

best technique is the one that works! Theories be damned, and theology too, if they don't get us off our duffs with sensible 'how-tos'."

Brown was about to recount a litany of practices and techniques that would have been impossible without theoretical breakthroughs when the rest of his guests began to arrive.

IV

Discussion: Peanuts Anyone?

"Sir, Dr. Brown said it would only be for this afternoon."

"Get out of my face, Marcy," said Peppermint Patty truculently. "I don't need a name tag to tell who's who!"

"But Sir . . ."

"Chuck! Over here. It's me, Patty. Will you call off Marcy? And what's with the dog house? Snoopy's dea__ . . ."

"Leave it alone, Patty," urged Linus who was standing nearby.

On the patio Brown made a brief welcoming speech and announced that Linus had agreed to their company that night in the pumpkin patch. Schroeder would put in a modest sound system to play a few CDs apropos of the occasion. By now it was three in the afternoon and the Peanuts friends were off in pairs, mostly, getting caught up with each other. Brown listened to Schroeder and Linus talk about proof and the existence of God .

"Empirical proof of ultimate things is impossible;" Linus was saying. "personal proof, yes; empirical argumentative proof, no."

Just then Lucy shouldered her way into the conversation. "Hey, Linus, we're talking *real* pumpkin here aren't we? I mean seeds, rind, and all of that."