"Buddhism 2.0"

By Jennifer Long

HEY HERE!!

Ah sorry! Didn't mean to scare ya.

I just really like to talk to people…

What's that?

Oh! I'm RU-4! Should've started with my name earlier, huh? Haha, well anyways.

As you can see, I'm a robot. But did you know I'm a Buddhist?

And not just that, I'm an enlightened Buddhist 2.0!

Hm? What's Buddhism 2.0? Well to put it short…

I was born into a humble monastery (though the monks basically adored me)

Despite being a robot, they invited me to meditate with them, where I eventually achieved enlightenment.

Still, there were always doubters who said there could be no such "enlightened robot"

So to prove them wrong, I decided to leave the monastery and forge my own path as a Buddhist 2.0!

So off I was! Onto the path untamed.

No longer would I be stifled by the narrow human mind, but liberated as founder of a new generation of Buddhists for *all* life forms.

I met so many cool life forms! But of course, there's always danger in the corner

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I really thought I was toast this one time, until she appeared to save me…

Her name was Quyhn…

Quit following me

After my close call with death, I figured I'd better stick with her for at least a bit.

She seemed scary on first impression, but she's actually pretty nice. She taught me how to start fires, sew, catch rain water…

I'd even say we became pretty decent friends!

Truth be told, I'd be content to spend the duration of my travels with her.

But I guess most things have to end somehow

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It came out of nowhere… one moment she was fine, the next she was hunched over in pain

I'd never seen so much blood come out of someone.

It felt like she was dissipating for the following week, she'd never seen so small to me.

She recovered within a few days, physically, at least.

Even joked that this might just be her karma. But her laughs sounded too close to tears.

After resting for a month, we decided to parts ways.

I won't lie and say it wasn't hard to be on my own again. In fact, I even ran back to our campsite a few days later…

But Quyhn wasn't there anymore, just a large basket we made together. I guess she knew I'd come back.

Anyways, the next days were brutal and I collapse before I knew it.

That's how I met the Freuds.

To be honest, they weren't a bad crowd at first. And it's not everyday you meet multiple Freuds.

They were an inquisitive bunch, asking questions I hadn't even thought of before.

nod nod

Well…each question seemed to bring about another Freud, which got out of hand pretty quickly.

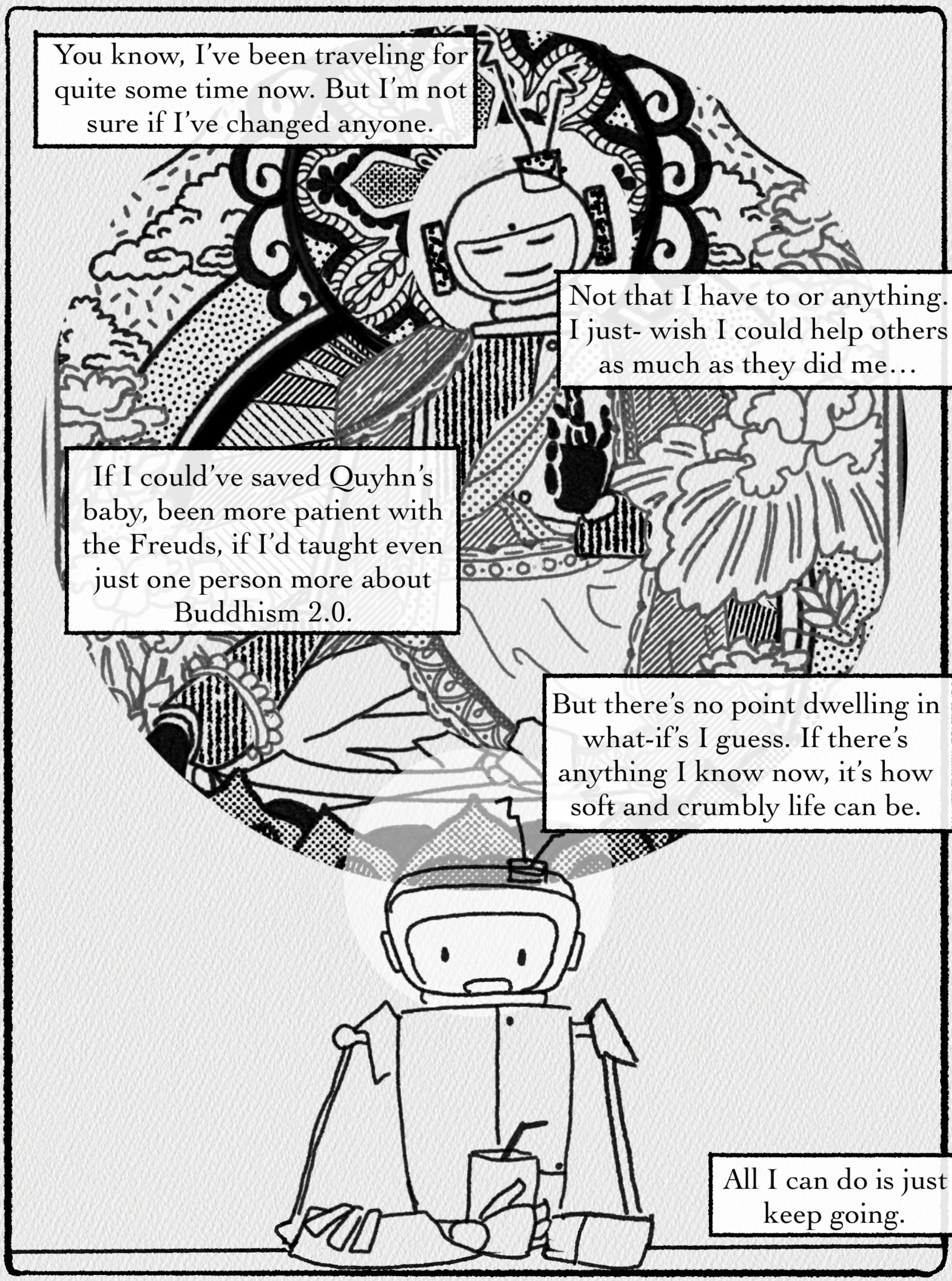
Just between you and me, it was honestly pretty scary how they kept multiplying

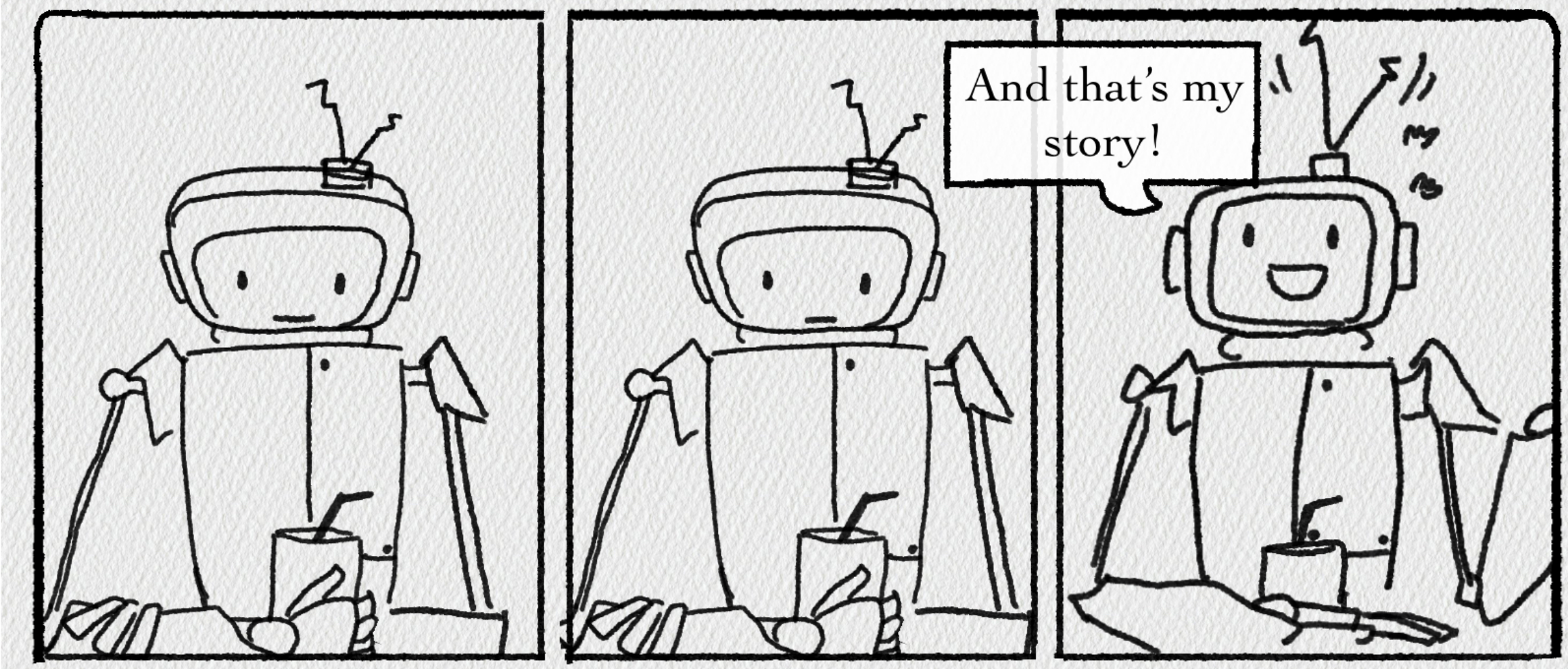
And *no,* I didn't run away from them or anything. I made a *strategic retreat*.

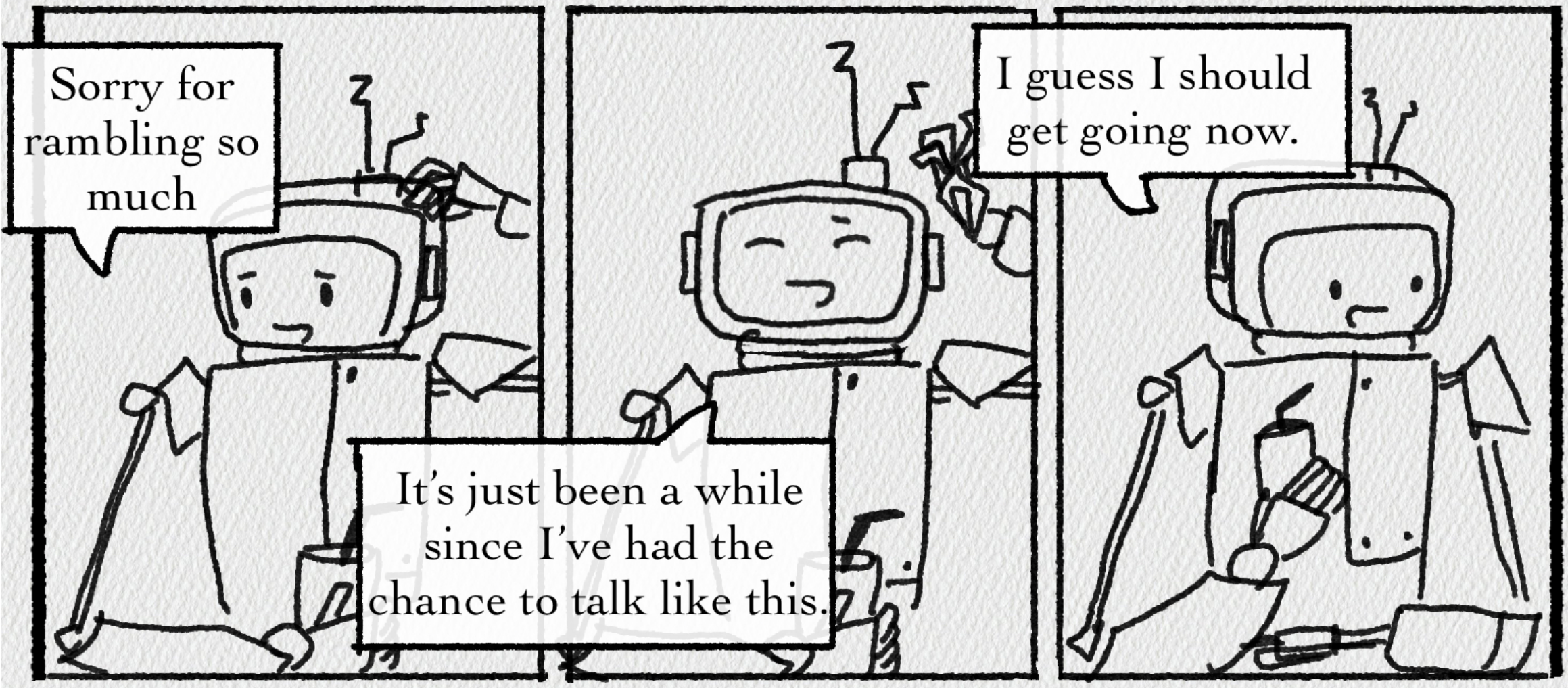
While I ran awa- I mean retreated, I thought of all the people I've met and all.

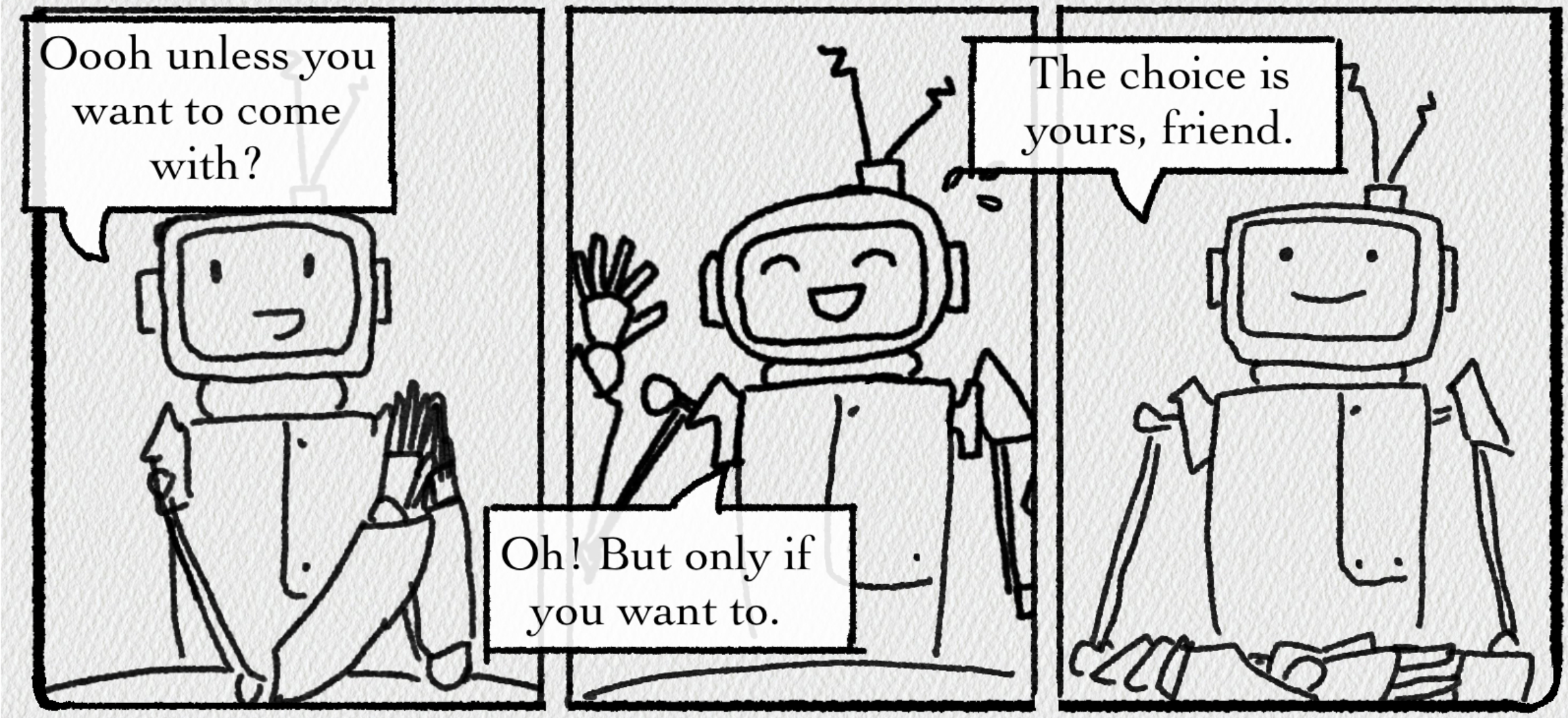
I know this sounds corny, but in that moment I wished I had the ability to cry.

Though I didn't know what for. I still don't.


You know, I've been traveling for quite some time now. But I'm not sure if I've changed anyone.
Not that I have to or anything. I just- wish I could help others as much as they did me…
If I could've saved Quyhn's baby, been more patient with the Freuds, if I'd taught even just one person more about Buddhism 2.0.
But there's no point dwelling in what-if's I guess. If there's anything I know now, it's how soft and crumbly life can be.
All I can do is just keep going.


And that's my story!


Sorry for rambling so much
It's just been a while since I've had the chance to talk like this.
I guess I should get going now.


Oooh unless you want to come with?
Oh! But only if you want to.
The choice is yours, friend.

I'll always be around if
you need someone.