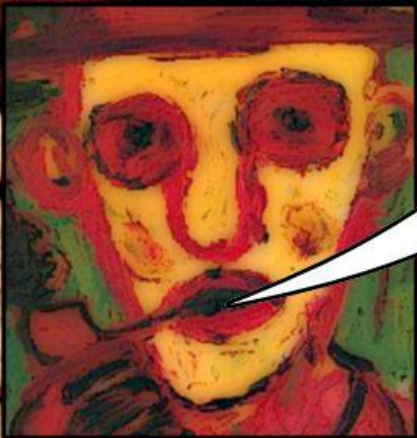
AS ONE EXAMPLE, LACK OF  
CHANGE, OR INERTNESS, IS  
THE EXPLANATORY  
DEFAULT.

SO WHAT'S THE BIG  
DEAL? SO  
INERTNESS IS THE  
EXPLANATORY  
DEFAULT - BIG  
WOOP!

MANY PHENOMENON ARE RENDERED UNINTELLIGIBLE, OR AT  
LEAST NOT WHOLLY INTELLIGIBLE, BY THIS DE FACTO  
INERTNESS - LIKE GENUINE EMERGENCE.

MORE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES WOULD INCLUDE LEARNING AND  
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY.

I BELIEVE THAT EXPLAINING THE MIND IN THIS "INERT",  
SUBSTANCE MANNER IS CONCEPTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.



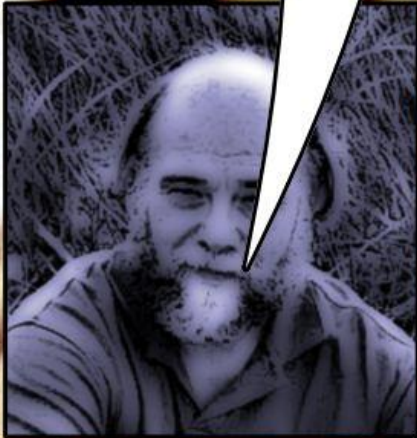
INTERESTING...  
DO YOU  
ADVOCATE THIS  
PROCESS  
APPROACH  
FURTHER THAN  
JUST THE MIND?

ABSOLUTELY.

ACTUALLY, THE PROCESS APPROACH HAS ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED IN ALMOST ALL OTHER FIELDS - THE STUDY OF THE MIND IS ONE OF THE FEW FIELDS IN WHICH A SUBSTANCE METAPHYSICS AND FRAMEWORK IS STILL USED.



SO YOU ARE ADVOCATING A 'CATCHING UP' OF THE STUDY OF THE MIND.

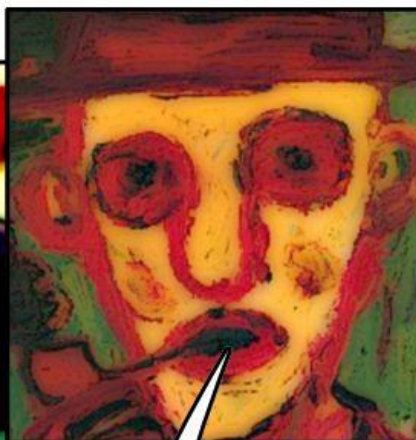


CORRECT. THE SUBSTANCE METAPHYSICS THAT IS ASSUMED IN MOST THEORIES OF MIND NECESSARILY CUT OFF THE PHYSICAL RELM OF 'CAUSE AND FACT' FROM THE MENTALRELM OF INTENTIONALITY, NORMATIVITY, AND MODALITY.

THIS THINKING OF THE MENTAL AND MATERIAL AS SEPERATE RELMS FORCES US TO FIGURE OUT HOW THE TWO INTERACT, OR ELSE EXPLAIN ALL THE PHENOMENON USING EITHER 'MENTAL' OR 'MATERIAL.'

COULDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT THE MENTAL EMERGED OUT OF THE PHYSICAL? THAT THE NORMATIVITY AND INTENTIONALITY OF THE MIND SOMEHOW EMERGES OUT OF THE MATERIAL?





ACTUALLY,  
EMERGENCE IS  
PRECLUDED BY  
SUBSTANCE/PARTICLE  
METAPHYSICS. THE  
INTEGRATION OF THE  
MENTAL AND PHYSICAL  
VIA EMERGENCE IS  
CONCEPTUALLY  
IMPOSSIBLE ON THESE  
ACCOUNTS.

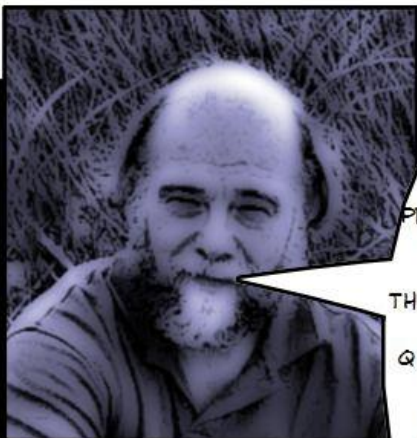
YES, IT APPEARS TO  
MAKE IT  
EXTRAORDINARILY  
DIFFICULT. EVEN  
IMPOSSIBLE.

BUT WHY SHOULD WE  
THINK THAT PROCESS IS  
THE WAY TO GO? WHY  
REJECT SUBSTANCE?  
HOW DO WE KNOW THE  
PROBLEM ISN'T JUST  
BEYOND OUR CAPACITY?  
WHAT'S THE PROOF?

BECAUSE EVERYTHING  
IS PARTICULATE, THEY  
CAN BE MIXED  
TOGETHER, BUT  
NOTHING GENUINELY  
NEW COMES FROM IT -  
IT IS ONLY A MIX OF  
WHAT ALREADY EXISTS.  
YOU CAN REARRANGE  
THE EXISTING MATTER  
(PARTICLES).

HMM - SO  
"SUBSTANCE" MAKES  
THE MIND-BODY  
PROBLEM HARD TO  
ADDRESS?





PROCESS APPROACHES ARE ACTUALLY FAVORED IN MANY  
FIELDS AND ARE GAINING IN USE AND ACCEPTANCE.

THE BEST CONTEMPORARY PHYSICS TELLS US THAT THERE  
ARE NO PARTICLES IN THE UNIVERSE AT ALL, JUST  
QUANTUM FIELDS - WHICH ARE INHERENTLY PROCESSES.

ALSO, THE OLD SUBSTANCE EXPLANATION OF HEAT  
(CALORIC), COMBUSTION (PHLOGISTON), AND OTHER  
PHENOMENA HAVE BEEN STEADILY REPLACED WITH  
PROCESSUAL EXPLANATIONS.

...

ALSO, EMERGENCE HAS OCCURRED - LOOK AT LIFE, OR THE  
MIND - AND WE CAN ONLY ACCOUNT FOR THESE PHENOMENA  
BY TAKING EMERGENCE SERIOUSLY, WHICH MEANS TAKING  
PROCESS SERIOUSLY.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE WORLD  
AROUND US - TABLES, CHAIRS,  
PEOPLE, ROCKS - THESE THINGS  
ARE SURELY PARTICLES, THEY  
ARE SOLID!





IF I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY,  
YOU ARE SAYING THAT "PROCESS" IS  
A MUCH BETTER AND MORE  
CONSISTENT WAY TO LOOK AT THE  
WORLD AS A WHOLE. WHAT THINGS  
ARE, ARE PROCESSES OF VARIOUS  
KINDS.

YES, THINGS ARE  
CONSTITUTED BY  
PROCESSES. IF  
YOU CONSIDER  
EXACTLY WHAT  
GENERALLY REFER  
TO AS 'THINGS', YOU  
WILL FIND THAT THE  
DEFINITION WILL  
EXTEND FURTHER  
THAN YOU THOUGHT,  
PERHAPS INCLUDING  
THINGS YOU'D  
NORMALLY  
CONSIDER  
SEPERATE...

ACTUALLY, THERE  
ARE DISTINCT  
PROCESSES WHICH  
CAN HAVE A  
'SOLIDITY' TO THEM  
AND REMAIN  
STABLE UNDER A  
WIDE ARRAY OF  
CIRCUMSTANCES.  
THE DETAILS ARE A  
BIT TO  
COMPLICATED TO  
EXPLAIN NOW, BUT  
PROCESS  
FRAMEWORKS HAVE  
WAYS OF  
INCORPORATING  
OUR COMMON  
VIEWS OF THE  
WORLD.





FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN YOU EXAMINE A TREE, YOU CANNOT SEPARATE IT FROM ITS PROCESSES.

A LEAF IS NOT A LEAF UNLESS IT UNDERGOES THE PROCESSES WE ASSOCIATE WITH 'LEAF.'



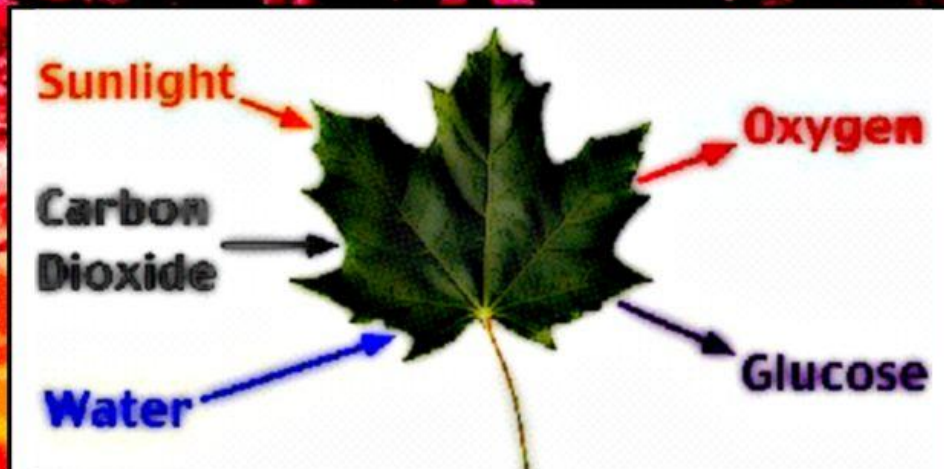
WHA...

THAT MAKES NO SENSE.



I BELIEVE WHAT MARK MEANS IS THAT THE NATURAL PHENOMENA WE NAME ARE MERELY PHASES IN LARGER PROCESSES - PERHAPS THEY ARE A RELATIVELY SELF-CONTAINED SUB-PROCESS, PERHAPS NOT.

IF I MAY INTERPRET WHAT YOU HAVE SAID, MARK, YOU BELIEVE THE CONFUSION WE HAVE ABOUT PROCESSES STEMS, IN PART, FROM THE FALLACY OF REIFICATION - THAT WE ATTRIBUTE 'THINGNESS' OR 'SUBSTANCE' TO SOMETHING BECAUSE IT HAS A NAME.







PRECISELY.

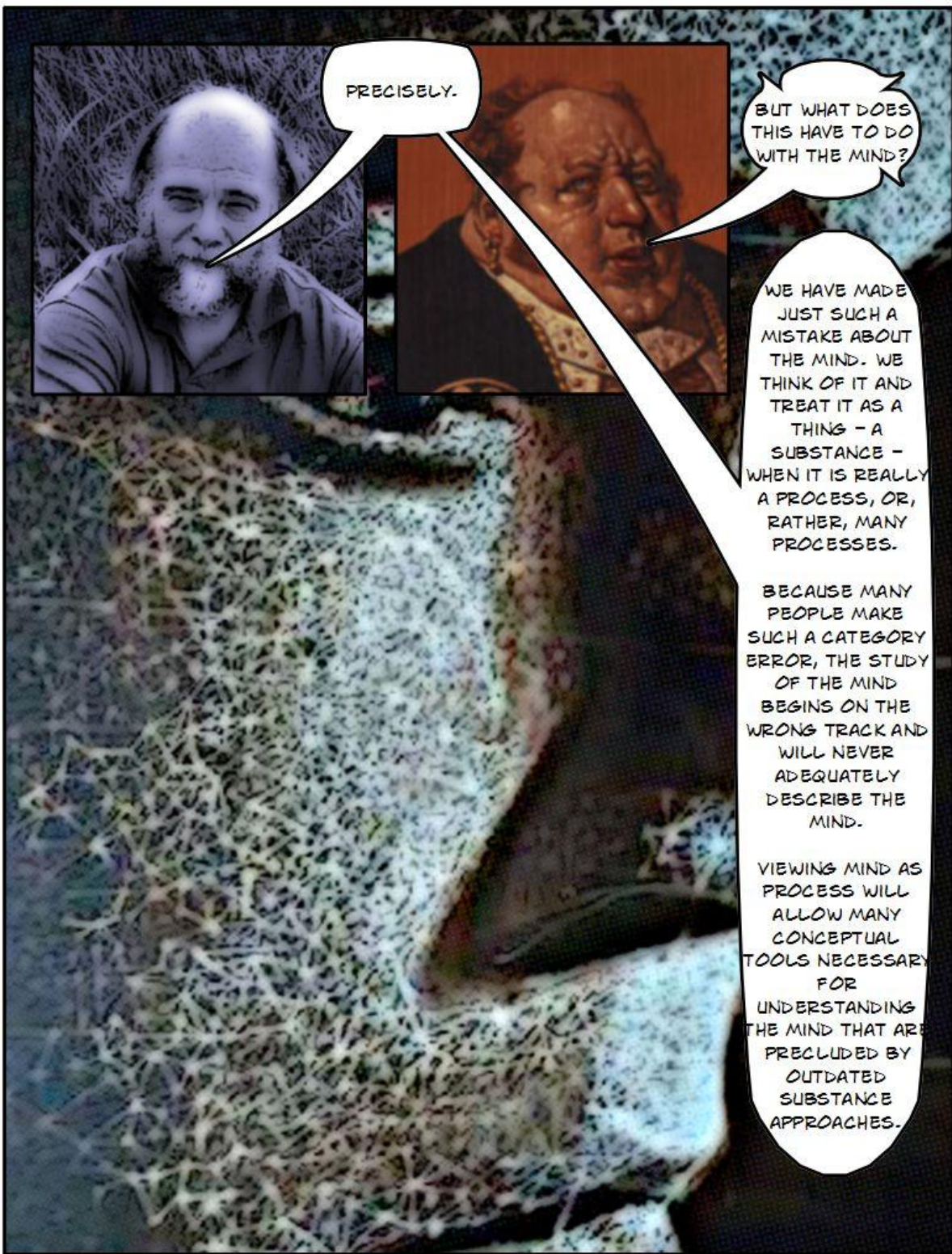


BUT WHAT DOES  
THIS HAVE TO DO  
WITH THE MIND?

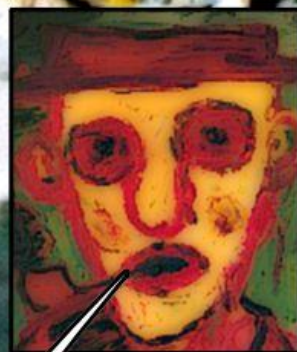
WE HAVE MADE  
JUST SUCH A  
MISTAKE ABOUT  
THE MIND. WE  
THINK OF IT AND  
TREAT IT AS A  
THING - A  
SUBSTANCE -  
WHEN IT IS REALLY  
A PROCESS, OR,  
RATHER, MANY  
PROCESSES.

BECAUSE MANY  
PEOPLE MAKE  
SUCH A CATEGORY  
ERROR, THE STUDY  
OF THE MIND  
BEGINS ON THE  
WRONG TRACK AND  
WILL NEVER  
ADEQUATELY  
DESCRIBE THE  
MIND.

VIEWING MIND AS  
PROCESS WILL  
ALLOW MANY  
CONCEPTUAL  
TOOLS NECESSARY  
FOR  
UNDERSTANDING  
THE MIND THAT ARE  
PRECLUDED BY  
OUTDATED  
SUBSTANCE  
APPROACHES.







MY POINT IS THIS -

THE STUDY OF THE MIND IS BEING HELD BACK BY SUBSTANCE/PARTICLE ASSUMPTIONS, MANY OF WHICH ARE MADE WITHOUT REFLECTION. THERE ARE SERIOUS CONCEPTUAL FLAWS IN SUBSTANCE METAPHYSICS, FLAWS THAT MAKE THE MIND-BODY PROBLEM IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE FROM WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK. MANY FIELDS HAVE SEEN THE WISDOM AND ADVANTAGE IN ADOPTING A PROCESS APPROACH, AND THE STUDY OF MIND WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM A SWITCH TO A PROCESS METAPHYSICS. THE STUDY OF MIND IS BEHIND THE CURVE IN TERMS OF A SWITCH TO PROCESS.

AHHH!



THANKS FOR LOOKING AT THIS  
GRAPHIC ESSAY! IT WAS CREATED  
BY ME, ALEX HAITOS, AND IS A  
REPRESENTATION OF MY  
INTERPRETAION OF PROF. MARK  
BICKHARD'S REASONS FOR ADOPTING  
PROCESS IN HIS

## INTERACTIVIST MODEL



IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE  
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD READ  
SOME OF PROF. BICKHARD'S  
WORK. IT CAN BE FOUND  
ONLINE - JUST TYPE IN "MARK  
BICKHARD" INTO GOOGLE AND  
THE FIRST HIT WILL BE HIS  
HOMEPAGE