

Well-being Encompasses The Harmony of Joy, Anger, Sorrow, and Pleasure.

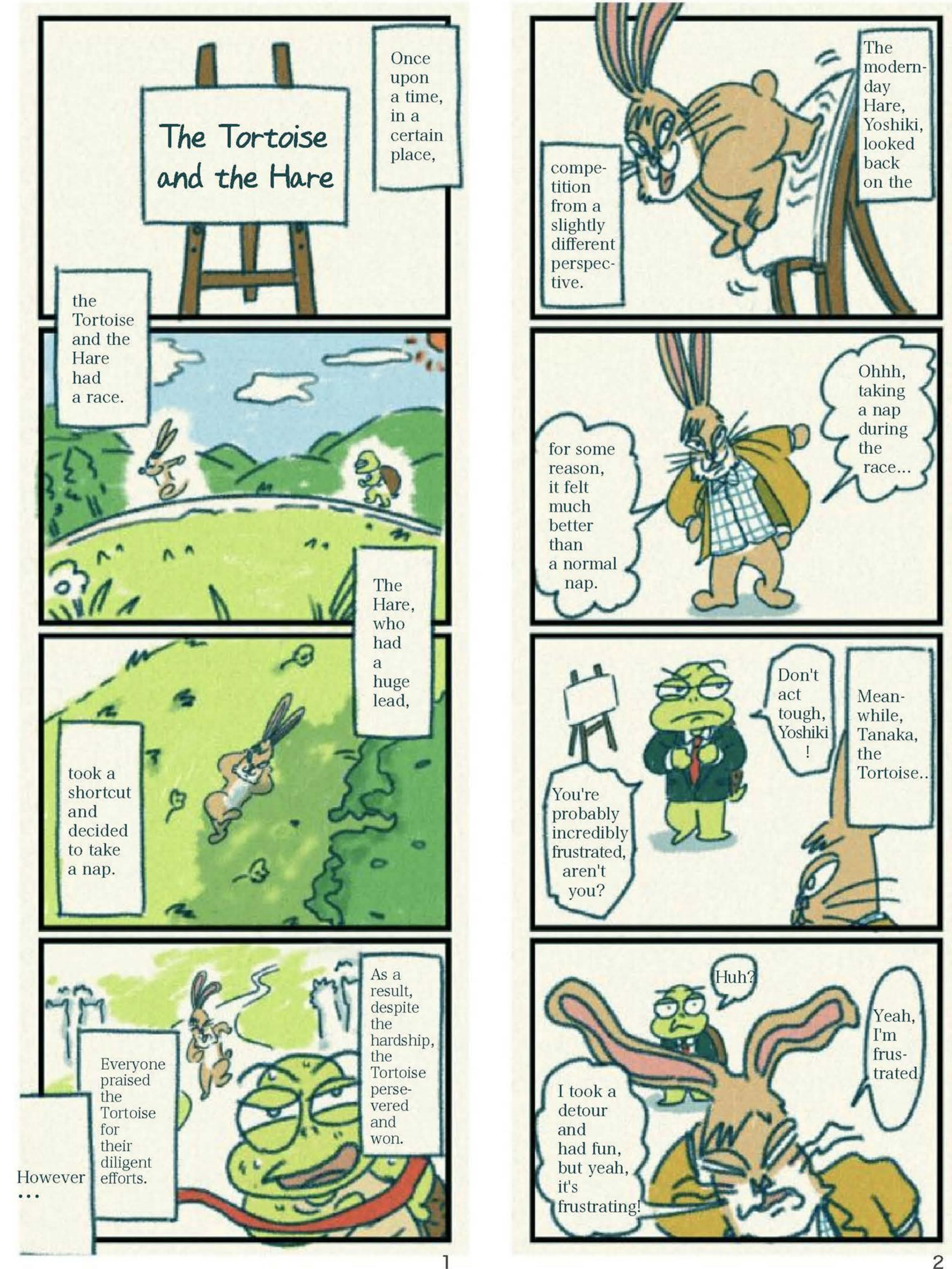


2

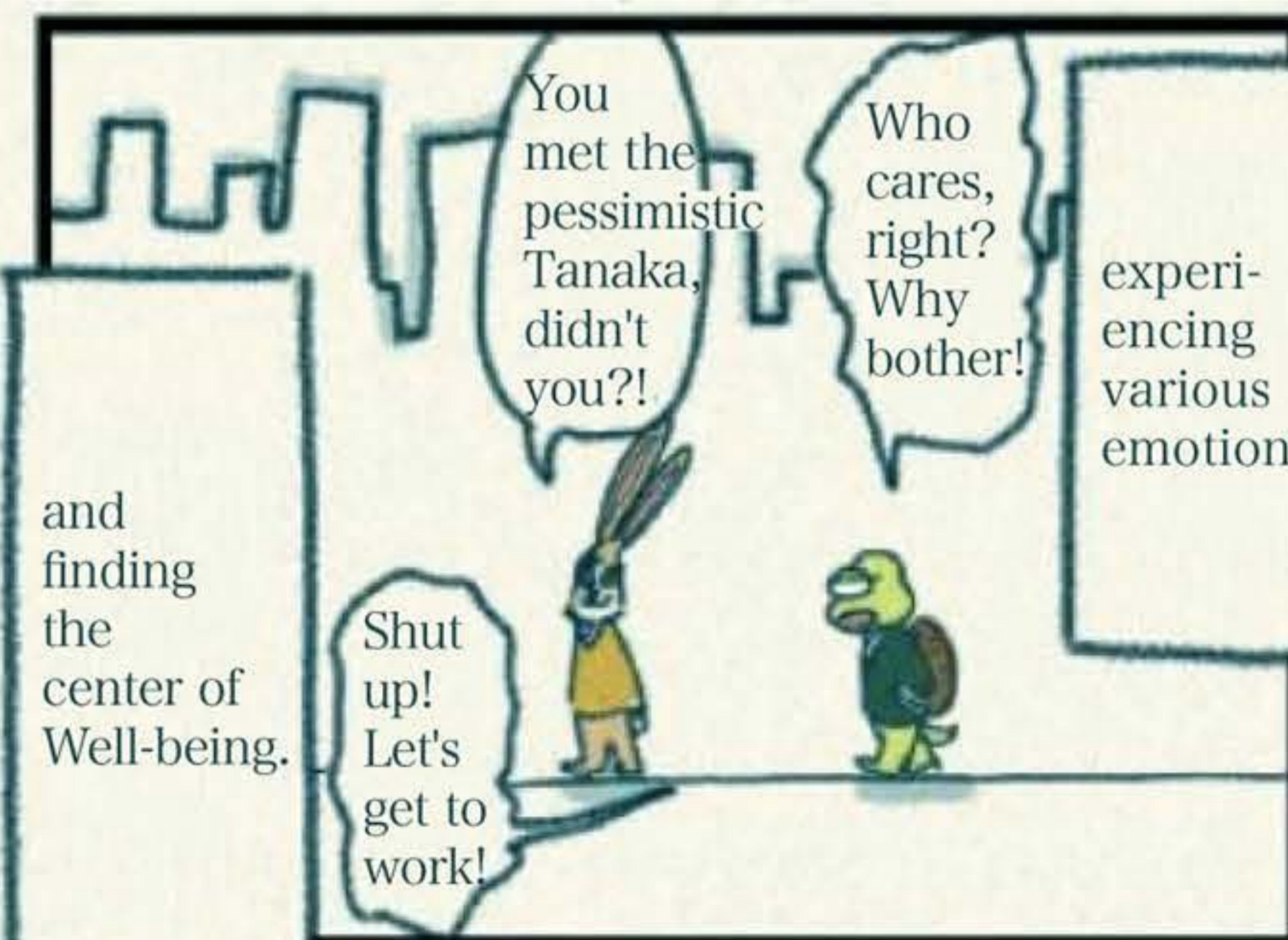
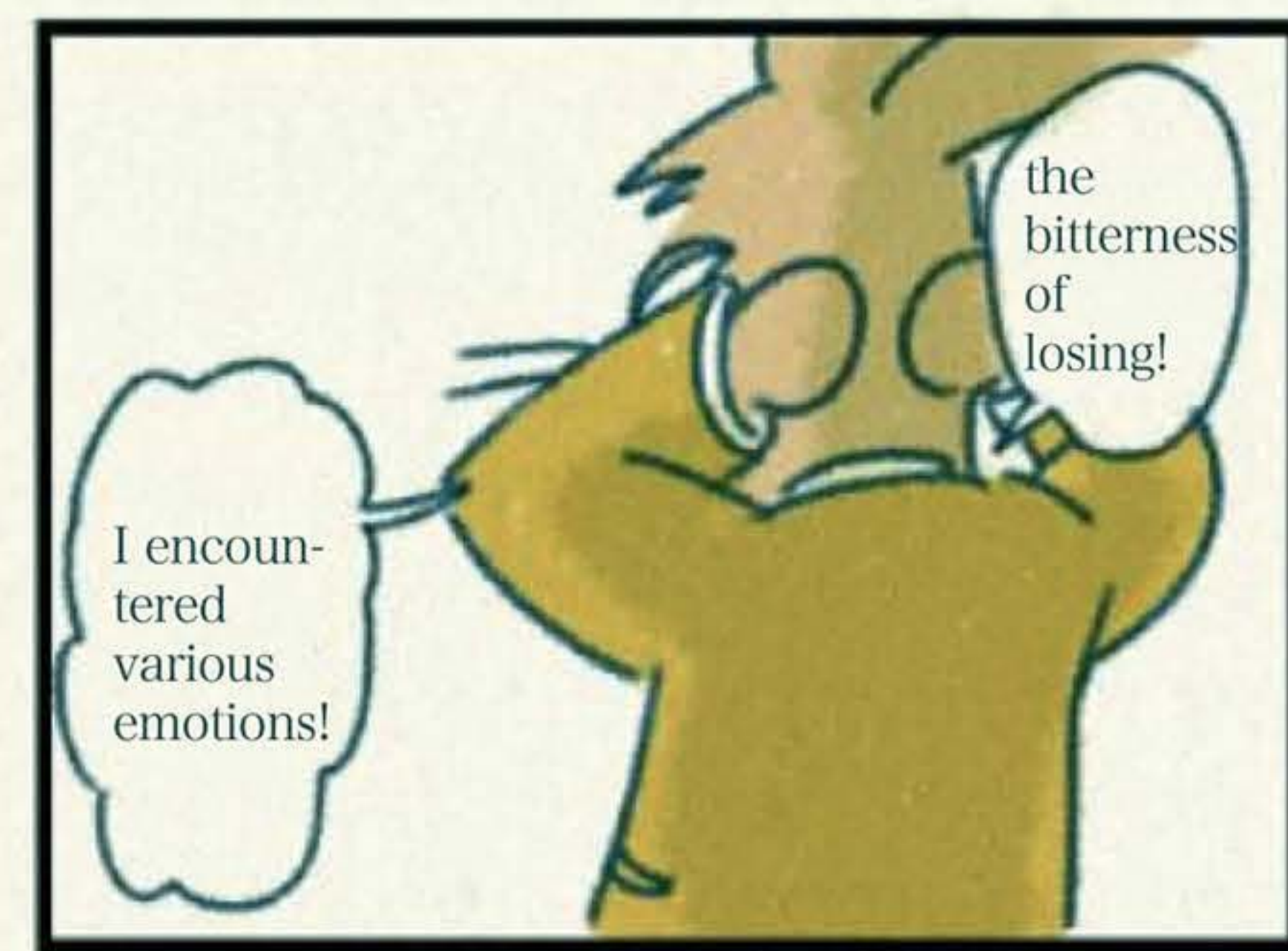
Well-being encompasses the harmony of joy, anger, sorrow, and pleasure. This concept is the cornerstone of the four-panel manga 'The Center of Well-being' by Hitsuji Watabe. The story revolves around two salarymen, the negative and self-deprecating Turtle Tanaka and the always seemingly happy Hare Yoshiki, who experience various emotions while seeking 'the center of well-being'. The manga portrays Tanaka, feeling anxious in modern society, finding well-being through interactions with Hare Yoshiki. For me, this manga offered pure joy in simplicity. It's a delightful, light-hearted story. Through this manga, I recognize Ishikawa and Watabe, and Hare Yoshiki and Turtle Tanaka are like cherished friends in my heart. Happiness isn't about never suffering; it's about experiencing and overcoming it. For instance, Ishikawa overcame the adversity of being a third-generation atomic-bomb survivor, academic challenges, and mental complexities in life. Ishikawa doesn't shy away from

darker emotions. His negative feelings resonate and cleanse the emotions of those who see them, drawing from shared past experiences. In fact, 'The Center of Happiness' also presents Ishikawa affirming the value of Turtle Tanaka's negativity, aiming to show the world that 'there is value in self-deprecation'. Most people don't concern themselves with whether a story brings positive emotions. The manga's goal is to evoke small moments of empathy. For instance, a simple line from Hare Yoshiki might make you pause, or you might empathize with Turtle Tanaka's feelings. What became of 'The Center of Happiness'? What is the center of happiness for Turtle Tanaka and Hare Yoshiki? The climax of this manga portrays Turtle Tanaka, tired from work and feeling down, finding something through conversations with Hare Yoshiki and discovering the best version of himself along the way. And following this, are the various emotions of Ishikawa. What version of yourself will you discover?

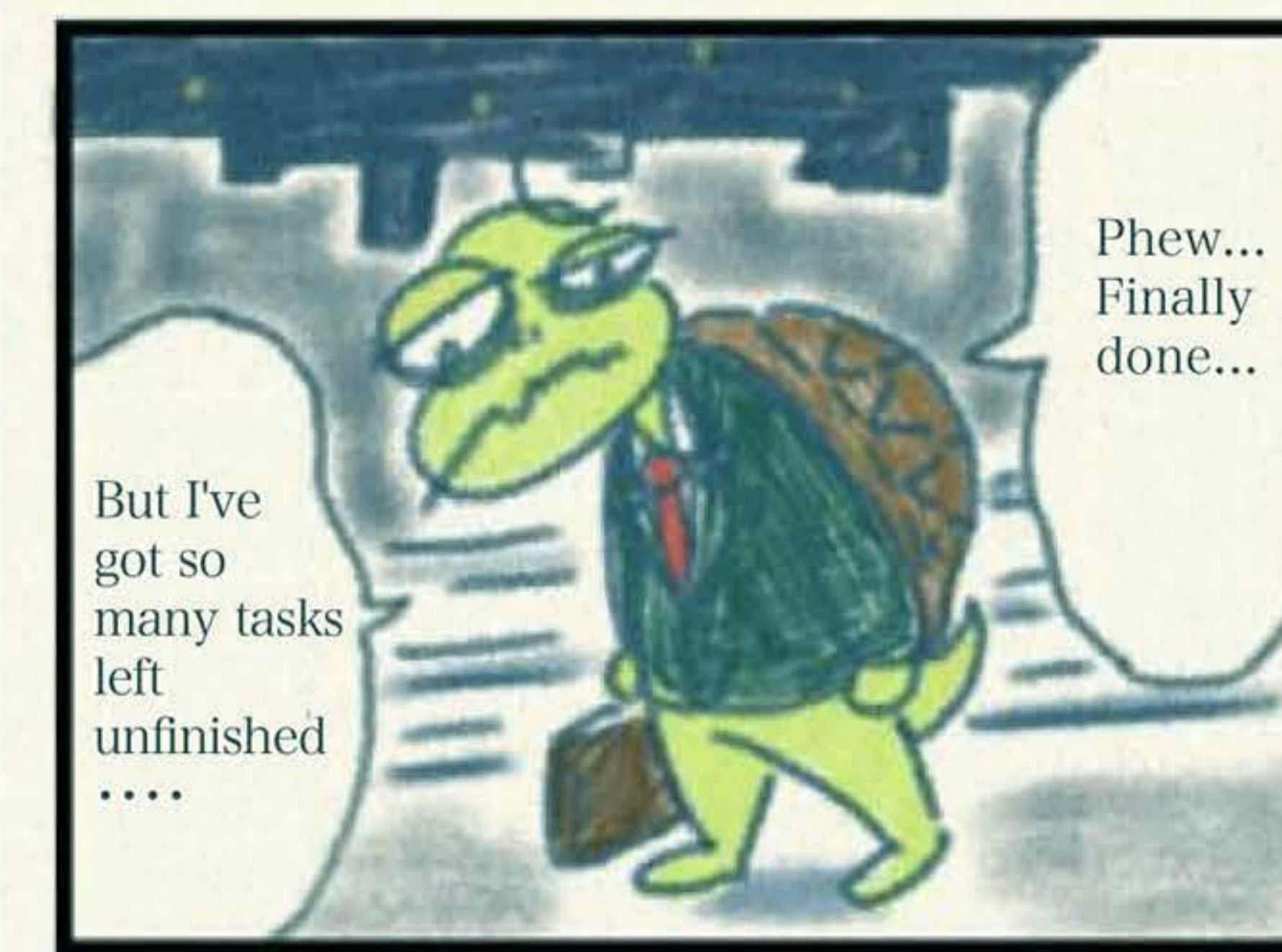
Episode 1 . The Modern Hare and Tortoise



Yoshiki Hare's face bears a striking resemblance to Ishikawa, despite his being a hare.

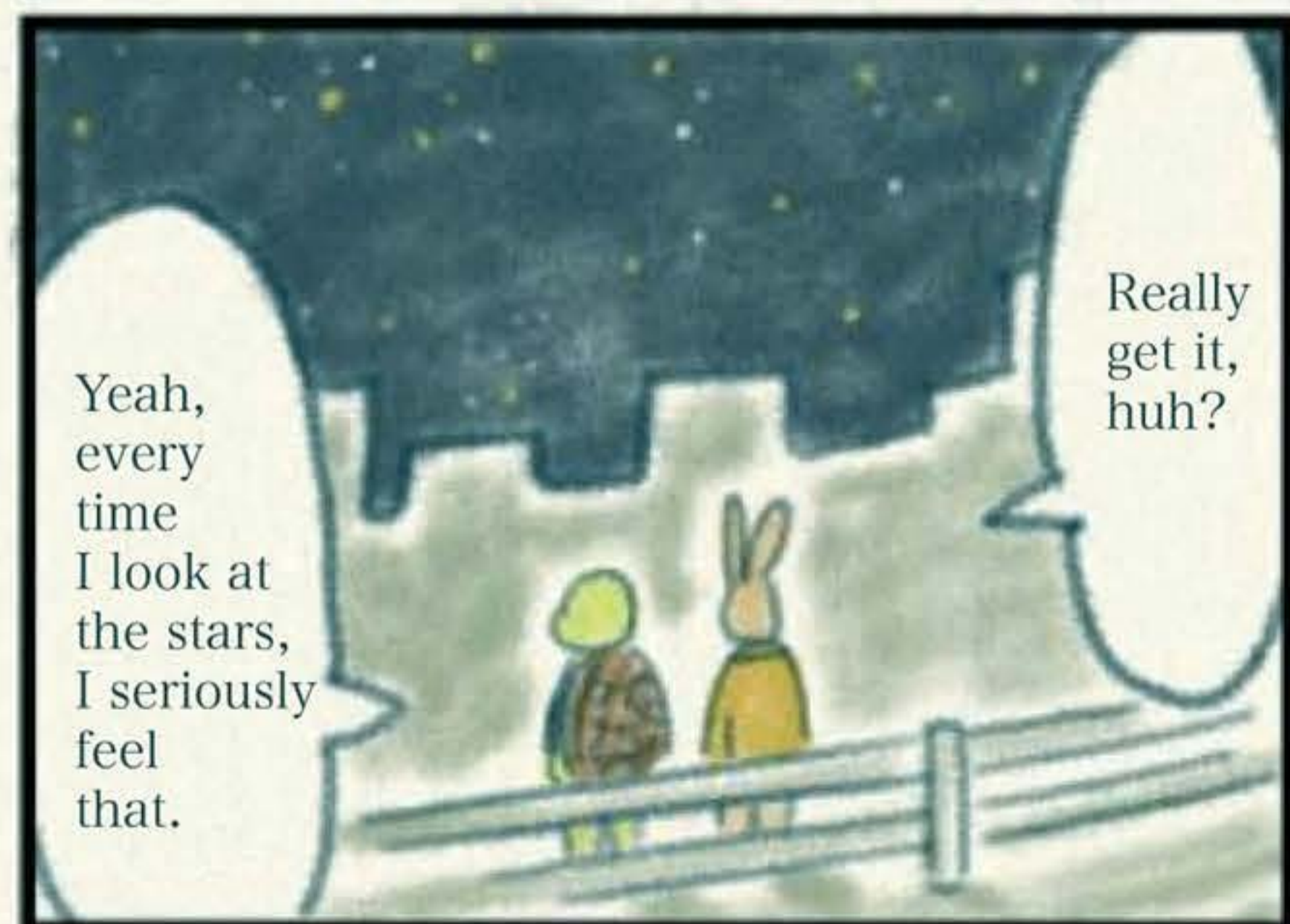


Episode 2. Miracle in the Tokyo Night Sky





3



4

Episode 3. The Art of Ending Work Happily



1



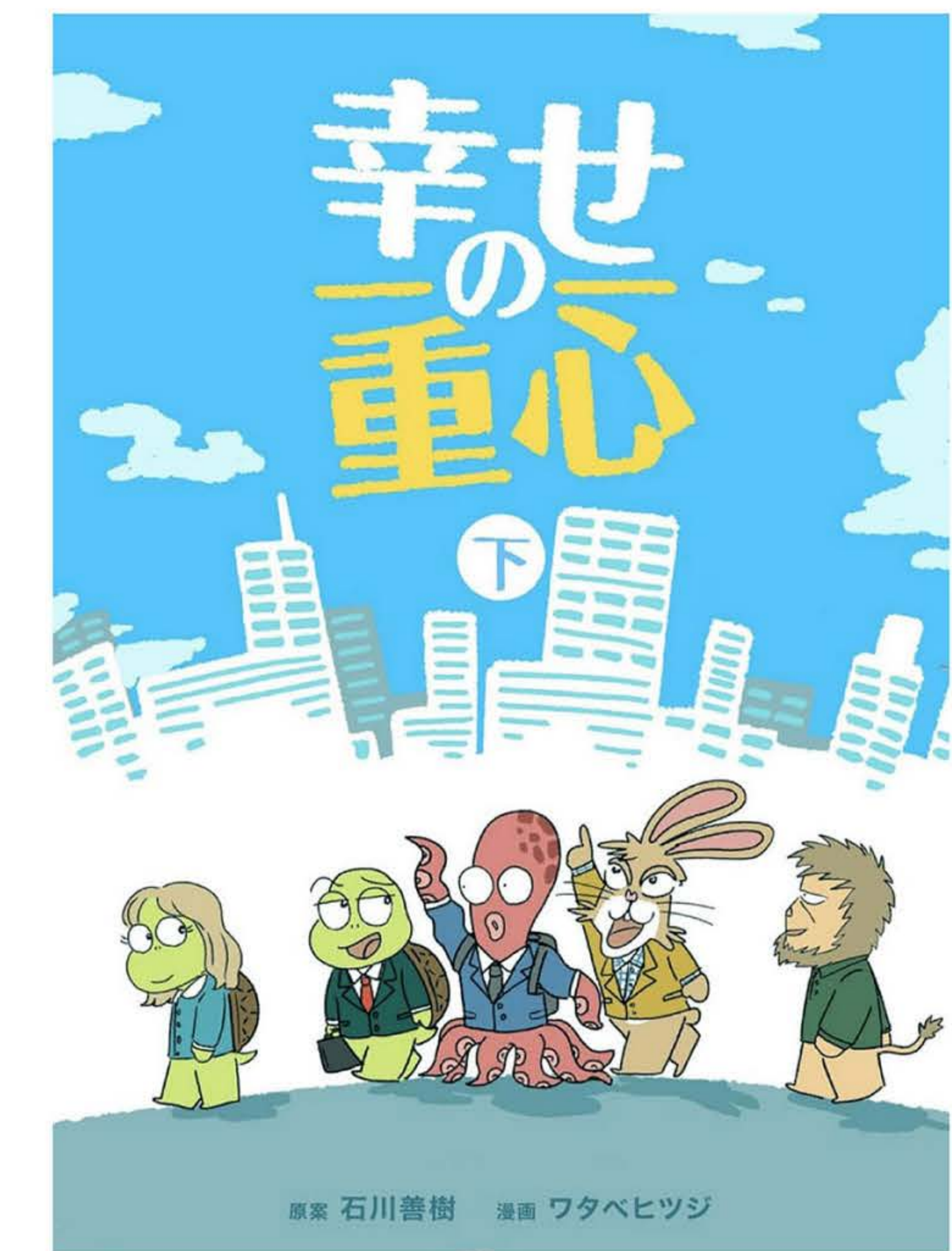
2

Episode 4. Right but Annoying?



1

2



Center of Well-being: Original Concept by Yoshiki Ishikawa, Manga by Hitsuji Watabe (Cork Studio), Kindle Edition. This manga portrays the concept that the center of well-being lies in the harmony of emotions. It introduces contrasting characters: the negative and gloomy Tanaka the Tortoise, and Yoshiki the Hare, who always seems somewhat content. The story revolves around their journey in finding the center of well-being while facing work and emotions. This piece is a creation by the manga artist Watabe, inspired by Ishikawa's words 'Well-being lies in the harmony of emotions.' It was serialized in 100 episodes from August 31, 2020, to September 6, 2022.

Watabe Hitsuji
 Born in Tokyo in 1991. Graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts with a degree in Design. During middle school, became obsessed with 'Slam Dunk', kept it by the bedside, and read the Shohoku matches almost every night, believing the characters were alive. Aimed to be a designer in college but immediately pursued a career as a manga artist upon graduating. Drew manga while working as an art prep school instructor. Finds a sense of endearment when seeing the distortion in people's hearts. Wants to portray the moment when 'distortion' is affirmed by 'kindness'. Draws from light-hearted to serious themes, favoring happy endings. Enjoys genres like human drama, suspense, and comedy. Favorite foods include baby back ribs, nachos, and hamburgers.