

Jessica Lee

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Final Project: Aristotle's Reasoning for a Round Earth



Figure 1. "Aristotle's Reasoning for a Round Earth"

Jessica Lee's short comic shown above, "Aristotle's Reasoning for a Round Earth," stems from her lifelong interest in the Moon and its various phases, shaped by her bicultural background. Growing up as a second-generation Korean American, she regularly shifted between Korean and American traditions. For example, her grandparents used the lunar calendar for home celebrations and birthdays, while traditional American holidays and dates were based on the solar calendar. Therefore, she has seen the Moon as both a cultural and scientific symbol since her childhood. Also, she noticed that language barriers within her family sometimes made it hard to share information, and interpreting and translating for multiple companies has increased her experience interacting with people with limited English proficiency. Over time, she found that simple visuals could communicate ideas when words could not. This idea became important in her later work in graphic medicine and guides her approach to making educational art for healthcare.

While Lee is not a professional artist or art student, she carefully chooses to keep her work simple on purpose. Furthermore, her use of clear lines and a straightforward order allows anyone to understand her ideas, no matter their age, background, or language, and the simplicity is meant as a tool to help people understand easily. Therefore, this approach fits with her interests and studies in Asian Studies, premedical work, and visual communication, all of which value clarity and accessibility.

Lee got the idea for her comic from Aristotle's argument that the Earth is round, based on the curved shadow on the Moon during a lunar eclipse, showing how careful observation can lead to big discoveries, even without fancy tools. Aristotle's method is similar to what graphic medicine aims to do: using pictures to make hard ideas easier to understand. By turning this situation into a comic, Lee wants to show that a simple image can explain reasoning that might

otherwise seem too technical or distant. Also, the lunar eclipse adds additional scientific significance to a somewhat culturally critical aspect, proving the Earth's shape.

The comic strip depicts Aristotle and his students watching a lunar eclipse, with brief dialogue and simple images that guide the reader through his thought process. Each panel moves step by step with the moon, like the eclipse itself, so the science is clear and not overwhelming in the artwork. By keeping the art minimal and simple, Lee ensures the focus remains on the Moon, the shadow, and the main question of what shape the Earth must be to cast a curved shadow. She believes that simple art helps people pay attention to the idea, not just the drawing style, without the burden of analyzing deeply to understand layers of meanings. Also, her own personal and professional experience has shown her that clear visuals can often explain things better than complex jargon, especially when people speak different languages.

Lee's work is shaped by her research in graphic medicine, her cultural background, and what she has seen in her own life. She knows that pictures can help people talk about medical, social, and scientific ideas when words are not enough. This project brings those lessons into astronomy. The Moon, which is important in both her Korean and American experiences, is a good way to connect science, culture, and visual storytelling.

"Aristotle's Reasoning for a Round Earth" brings together science, cultural identity, and visual communication. By mixing these, Lee shows that astronomy can be shared with many people through careful images. Her work proves that you do not need to be a trained artist to make helpful visual explanations. What matters is having a clear purpose and message. The comic is both a teaching tool and a way to show that knowledge can cross language and cultural lines.

This project shows Jessica Lee's goal, as in her previous work, to use simple, clear

images to explain hard ideas. Her comic strip casually invites everyone and anyone to consider Aristotle's reasoning, appreciate the value of observation, and see how art can make science more accessible, widespread, and easily comprehensible. Ultimately, she hopes this work will spark curiosity, help people understand, and show how powerful simple visuals can be.