Three More Quickies

(1) If five dogs dig five holes in five days, how long does it take ten dogs to dig ten holes? Assume that they all dig at the same rate all the time and all holes are the same size.

(2) A woman bought a parrot in a pet-shop. The shop assistant, who always told the truth, said, 'I guarantee that this parrot will repeat every word it hears.' A week later, the woman took the parrot back, complaining that it hadn't spoken a single word. 'Did anyone talk to it?' asked the suspicious assistant. 'Oh, yes.' What is the explanation?
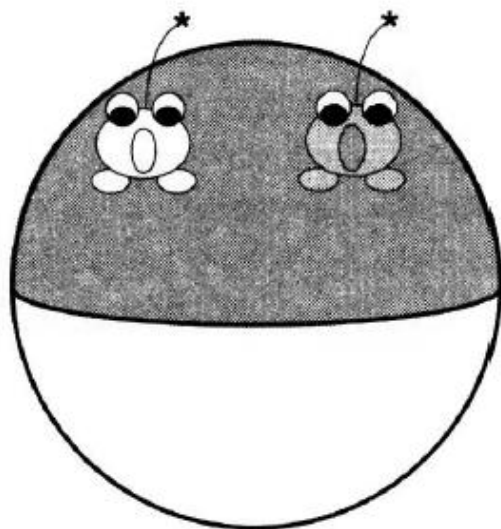
(3) The planet Nff-Pff in the Anathema Galaxy is inhabited by precisely two sentient beings, Nff and Pff. Nff lives on a large continent, in the middle of which is an enormous lake. Pff lives on an island in the middle of the lake. Neither Nff nor Pff can swim, fly or teleport: their only form of transport is to walk on dry land. Yet each morning, one walks to the other's house for breakfast. Explain.

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(1) Five days. (Each dog digs a hole in five days.)

(2) The parrot is deaf.

(3) The usual answer is that one hemisphere of the planet is land, and the other is water, so the continent and the island are identical. But puzzles like this are easily 'cooked' by finding loopholes in the conditions. For instance, maybe Nff lives on the continent but its house is on the island, and Pff eats houses for breakfast. Or on Nff-Pff, the land moves – after all, who knows what happens on an alien world? *Or* …

Nff and Pff on their home planet of Nff-Pff.