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P.I.E.R.R.E.¹ and the Agents of R.E.A.S.O.N.²

Keith Aoki*

PROLOGUE

There once was a man named Pierre

Who to Legal Pundits said:

I just don't care,
for all your implausible schemes
and high-minded dreams,
dreamt up to hide Reason's disrepair.

So see this story, my friend

And perhaps in the end

You can draw

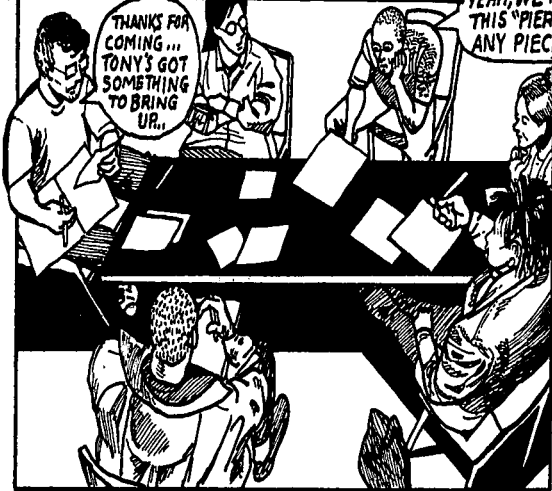
Your own conclusions there.

¹ Phenomenologic Iterative Eschatologic Revanchist Rogue Existentialists (P.I.E.R.R.E.); see also Pierre Schlag, *THE ENCHANTMENT OF REASON* (1998).

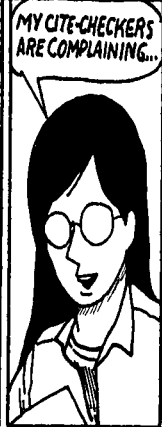
² Rational Epistemic Analytic Systemic Ontologic Normativos (R.E.A.S.O.N.)

* Professor, University of Oregon School of Law. Sincere thanks for encouragement and comments to Pierre Schlag, Anthony Paul Farley, Maria Grahn-Farley, Michael Fischl, Phyllis Goldfarb, Peter Goodrich, Duncan Kennedy, Bert Westbrook, as well as Dean Dennis Lynch and the rest of the participants in the February 2002 "Beyond Right and Reason" Symposium hosted by the University of Miami School of Law. Particular gratitude is due to Professor Martha Ertman for introducing me to Maurice Sendak's book, "PIERRE: A CAUTIONARY TALE IN FIVE CHAPTERS AND A PROLOGUE," (Harper & Row, 1962) thereby providing both a conceptual frame and a jumping off point. Thanks are also due to the work of Jim Steranko, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee who created "NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D." for Marvel Comics in the 1960s and served as a stylistic touchstone and inspiration. And thanks to Francisco Goya & Beto Juarez.

AT THE LAW REVIEW EXECUTIVE MEETING...



YEAH, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!! SINCE WE ACCEPTED THIS "PIERRE" SYMPOSIUM, WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY PIECES WITH MORE THAN 20 FOOTNOTES!!



NORM ATIVO, AGENT OF R.E.A.S.O.N.!
RATIONAL EPISTEMIC ANALYTIC SYSTEMIC ONTOLOGIC NORMATIVOS

BLOWBACK!



IT'S
NORM ATIVO
--EXACTLY
AS THEORY
PREDICTS!!

IN A TOP SECRET
UNDERGROUND
FORTRESS, AN ALL-SEEING
PANOPTIC VIDEOSCREEN
OPERATED BY A TEAM
OF MERCILESS, FANATIC
ANTI-RATIONALISTS
PURVEYS A FATEFUL
SIGHT!!!

HE IS ALL
ALONE!!!

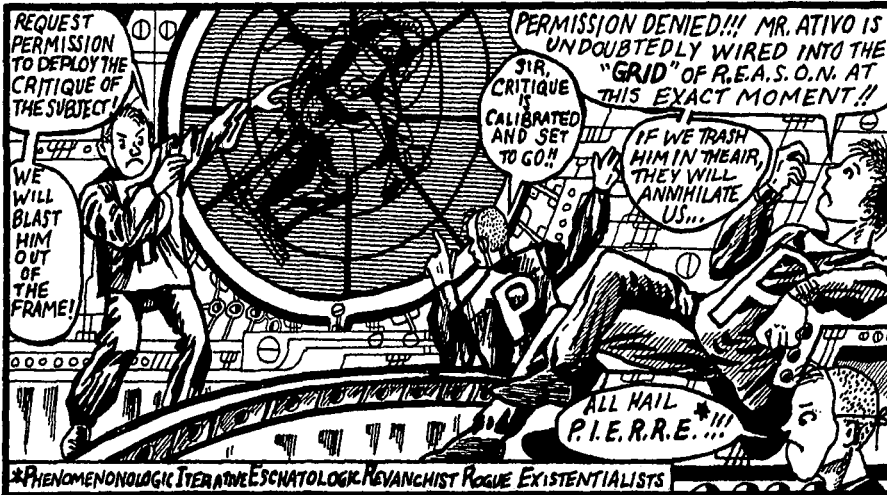
HE MUST
FEEL BOLD IN
KNOWING THAT
R.E.A.S.O.N.
ALWAYS PREVAILS!

HE'S WEARING
ONE OF REASON'S
LATEST AUTO-DIDACT
TRANSPORT PODS
FOR SURREPTITIOUS
DESCENT!

IT'S CLEAR
IT RUNS ON
HIGHLY-PRESSURED
HOT AIR!!

... LIKE A SMALLER
VERSION OF REASON'S
VAST ACADEMIC
HOVERING
HEADQUARTERS!

...LITTLE
DOES HE KNOW
THAT HE WILL
NEVER SEE HIS
PRECIOUS LITTLE
LEGAL GRID
AGAIN!!!



REQUEST PERMISSION TO DEPLOY THE CRITIQUE OF THE SUBJECT!

WE WILL BLAST HIM OUT OF THE FRAME!

PERMISSION DENIED!!! MR. ATIVO IS UNDOUBTEDLY WIRED INTO THE "GRID" OF R.E.A.S.O.N. AT THIS EXACT MOMENT!!

SIR, CRITIQUE IS CALIBRATED AND SET TO GO!!

IF WE TRASH HIM IN THEIR, THEY WILL ANNIHILATE US...

ALL HAIL P.I.E.R.R.E.!!!

*PHENOMENONOLOGIC ITERATIVE SCHMATOLOGIC REVANCHIST ROGUE EXISTENTIALISTS



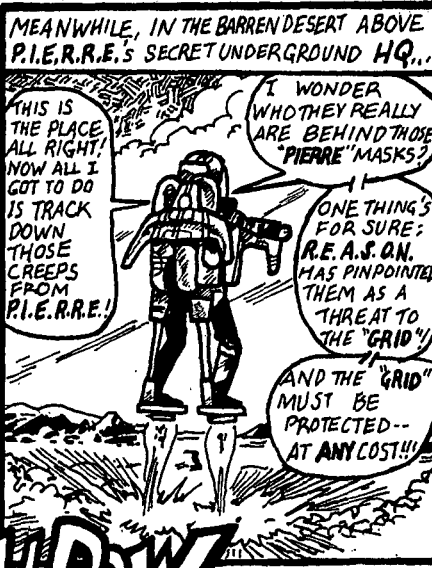
WE SHALL ALLOW NORM ATIVO TO TOUCH DOWN WITH OUT INCIDENT!! HE MUST REPORT BACK THAT ALL IS NORMATIVELY REASONABLE!

... THEN, WHILE REASON WALLOWS IN FATAL COMPLACENCY AND FALSE SECURITY --- WE SHALL STRIKE!!!

FOR FAR TOO LONG HAVE I VEILED MY INTENT BENEATH BANAL AND FACILE ACADEMIC CHIT CHAT AND ERUDITE BUT NUMBING REPARTEE!!

LET HIM LAND AND OUR ROBOTS WILL BRING HIM TO ME!!

THE TIME HAS COME TO CALL THEM ON THE CHAOS AT THE HEART OF THEIR HALLUCINATION!



MEANWHILE, IN THE BARREN DESERT ABOVE P.I.E.R.R.E.'S SECRET UNDERGROUND HQ...

THIS IS THE PLACE ALL RIGHT! NOW ALL I GOT TO DO IS TRACK DOWN THOSE CREEPS FROM P.I.E.R.R.E.!

I WONDER WHO THEY REALLY ARE BEHIND THOSE "PIERRE" MASKS?

ONE THING'S FOR SURE: R.E.A.S.O.N. HAS PINPOINTED THEM AS A THREAT TO THE "GRID"

AND THE "GRID" MUST BE PROTECTED-- AT ANY COST!!!



THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT

THAT MEANS EVERYBODY'S IN HIDING HERE...

HEY! WHAT'S THAT SOUND?!



POW

OH NO!! EVIL ROBOTS!

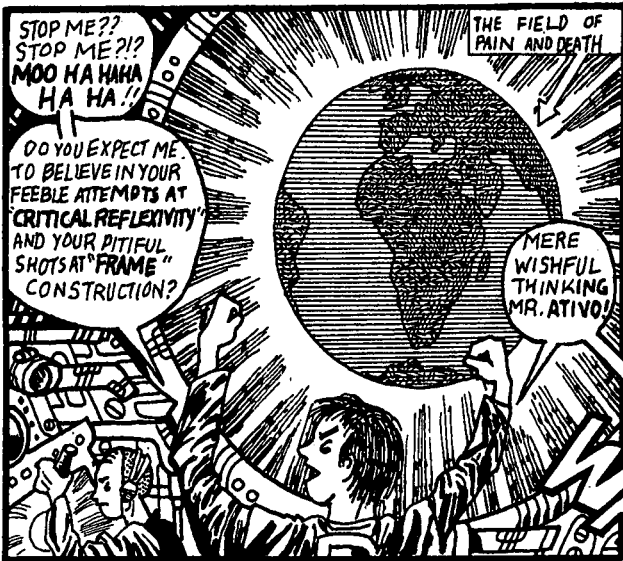
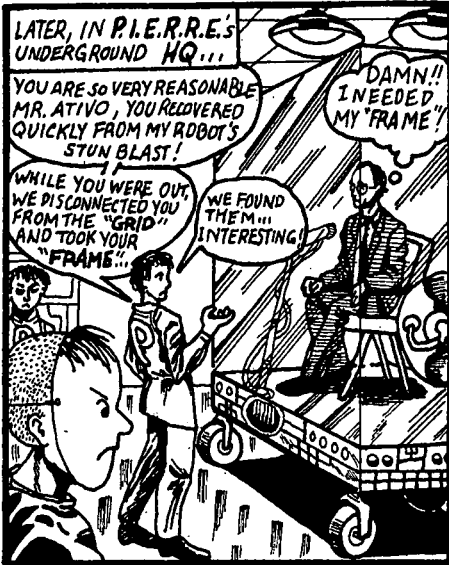
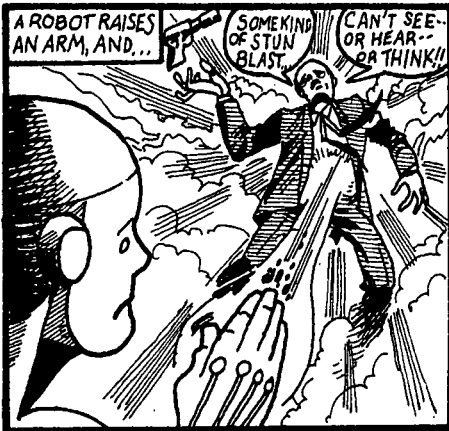
I BETTER USE MY PRAGMO PELLET!!

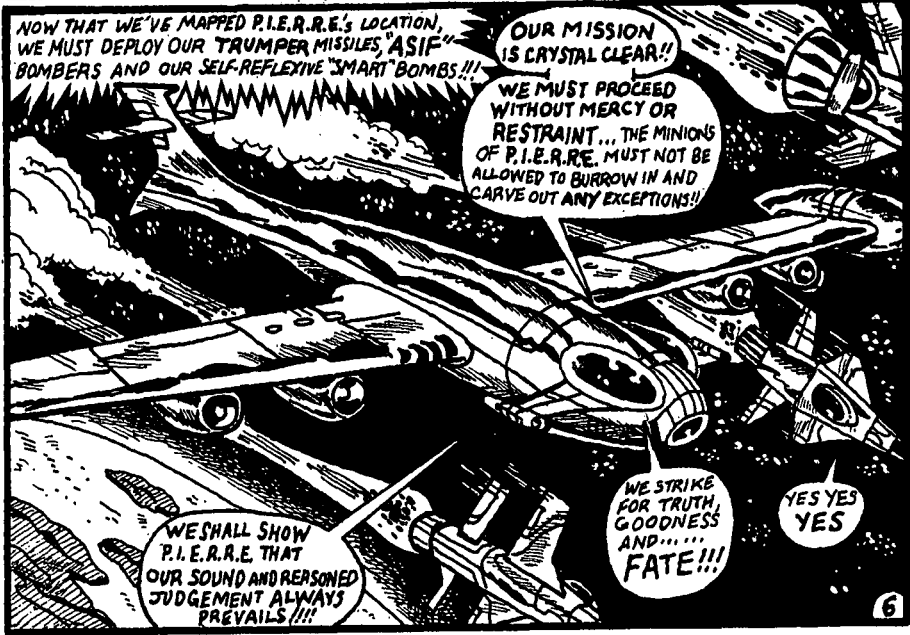
IT HAS ENOUGH MUSCLE TO DEMOLISH A TANK!!



WHAT?! IT DIDN'T EVEN SLOW THE ROBOT DOWN!!

EXPLO!







IN P.I.E.R.R.E.'S UNDERGROUND BUNKER...

THE FOOLS!!! THEY SEEK TO ATTACK ME WITH THEIR PITIFUL TOYS!

THEY ARE UNAWARE I AM OBSERVING THEIR EVERY LITTLE FUTILE MOVE... LITTLE DO THEY KNOW HOW READY FOR THEM I AM!!

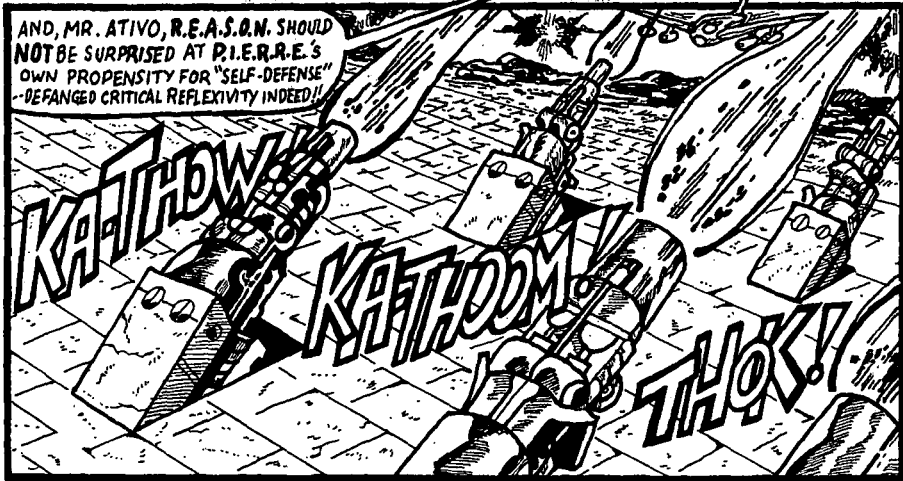
DON'T YOU REALIZE YOUR INSANE SCHEME WILL NEVER WORK!! THE GRID IS EVERYWHERE-- IN THE FOOD YOU EAT, THE AIR YOU BREATHE!!

IF YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES AND RELEASE ME YOU'LL GET AN ENDOWED CHAIR AT YALE FOR STARTERS! COME ON, BE REASONABLE!!

WISHFUL THINKING, MR. ATIVO!!

THE GRID IS A FIGMENT OF YOUR POOR BEKIGHTED IMAGINATION

AS FOR YALE, I (AND P.I.E.R.R.E.) DON'T CARE!!!



AND, MR. ATIVO, R.E.A.S.O.N. SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT P.I.E.R.R.E.'S OWN PROPENSITY FOR "SELF-DEFENSE" --DEFANGED CRITICAL REFLEXIVITY INDEED!!



HURRY, YOU DOLTS! I MUST HAVE MY DISGUISE IN PLACE IMMEDIATELY!!!

YES MASTER!! LOWER THE FACIAL MORPH DERMATO HOOD AT ONCE!!

SIR, YOU ARE PREPARED FOR MORPHING



SET THE FACE MORPH PROGRAM TO MAXIMUM!!

IT IS DONE, SIR!!

WITHIN MOMENTS, YOU WILL HAVE A NEW FACE!! YOU WILL BE AN INDISTINGUISHABLE REPLICIA OF NORM ATIVO, AGENT OF R.E.A.S.O.N.!!



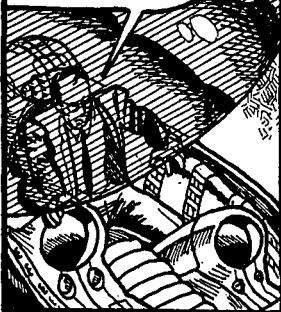
DOES THIS MORPH MEET YOUR DESIRE, SIR?

AH, YES... EXCELLENT. ATIVO'S MOTHER COULDN'T TELL US APART!!

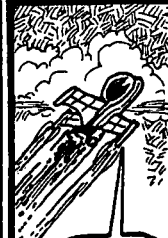
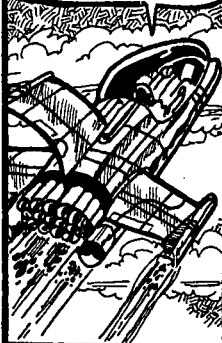
I MUST DON ATIVO'S PROFESSORIAL GARB...



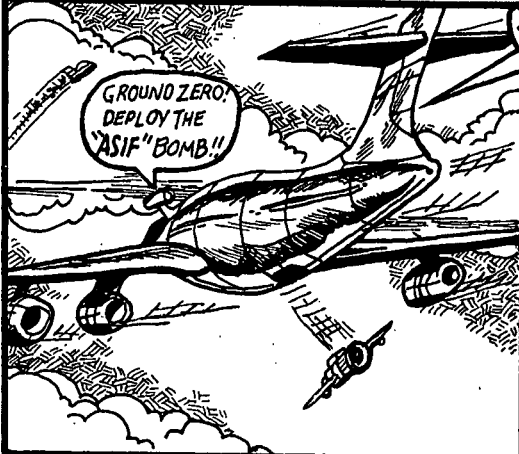
AND WHILE R.E.A.S.O.N.'S ASIF STRATO BOMBERS CLOSE IN... I SHALL ESCAPE THEIR BOMBS IN MY NEUTRONIC JET CRUISER...



FOR TOO LONG HAVE NORM ATIVO AND R.E.A.S.O.N. BLOCKED P.I.E.R.R.E.! HA! THAT TIME IS NOW PAST!!

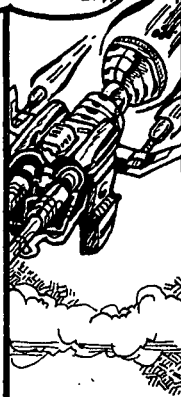


P.I.E.R.R.E.'S MOMENT IS NOW...AND R.E.A.S.O.N. IS POWERLESS BECAUSE I HAVE FOUND THE ULTIMATE HIDING PLACE!!

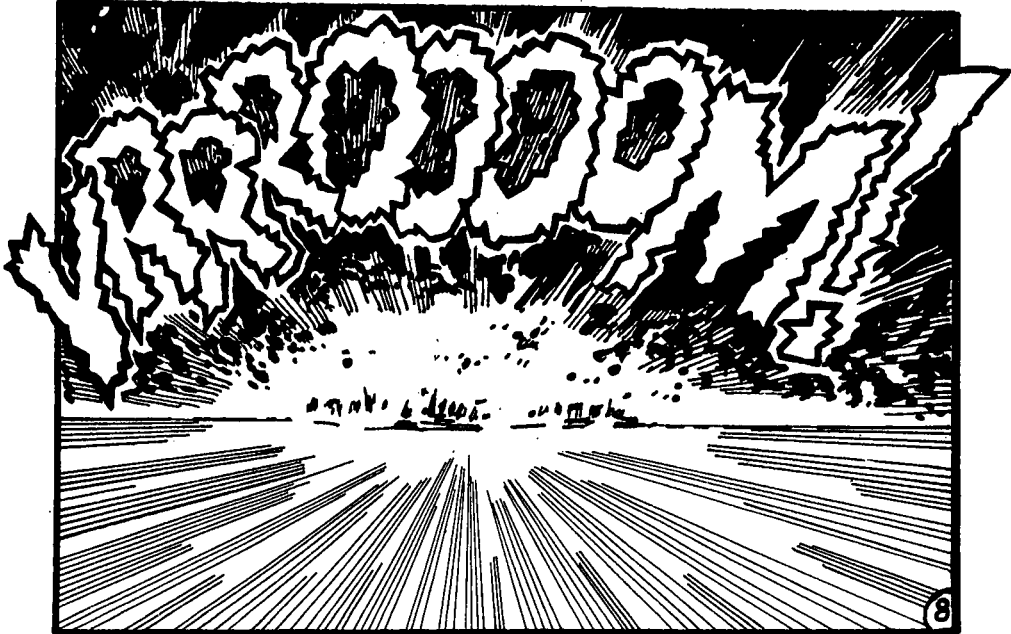


GROUND ZERO, DEPLOY THE "ASIF" BOMB!!

... "ASIF" BOMB LAUNCHED!!



LET THEM STICK THAT IN THEIR PIPES AND SMOKE IT! MANANA!





BACK AT R.E.A.S.O.N.'S HEADQUARTERS...

P.I.E.R.R.E.'S STRONGHOLD HAS BEEN UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED!

HOORAY! R.E.A.S.O.N. TRIUMPHS YET AGAIN!!

THIS IS AGENT ATIVO REQUESTING PERMISSION TO BOARD...

PERMISSION GRANTED!!

YES YES YES

AS THE FAUX NORM ATIVO DEPLANES...

HEY NORM!! YOU SURE KICKED P.I.E.R.R.E.'S BUTT!!

YO NORM!! YOU SURE KICKED P.I.E.R.R.E.'S BUTT!!

THANKS GUYS, BUT IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY! I HAVE TO TALK TO THE BOSS! GOTTA GO!!

IN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF R.E.A.S.O.N., THE CHIEF REFLECTS...

OPERATION BLOWBACK

IT LOOKS LIKE "OPERATION BLOWBACK" IS A SMASHING SUCCESS!

SIR, YOU HAVE THE REPORT THAT SHOWS HOW P.I.E.R.R.E. WAS ERADICATED--YOU KNOW OUR MOTTO: "TAKE RIGHTS SERIOUSLY!"

ANH... AGENT ATIVO!! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MISSION!

OPERATION BLOWBACK

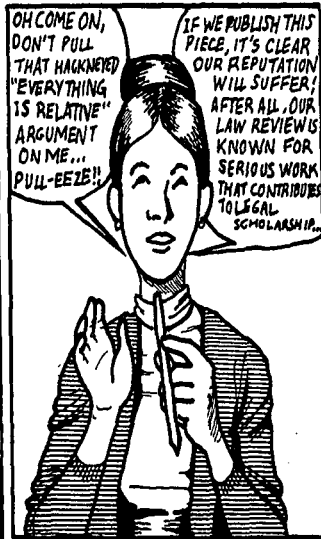
SIR, I CAME TO SEE YOU IN PERSON TO TELL YOU THAT THE JIG IS UP FOR THE GARD OF R.E.A.S.O.N.! YOU SEE...

MUH?! WHAT IN HELL ARE YOU SAYING WHAT?!

OPERATION BLOWBACK

THE "REAL" NORM ATIVO IS DEAD, BLOWN TO BITS BY "ASIF" BOMBS! P.I.E.R.R.E. SURVIVES AND I AM HERE TO DESTROY R.E.A.S.O.N. FROM WITHIN!!!

NEXT: R.E.A.S.O.N. WITHOUT END ?!



*So, the Pundits did scold
But failed to behold
The fact that Pierre didn't care
About how reason's delusion³
Leads to entropic confusion
And the further dissolution
Of Legal Thought into thin air.*

The "Moral" of P.I.E.R.R.E.
may be: **BEWARE!**

³ "El Encanto de la Razón Produce Monstruos También" ("The Enchantment of Reason Produces Monsters Too").



