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THE EDUCATION OF T. C. MITS

Drawings by
HUGH GRAY LIEBER

Words by
LILLIAN R. LIEBER

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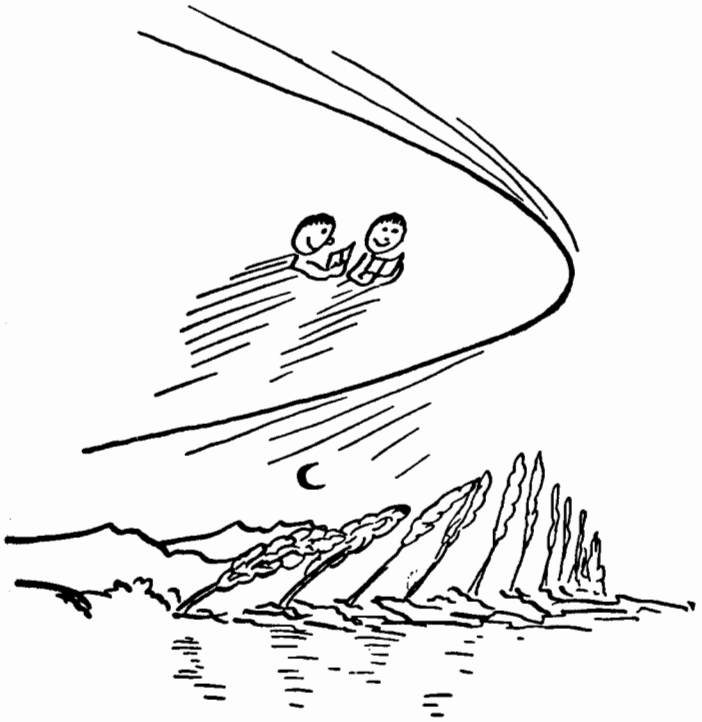
PREFACE

This is not intended to be
free verse.
Writing each phrase on a separate line
facilitates rapid reading,
and everyone
is in a hurry
nowadays.



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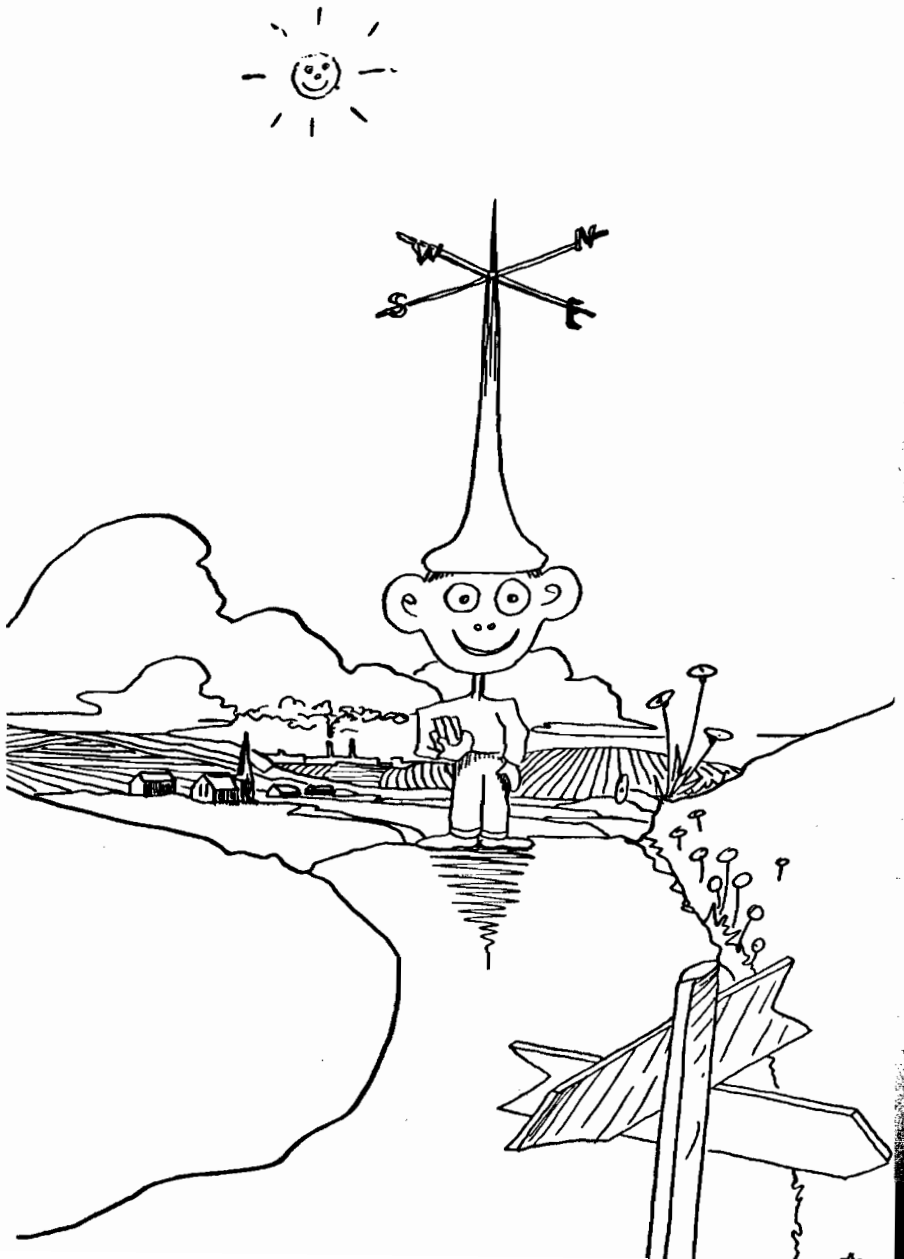
THE MORAL

INTRODUCING THE HERO—T. C. MITS

This introduces the Hero:

T.	C.	M	I	T	S
h	e	a	n	h	t
e	l	n		e	r
	e				e
	b				e
	r				t
	a				
	t				
	e				
	d				

T. C. is born and gets
an education of some kind—
perhaps college,
perhaps "the school of hard knocks."
In any case
he tries to figure out
how best to "get along."
He picks up a lot of
contradictory information:



"The past is antiquated,
you must be progressive."
"The past is wonderful,
the new-fangled fads are
a sign of decadence."

"Science will save us from
Superstition and Fraud."
"Science is the greatest menace
yet invented by man."

"Fifty million people can't be wrong."
"Some races are always wrong."

"Be practical, learn a vocation,
don't waste your time on
Mathematics and Art."

"Why be a narrow, practical farmer
all your life,
get out and learn some theory,
and find out how
to do things in a better way."

And so on and so on.

He is naturally confused by all this,
and very much hemmed in.
He becomes not only
Mits in name,

but has mits on his fingers
and mits on his toes,
and is generally "mitsified"
in the brain.

This book is an attempt
to get a bird's-eye view
of T. C.'s predicament,
and to look for
a possible egress.

To do this
VIVIDLY,
we use pictures whenever possible.
And
to do it
CLEARLY,
we use the clearest language
man has invented:
Mathematics.

Oh, we know you do not like
Mathematics,
but
we promise not to
use it as an instrument of torture,
but to show
what bearing it may have
on the contradictory advice
mentioned above,
as well as on such things as:

Democracy
Freedom and License
Pride and Prejudice
Success
Isolationism
Preparedness
Tradition
Progress
Idealism
Common Sense
Human Nature
War
Self-reliance
Humility
Tolerance
Provincialism
Anarchy
Loyalty
Abstract Art
and so on.

Now and then we shall point out
a "Moral."
But please do not think
we are being didactic
and preaching to the reader:

the fact is that we are really
talking to ourselves,
for we, along with millions of others,
are T. C. himself.

PART I

THE OLD

I. FIFTY MILLION PEOPLE CAN BE WRONG

Let us begin with
a very simple question:
suppose you had the choice of
the following two jobs:

Job 1: Starting with an
annual salary of $1000,
and a $200 increase every year.

Job 2: Starting with a
semiannual salary of $500,
and an increase of
$50 every 6 months.

In all other respects,
the two jobs are exactly alike.

Which is the better offer
(after the first year)?
Think carefully and
decide on your answer
BEFORE TURNING THIS PAGE.

Did you say Job 1 is better?
And did you reason as follows?
Since Job 2 has an increase
of $50 every 6 months,
it must have an annual increase of $100
and therefore it is not as good
as Job 1 which has
an annual increase of $200.

Well, you are wrong!
For, examine carefully
the earnings written out below:

		1st half of year	2nd half of year	total for the year
1st year	Job 1	$500	$500	$1000
	Job 2	500	550	1050
2nd year	Job 1	600	600	1200
	Job 2	600	650	1250
3rd year	Job 1	700	700	1400
	Job 2	700	750	1450
4th year	Job 1	800	800	1600
	Job 2	800	850	1650
		etc., etc., etc.		

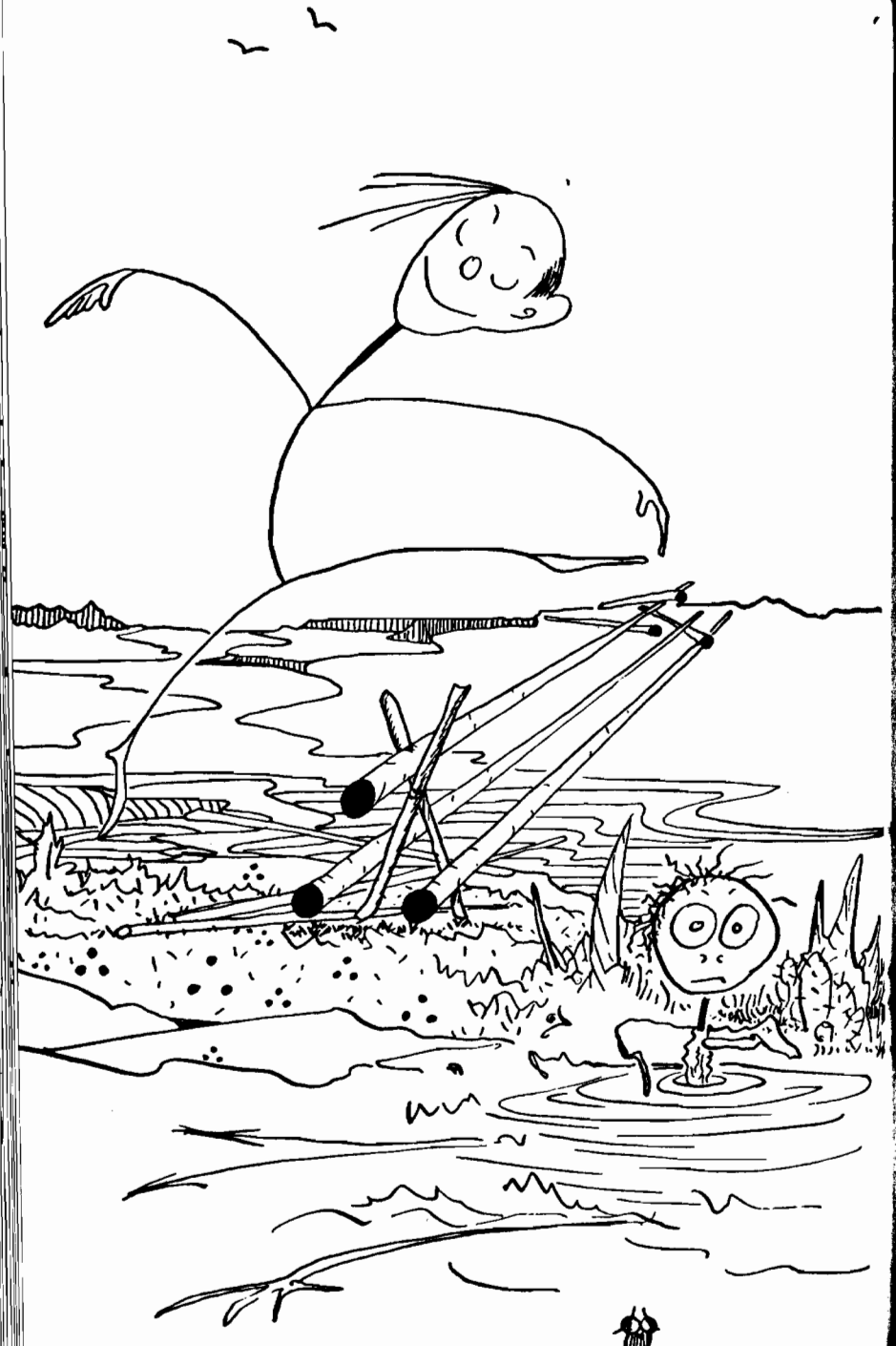
Note that:

(1) Job 1 pays $200 more each year than it did the previous year.

(2) Job 2 pays $50 more every half-year than it did during the previous half-year.

All this is in accordance with
the promises originally made,
and yet
Job 2 brings in $50 more every year
than Job 1 does.
And you can easily see that
this will continue to be true
no matter what number of years
is considered.

You are probably surprised.
But don't be discouraged,
for you are in plenty of
good company.
Try it on your friends,
and you will find that,
unless they have heard it before,
they will probably make
the same mistake that you made.
Fifty million people CAN be wrong!
And this is entirely normal.
But please do not come to
the conclusion that
Democracy is no good!
For fifty million people
do not HAVE to be wrong!
They may be wrong when
they are too hasty and
jump at conclusions,
as you saw in the problem above.



So do not make a similar mistake
again
by coming to hasty conclusions about
Democracy.
We are coming back to Democracy
later.

In the meantime, please remember that
you can fool
"ALL of the people SOME of the time
but NOT ALL the people ALL the time."

And since you are one of the people
yourself,
and don't want to be fooled
if you can help it,
you must be prepared to think straight.
And, incidentally,
don't fool yourself either
by thinking that this can be done
without any effort at all on your part.
Perhaps this little book will help
to smooth the road for you.

The Moral: Don't be a
Conclusion-Jumper.