

...IMAGINE THERE ARE FOUR SHEPHERDS WHO EACH OWN FOUR SHEEP THEY GRAZE TOGETHER ON A COMMONS THAT PROVIDES ENOUGH GRASS FOR SIXTEEN SHEEP..



...AS LONG AS EACH OF THE SHEPHERDS LIMIT THEIR FLOCKS TO FOUR SHEEP, THE COMMONS WILL SUSTAIN THEM INDEFINATELY....



...THE "SMART" SHEPHERD FIGURES HE CAN ADD A SHEEP TO HIS FLOCKS AND GET A POSITIVE BENEFIT OF +1...



...WHILE THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF OVERGRAZING, A FRACTION OF -1 IS SHARED BY ALL FOUR OF THE SHEPHERDS...



...EACH SHEPHERD MUST ADD ANOTHER SHEEP... THEN ANOTHER, UNTIL THERE'S NO GRASS LEFT ON THE COMMONS...



...IN FISHERIES, FORESTS AND FARMLAND WE SEE HOW THE LOGIC OF SELF-INTEREST ALWAYS LEADS HUMANS INTO A CYCLE OF BOOM & BUST..



...AIR AND WATER ARE ALSO A COMMONS. INSTEAD OF TAKING STUFF OUT, HUMANS ARE PUTTING STUFF IN ... A TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS IN REVERSE!

