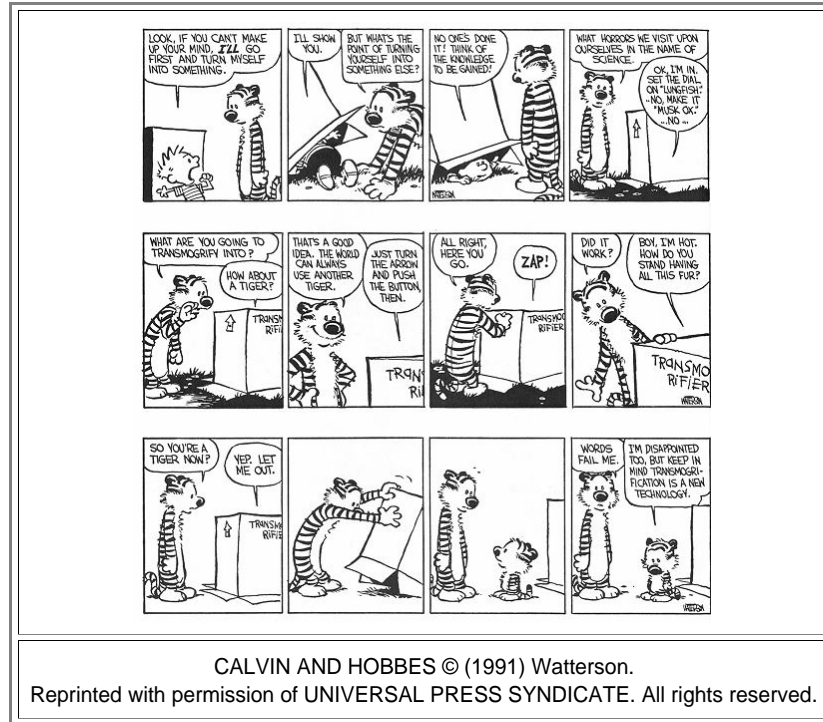


Transmogrification

Illustration

Changing something into something else the easy way (without much effort and painlessly, of course) is an old dream of everybody.

- All religions, of course, prey on this fact. It is interesting (but useless) to meditate about the possible connections between the observation that the seemingly most unchangeable and common things - stones - could in fact be turned into something beautiful, useful and rare, and the evolution of beliefs in a "changed state of being after death" in religion.
- Here is a present day expression of the need to dream about **transmogrification** from one of my favorite books dealing about children and how to raise them:



Well, a working version of a transmogrifier has not been invented yet. So if you really want to change yourself into a person who knows about defects in crystals, you must still do it the hard way!