

# Time Twisters: Laplace's, Maxwell's, and Einstein's Demon (1814-1924)

JIMENA CANALES

Jimena Canales is the author of *The Physicist and the Philosopher: Einstein, Bergson and the Debate That Changed Our Understanding of Time* (Princeton University Press) voted Best Science Books (*Science Friday*, *NPR*, *Brainpickings*, *The Tablet*), and *A Tenth of a Second: A History* (University of Chicago Press). She currently holds the Thomas M. Siebel Chair in the History of Science at the University of Illinois-UC. She has published widely in specialized journals and writes for wider audiences (*The New Yorker*, *WIRED*, *BBC*, *Aperture*, and *Artforum*), presenting her work at the Pompidou Museum, SFMOMA, and recently at the 11th Shanghai Biennale.

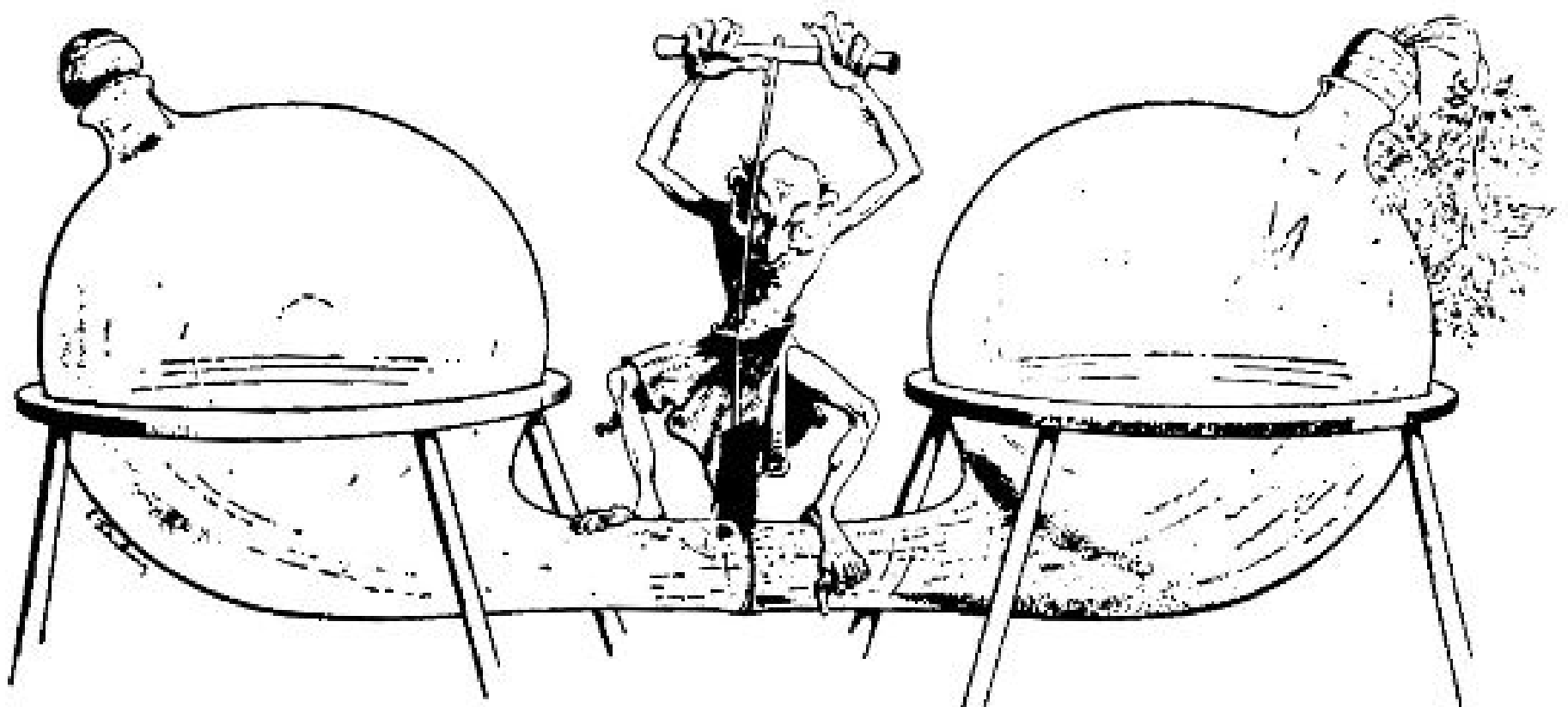
Lucifer, Beelzebub, Sathanus, Elimi, Leviathan, and Belphegor are no longer with us. Other demons—named after thinkers and scientists such as Laplace, Maxwell, and Einstein—have taken over. Demons with long tails and short horns are a relic of the past, but new variants have surfaced. Modern scientists routinely discuss demons. To catch a criminal one must think as one. To rid the world of demons, scientists have had to think like them. Devilish fast, minuscule or immense, these imaginary imps cannot be detected, but by thinking with them, scientists are able to discover central lessons across fields.

Tuesday, April 4, 12:00 - 1:20 PM in 161 East Pyne

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Maxwell's demon at work