

## **Copyright Information**

*Teach Philosophy With a Sense of Humor: Why (and How to) Be a Funnier and More Effective Philosophy Teacher and Laugh All the Way to Your Classroom.* Copyright ©2021 by the Curious Academic Publishing.

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## **Chapter 14: How to Philosophize With A Hammer (A Squeaky Plastic One) - *By Chris A. Kramer, Ph.D.***

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### **Don't Stop Me If You've Heard This One**

So, a Buddhist monk is meditatively strolling down a New York City street (now, these are folks who have achieved enlightenment and have recognized the interconnectedness and interdependence of everything and everyone in the universe, and in doing so, understand the futility and suffering that follows foolish desires of a presumed independent self, separable from everyone and everything else); so this guy says to a hot dog vendor on the street (of course, these purveyors of food-like stuff are typical in large cities, they will sell hot dogs with all the “fixins”, AKA, “with *everything* on it”, which of course does not mean *literally* everything, but just about everything that could go well with a hot dog, not mayonnaise of course, because that shit is objectively disgusting on or near anything), so the monk says, “Make me one with everything.” HA! (here, and only here, it is essential that you laugh at your own joke).

This is one way to open an Introduction to Philosophy class prior to going over that damnable contract called a syllabus. I have presented a joke, but before students have a chance to get it and enjoy it *for themselves*, I have explained how the humor is supposed to have worked, defining all the relevant terms in the set-up and exactly how those premises connect to the now-expected conclusion (punchline); I have given them the answer. They