

always turns the ball over, and in our analogy it merely determines how much the other side must rebut or establish vis-à-vis their opponent. I perhaps needlessly stress, punting is not nothing; it covers ground that must be covered, even if it does risk the onslaught and rebuttal of the foe by turning the ball over. (I should add that there are disanalogies lurking in this logic, and no doubt you have spotted the most glaring ones. All I can say is that no analogy is perfect, so be a good sport and ignore them.)

So here we are at last at the *Transcendental Bowl* as the Thumbs and the Blockheads take the field. Thankfully, we do not need a play-by-play call of the action to know the outcome of the game. It's going to end in a tie at zero to zero. (And *please*, don't even suggest overtime!) Here's why. In the Presuppositional League, teams always, but *always*, punt on every first down! They call them transcendental kicks which, as their coaches say, loft the ball above the radically contingent turf. The players are well instructed as to the impiety of passing or running the ball. They know that grinding out empirical yardage carries with it no guarantee of success—which (to their minds) is reason enough to forswear "univocal football" altogether. What is to be avoided at all cost is even the tacit concession that there might actually be genuine logical traction on an *empirical* turf to support such play. No transcendental football player worth his cleats would ever admit that an *empirical* turf might actually constitute common ground. Mercy no!

Instead, kicking toward the glorious End Zone is at once a gesture of their confidence that *only* the End Zone bestows meaning, and, to repeat, their bold refusal to meet the enemy upon a ground that cannot afford sure-fire logical traction—upon a turf that is by definition a probabilistic swamp: *terra incognita*.

(What is it Lucy? Yes, I suppose so. There *could* be a winner if safeties are scored, or if a blocked punt were run into the End Zone, or in the event of a lucky kick-off return; or . . . if one of the teams doesn't bother to show up. It's funny but forfeits often happen in this league; transcendental football players seem to prefer to stay home and read about football rather than play it. Generally though, a zero to zero stalemate is what happens.

Can I say anything *nice* about these two teams? Uh, the thumbs on