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## The Infinite Tortoise The Curious Thought Experiments of History's Great Thinkers

**Joel Levy**

### Keynote

Starting in Ancient Greece, Joel Levy guides us through the mind-bending world of thought experiments and their role in revealing the complexity of morality, exploring the limitations and the infinite possibilities of the human mind.

### Description

**A clear, concise and fascinating guide to philosophical thought experiments and how they've shaped our understanding of the world.**

From Plato's Cave to Descartes' Demon, great thinkers have used thought experiments and paradoxes to try and work out complex ideas in the simplest way possible.

Among the most famous thought experiments is Zeno's Achilles and the Tortoise: if Achilles is faster than the tortoise, why will Achilles never catch up with the tortoise when it starts ahead of him? Zeno proposes that, when Achilles reaches the point where the tortoise started the race, the tortoise will have already moved on. And as Achilles runs on to where the tortoise was last, when he reaches that point the tortoise has moved again. Therefore poor Achilles will never catch up with the tortoise as the distance he must run gets smaller and smaller and each time he has less and less time to run...

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### Sales Points

- An accessible approach to the problems of philosophy and science
- Examines some of the greatest and most intriguing thought experiments, from ancient Greek philosophers to twentieth-century scientists, from Putnam's Twin Earth to Galileo's chained balls
- By exploring the potential consequences of hypothetical questions, philosophers, scientists and mathematicians have used this technique to confirm or challenge ideas about ourselves and the universe
- A brilliant new title from the author of *Freudian Slips* and *Why We Do the Things We Do*

### Author Biography

Joel Levy is a journalist and author specializing in science and history. He has written over a dozen books including: *Scientific Feuds*, *Lost Histories*, *Poison: A Social History*, *Why?* (Michael O'Mara 2012) and *Freudian Slips* (Michael O'Mara 2013).

Michael O'Mara.

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