

4.5 Slipping Down the Slope (p. 104)

Sorites IS THE GREEK word for “heap.” The standard version of this puzzle in ancient times went this way: Take away one grain of sand from a heap of sand of any size, and you still have a heap. Now, suppose you have a large heap from which you remove one grain; application of this principle tells you that you still have a heap. Repeat this procedure; you still have a heap. Repeat it over and over again, and you’ll eventually have only one grain of sand left: but the principle tells you that this is still a heap.