

The 3rd GATE

"A fortiori ... With yet stronger reason"





Welcome to the 3rd Gate, the home of Mercury, Gemini and the realm of reason and imagination. Found here is communications of all kinds from strange symbols to oral tales and ideas as well as manifestations of movement both mundane and out of this world. **SELECTIONS: Time Travel, All Things Hermes, Urban Legends, Bards**



Time. And what of the concept of time?

“The philosophical debate about the paradoxes of time makes one thing clear: it is possible to imagine ways in which the Universe may be constructed so that time travel, of some kind or another, may be allowed by the laws of physics. That leaves the big question: is time travel really possible? And if so, how could a time machine be built?” – John Gribbon

Mankind has basically understood time according to two possibilities cyclical and linear. This obviously proposes a discrepancy between the metaphysical, inherent in the circle which says that time can flow forward to the future or backward to the past initiating “reoccurring events” AND the physical inherent in the arrowed line which supports “unique/singular events” with non-repetitive flow. Thus man was confronted with a dilemma because he understood “time” as cyclical according to the repeat of the seasons and certain Earth changes but also as linear - moving forward. Man’s final reasoning led him to combine the two concepts into a viable and usable form of measurement. I ask you now to consider one of mankind’s most common symbols used on a daily basis:

The clock face represents the broad concept of “cycles” (circle) and the selective measuring (linear) of advancing forward via the arrowed arms. ‘Very clever’ you are thinking. Ah! But what of time travel? Is it possible to go forward through time? It is. Time is not absolute. Measures of time are different according to reference frames. This was actually proven as far back as the 1950’s in an experiment with sub atomic particles called muons.

What If?

"In the ultimate nature of the Universe there are no divisions in time and space." ~
Medium Eileen Garrett

We do love to drive ourselves crazy with “what if” don’t we? What if I took the shortcut instead of the long route? What if I chose to go to school instead of work? What if I married Jill instead of Jane?

Well get over yourself.

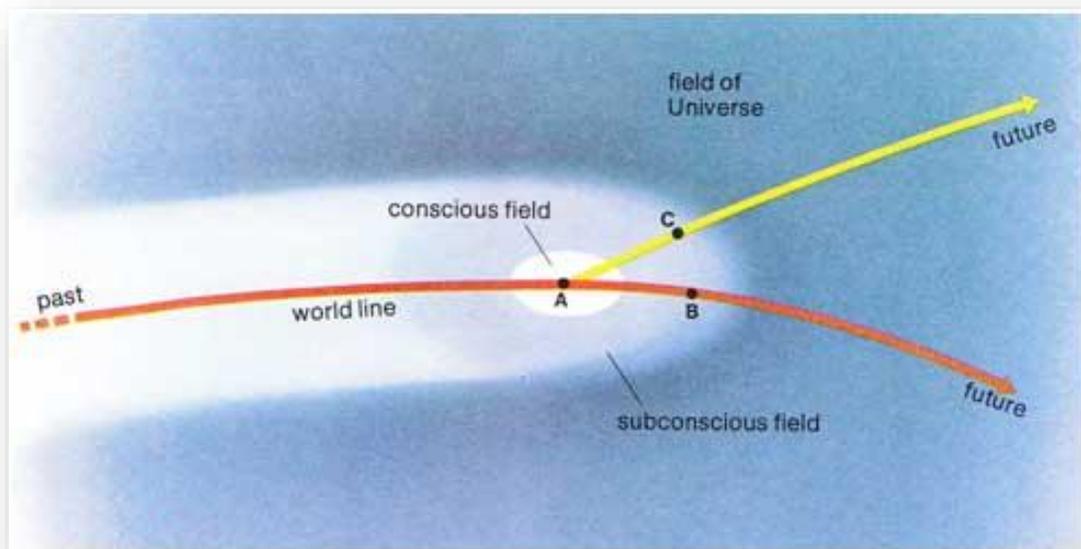
We all suffer from hindsight and even better retrocognition. Some of us experience precognition but we don’t always base our decisions on what we envision. What we like to do best is piss whine about what might have been. My personal theory has always been “what *could* have been was not meant to be.” Do I hear disagreement out there amongst my fellows? I suppose some of you will say that everything unfolds as it should and this may be despite of our decisions or because

of them and then we will all take a trip down the psychobabble road. Why not? What else do we have to do today? Go ahead make my day!

You know what I am going to do. I am going to present a “some food for thought” that will make you a slightly mad and maybe irritated. My very own brand of psychological warfare. It’s my job. Brace yourself ...

SO - Is it possible to construct a theory that may account for the fact that if a premonition of a future event has taken place, it does not necessarily mean the event is inevitable?

In 1908, Herrman Minkowski suggested that the Universe could be described in terms of four dimensional space time. He was describing what has become known as the Block Universe, a static universe with no past, present or future except that which is introduced by the observer. The observer's consciousness travels along his world line through the Block Universe like a spotlight moving over a dark landscape or field. The bits of the landscape the spotlight has picked out, the observer terms the "past" and those that are yet to be picked out the "future." Suppose that the spotlight on the Block Universe contains everything consciously perceived by the individual at that moment is surrounded by a hazy ring that represents the subconscious. Within this are all the events being perceived by the individual.



Okay processors let's proceed further ...

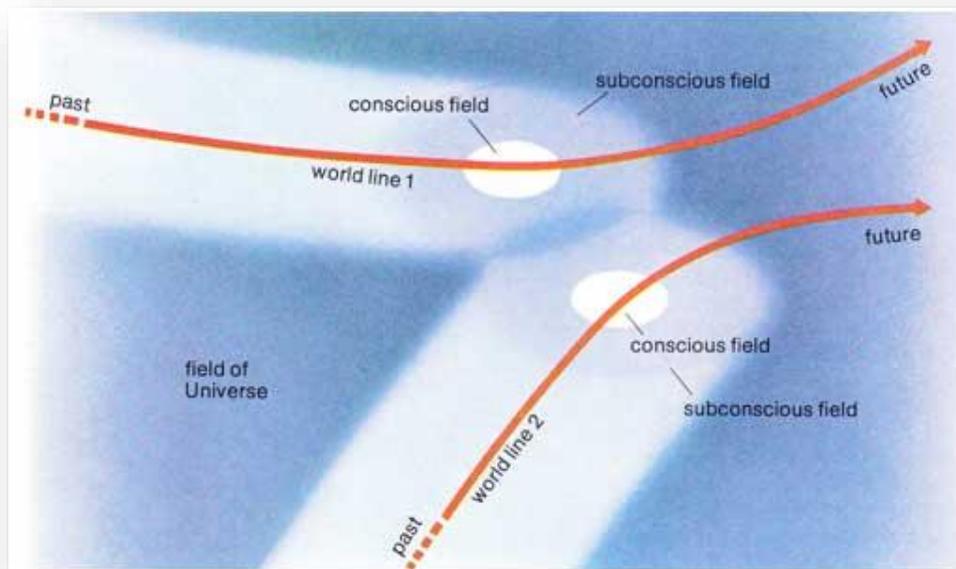
EXAMPLE: Suppose the world line is that of a young man who is scheduled to take a flight. He buys a ticket, packs his bags and has them loaded aboard and gets ready to embark himself. Suddenly the event of the plane's crash is illuminated by the ring of his subconscious although it still lies outside the spotlight of his consciousness meaning the crash is still in his *future*. Somehow a symbolic representation of the horrific scenes perceived by his subconscious manage to cross the threshold between the subconscious and the conscious, and he receives a premonition of his own death. So, he changes his mind about flying thus changing his world line across the dark field of the Universe so that he avoids dying on the flight. In the real future he reads about the air disaster and no doubt thanks the powers that be for his premonition. The two events, death and survival are equally potent because they are both events in the dark field of the Universe; the only difference between them is that the young man's conscious spotlight illuminated one and not the other.

A consequence of this theoretical example is that since the dark field of the Universe contains all possible events and presumably all world lines, both branches of the young man's world line must exist and we must also allow for the potential that there are many branches and junction points. The decision taken at the moment decides which branch of the tree of world lines the conscious and unconscious spotlight will travel along. This is also reminiscent of concept of theoretical physicist Hugh Everett who proposed that there is a multi-branching Universe in which every possibility is realized but only one branch observed. In life experience, this would reflect the proverbial crossroads where one turns right or left.

Picture a man in an art gallery at night. He carries a spotlight that he trains on the pictures in the corridor he is traveling. He sees scenes of his boyhood but then comes to a "T" junction where he can go right or left. He chooses to go left and continues to shine the spotlight on the pictures on the wall of the left hand corridor. He sees himself carrying out various actions, traveling to various places, making various friends etc. until he becomes a man. He NEVER sees the pictures in the right corridor that would have showed him what his life could have been had he made the decision to take the right corridor. He does not see that he would have died at age twenty three of a car accident. Instead he sees himself finishing college, having a good job and marrying.

All of this didn't make you feel any better did it? Well take heart. Many well-known philosophers and psychologists have taken seriously the evidence for precognitions and retrocognitions and have accepted that our common sense ideas

of time itself may be false and misleading, in the same way as the theoretical physicists of the late 19th century came to realize that their ideas about space and time were wrong especially in the subatomic and astronomical realms. Can a human being be looked upon as the sum of the conscious field, subconscious field and a body with that “body” embedded in the Block Universe? Does that mean what we call our body is only an instantaneous slice of a larger and longer entity like a body envelope which the world line travels along? Is a person in a state of consciousness equivalent to the conscious field plus the subconscious field plus a body envelope? If that is true does that mean an unconscious or dreaming person equivalent to the subconscious field plus the body envelope? What is two subconscious fields but not the corresponding conscious fields intersect? Could that create telepathic communication? After all, it has been suggested by a number of psychologists and psychical researchers that the ring of conscious perception covers the whole lifespan of a human being - that a human being has knowledge of his/her whole life.



Are you crazy yet? Here - borrow my flashlight.

So now you are probably wondering if I have spoken to anyone who was capable of viewing these parallel roads and who made a decision based upon what was seen. That would be quite a trick eye? Well close but no cigar folks. The closest I came to the concept presented here was a gentleman who claimed he could traverse time on occasion. He claimed he could travel to the “astral world” as he called it

and bi-locate while there and inspect just about “parallel” anything thus being able to view what he called, “Road A and parallel Road C disavowing Road B (his current life status).”

What he saw seems to fit the theory presented here since he saw himself in completely different life situations which were basically diametrically opposed, one being for the most part, happy and successful and the other rather rogue and disappointing. He seemed not to be very affected by this grand mystical experience and made no changes in his life to go down one road or the other.

Brave of him methinks. Or stupid.

Consider the following study:

The Man Who Traveled Time ...

What astrologicals might be involved with time travel? What emphasis might show up in a chart?

For this *hypothetical study*, consider the influence of the following:

Saturn – the grand kahuna of time, non-time and structured events.

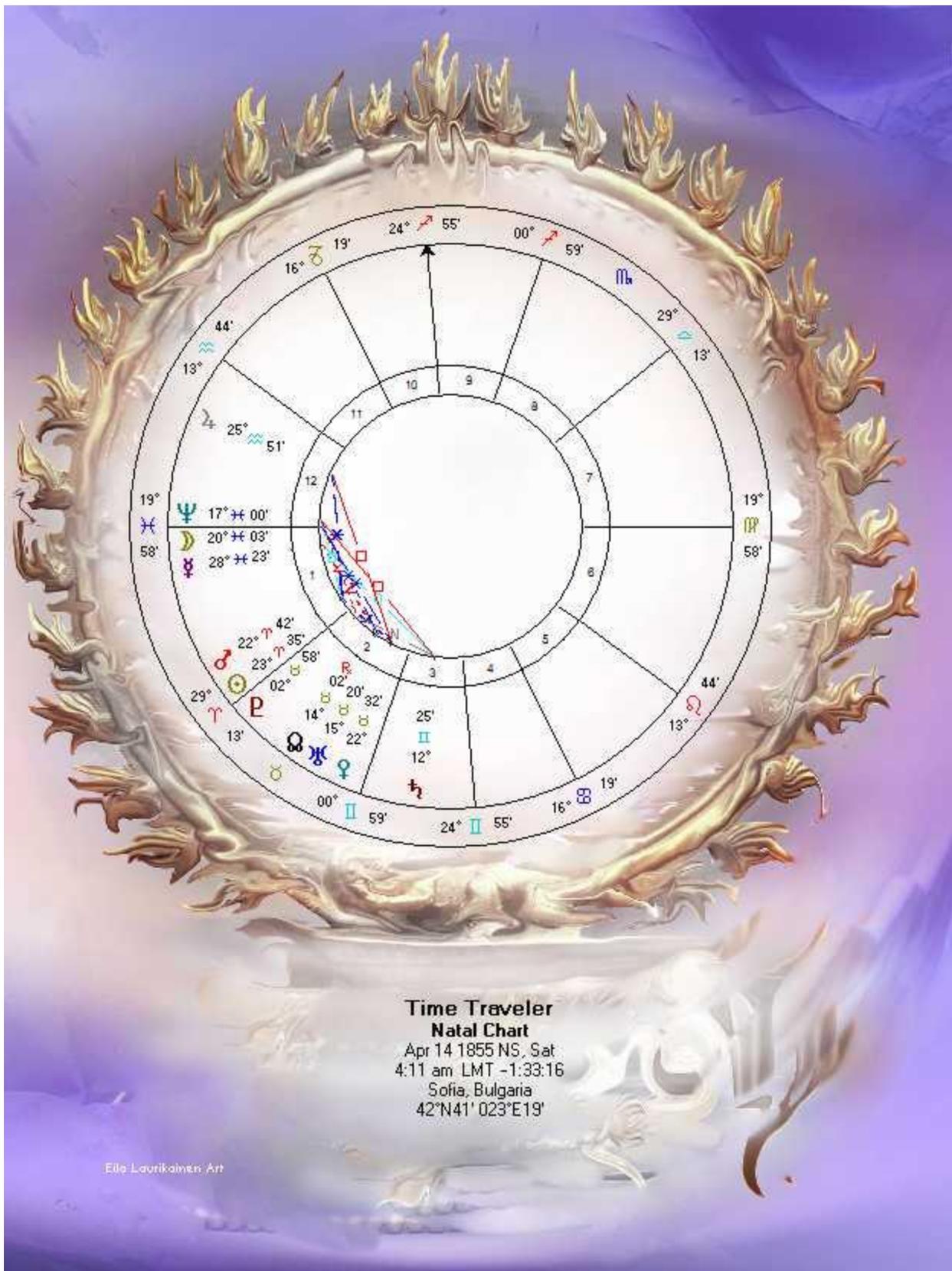
Uranus - the monarch of quantum physics, instigator of breakthroughs, provocateur of innovation and genius behind invention.

Neptune - the great dissolver of boundaries and all those nebulous places in between.

The Houses of Travel, the 3rd House and the 9th House and the 12th House of unknown places and realms beyond the physical realms.

The following chart is of a man who claimed to be a Time Traveler according to family members who carried an oral history of the stories he shared and alleged objects he possessed which at the time they were in his possession had never been seen and thought to have jokingly, “not yet been invented.”

He was described as basically a genius type loner who never married or stayed very long in romantic or close relationships. Aside from his occupation he liked to invent strange mechanical trinkets and doo dads. Data is from the family Bible.



Eilo Laurikainen Art

By overview, the first feature to make note of is the BUNDLE chart pattern. All of the planets and the North Node are concentrated in the 12th – 3rd Houses.

Traditionally, the BUNDLE pattern is known to reveal a “specialist,” one with strong focus and intellectual prowess in either an occupation or walk of life. In his mundane life, the individual was a sought after craftsman of hand-carved furniture specialty items. He was said to, despite his fine craftsmanship, not be very concerned about when things got done. He did however spend a lot of time on his odd mechanical inventions. Speculatively, this is a good overall chart pattern for a time traveler because of the strong focus.

If this man was a time traveler, he obviously lived a life of duality via his “specialties” as esoterically this pattern combined with Mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces) on the Angular cusps, show that his life was subject to a series of unforeseen life impacts particularly because of the duality.

All charts have void (empty houses) since there are ten only planets and twelve houses. With the BUNDLE pattern, there are quite a few void houses – in this case, Houses 4 -11. Void Houses have their own meaning despite the fact that there are no planetary energies in residence although their planetary rulers occupying other houses do have influence. Here is a brief summary of the Time Traveler’s Void Houses and associated rulers.

- Void 4th House: Indicates the individual prefers to be away from home. Ruler Mercury in the First House: Some desire to be seen as “normal” but the actual lifestyle is often personally distasteful and not satisfying. *Family input relays that the individual was a very private person who would disappear without a word for extensive periods of time and then literally pop back up unannounced seemingly out of nowhere offering no explanation or willingness to share where he had been.*
- Void 5th House: Romantic liaisons often take a back seat to creative instincts which are transmuted to other areas of life. Ruler Moon in the First House: Some *game-playing* with females which is often based in delusion with no intent to follow through or a believed notion that it was impossible to maintain. *Family input reveals a good amount of female attention but no desire on the individual’s part to engage anything long-lasting or meaningful. If anything, he was said to be annoyed by the necessity to be polite and temporarily filter his attention away from his dabbling in ‘odd invention’ or periods of isolated secrecy and disappearance.*

- Void 6th House: Someone who is not a workaholic. One that possesses a strong physical body and hearty constitution. Ruler Sun in the First House: One who projects a hardworking image despite that fact that work may not be completed. May be psychologically highly critical of the inner-self looking for perfection. *Family input describes an almost dual personality and physical strength that seemed inhuman at times. Whether it was his carpentry or invention dabbling, perfection of the work was a necessity.*
- Void 7th House: One who has an independent nature and has little interest in permanence in relationships. Ruler Mercury in the First House: Difficulty in relating to individual needs of others. Strong independent speech. *Family input indicates that the individual had very strong opinions that he was not hesitant to project onto others despite the fact that he never took the time to learn about the lives of those he was harassing. It was often noticed that his mind seemed to be elsewhere when he engaged in conversation.*
- Void 8th House: One who holds their own monetarily and not likely to be dependent on others. Ruler Venus in Second House: Has a particular view about values and can appear mercenary about individual rights. *Family input notes that the individual was wealthy in his own right and took a hard core stance about his own rights particularly regarding what he seemed to be hiding.*
- Void 9th House: Travel of all types (the further the better), expansive philosophies and acceptance of experiences on a personal level. Ruler Jupiter in the 12th House: Moved to explore higher realms including those of the mind. Will sacrifice personal needs for spiritual or enigmatic pursuits. *Family input states that they believed the individual often traveled to “far-away” places or abroad often undergoing hardship from time to time to be able to travel. It was believed that he brought back strange objects from these places although he shared very few and did not like them handled by others.*
- Void 10th House: No drive to assert the self as a status symbol. Ruler Jupiter in the 12th House: Aims and objectives may be hidden or obscure. Actual career may be unsatisfactory and there may be trouble staying with the status quo. The individual is happiest staying behind the scenes or behind the curtain. *Family input cites that despite that fact that his carpentry was largely in demand and his reputation above reproach, the individual disliked praise. It seemed that he always had higher objectives about life but rarely*

spoke of them stating that others would not understand his thoughts or goals.

- Void 11th House: At ease having many friends or none at all. Not likely to become involved in group situations. Ruler Saturn in the 3rd House: The individual is often sought after for his skill. Prefers to remain anonymous and is not interested in casual group activities. *Family input reveals a lack of sociability yet no lack of invitations. The few friendships the individual had over the years eventually dwindled away – one friendship implying that the individual “too strange” and emotionally unreachable. It was believed by family that this particular friend knew more than he was willing to talk about and even seemed frightened when asked.*

Interestingly the 3rd and 9th Houses (travel – short and long) just qualify for Anaretic Degree known as Karmic Degree indicating that travel of all kinds are tied to a present life destiny according to Karmic Decree. In the chart, they appear in their natural positions with Gemini on the 3rd house cusp and Sagittarius on the 9th house cusp. The 12th house cusp show the sign of Aquarius indicating interest in other realms including time shift related realities.

Intercepted Houses in a chart are thought to indicate that which is hidden or that which is not implemented until later in life. The intercepted planet Uranus is tightly conjunct the intercepted North Node in the 2nd House designating odd unexpected events in the lifetime that are unseen or kept hidden. The proverbial rug gets pulled out from under throughout life and calls attention to what is really valued in life. The North Node posited in the 2nd House also indicates that this man was perfectly capable of keeping “secrets.”

Moving on with some ‘notables’:

There are no retrograde planets in the chart so this man was strictly of the attitude that what you see is what you get. Depending upon theory it can also indicate that the time traveling talent was not necessarily tied to residual talent from a past life.

Planets in pairs are also considered to indicate specialty with focus.

Neptune (12th house, its natural domain) is in an out of house conjunction with the Moon (1st house), both in the sign of Pisces. According to Ada Muir in *The Degrees of The Zodiac Analyzed*, Neptune at 17 degrees of Pisces relates to someone who has lofty ideas who pushes or struggles to attempt more than can be brought to fruition. As the natural ruler of the sign Pisces, Neptune is the Lord of the Ascendant or ruler of the chart casting the veil of the genius dreamer. Neptune

in the 12th house also satisfies bringing realms beyond physical reality INTO the actual reality of the 1st house and to the time traveler himself. The blending of energies provided by the Moon/Neptune conjunction encases sensitivity to the real world vs beyond the physical possibility. There is actually a desire to escape “the real world” and prefer an alternate reality. The 1st house Moon (in Balsamic phase at birth denoting a future oriented individual with an important destiny) shows an emotional need for independence and autonomy and a desire to withdraw. The Moon also conjuncts the 1st house Mercury also in Pisces so ‘sensing’ comes easy to this individual. Mercury in Pisces is often described as one who may experience periods where they seem to disappear into a dream world before being jolted back to reality. While this may apply to ‘daydreaming’ for the Time Traveler it may also be a literal reality. These three planets working closely together from the sign of Pisces often indicate genius at work.

Also in the 1st house are the Sun and Mars in a tight conjunction in Aries. Whenever Mars is in the 1st house of a chart, it tends to dominate the chart and enrich it with Martian energy and tendencies to lead and pioneer especially from its own sign of Aries. From this posit at 23 degrees Aries (rounded up) and according to Muir, the energy produces “a wanderer who follows his desires irrespective of the rights and feelings of others.” The conjunction to the Sun further demonstrates an impulsiveness with a love for adventure no matter the cost and a willingness to take risks. As Mars is sextile to Jupiter also in the 12th house there is no lack of energy to see things through.

Notable is that Jupiter is in the sign of time travel, Aquarius. From 26 degrees of that sign (rounded up) Muir says, “One who has a duty to perform for the race (mankind), the direction of this being revealed to him as he develops.” Jupiter is also sextile the Midheaven showing the opportunity to use advanced technology in one’s profession or to enhance one’s worldly standing AND is sextiled by the Sun providing plenty of chances to expand the mind and avant garde theory. Venus squares Jupiter providing a warning watch excesses. Jupiter rules the 9th house of long distance travel (in mundane reality or otherwise).

The Sun is in an out of house and out of sign conjunction to Pluto in Taurus in the 2nd house indicating an intense, obsessive individual with great personal power and one who find it easy to rid himself of the unwanted and less powerful. It also intimates that transformation is the key factor in life.

Uranus in the 2nd house conjunct the North Node must also be considered and important pair as in this study it brings the monarch of quantum physics and other-worldly invention into direct connection with the Time Traveler’s destiny for his

lifetime. This connection shows destiny is linked with the discovery of new and exciting thoughts and concepts. It warns the Time Traveler that he needs to make sure that he does not seek excitement at all costs, but directs his energies wisely. It is also a challenge to make a contribution to humanity. It sextiles Neptune offering a quantum/science opportunity to the 'vision' of time travel.

Saturn, the ruler of all facets of time and non-time is posited in the 3rd house in the sign of Gemini. It is square Neptune lending some caution about the psychic or other-worldly realms and to the seriousness of his travels.

According to the family history, the Time Traveler left for a 'business trip' on his birthday April 14, 1920. He was never seen again. Follow up in investigation revealed he never made it to the hotel he allegedly reserved for his cross country stay. No foul play was ever discovered. Maybe his reservation was simply at another place in time.



All Things Hermes



Catmando © 123RF.com

The Greatest Machiavellian ...

The god Hermes (Mercury) is undoubtedly the greatest mover and shaker in myth and legend. Witty, talented and tricky, Hermes got away with any stunt that suited him much to the chagrin of the other gods yet, all the tales, trials and tribulations

connected to Hermes point to a very important fact – they make life understandable from the mortal view.

In astrology, Mercury is the planet of all mental activities (perception, reason and memory) communication (speaking and writing) and intellectual energy (understanding and assimilation). Mercury rules the conscious side of the mind while the Moon rules the subconscious side of the mind.

Mercury in the signs ...

ARIES: Imaginative, witty, inventive, and quick on the trigger with original ideas. Self-expression is easy and there is a gift for improvisation. Can be very cutting and sarcastic when nervous or challenged. Loves a good debate. Excellent foresight. With challenging aspects can tend to exaggerate or see the world as it is wished to be and not the way it really exists.

TAURUS: The mind does not react readily to new ideas. Never jumps to conclusions and likes to hear all of the evidence before rendering a decision. Mentally conservative, cautious, and constructive with the capability of following a project through to the end. Depends more on life experiences than book learning. Good mind for business and management. With challenging aspects mental inertia occurs.

GEMINI: Pure logical reasoning reaches the heights. Versatile, unbiased and impersonal in the ability to perceive the truth. Witty, talkative, charming and fond of intellectual pursuits. Good writer or speaker. With challenging aspects superficial with lack of thoroughness.

CANCER: Very receptive and emotional and is easily swayed by the senses. Arguments arouse stubbornness and once the mind is made up nothing can change it. A retentive and creative mind subject to flashes of intuition. A sensitive listener with plenty of sympathy. Trouble with objectivity and sometimes would rather be evasive than tell the truth. High marks for diplomacy and good business sense.

LEO: Thinks dramatically and from the heart. Visionary and idealistic and romantic. Likes to make a good impression which is easy due to innate refinement and an air of dignity. Authoritative problem solver who doesn't like details. Can have a quick temper.

VIRGO: Critical, analytical and practical, the mind processes everything with cool and impersonal logic. Judgment is impartial and catalogs all ideas with ease to be

pulled up when needed. Usually scholarly with an interest in literature, science or research. A convincing speaker. Doesn't mind detailed work. Honest sometimes skeptical, and intolerant of those less intelligent.

LIBRA: Friendly, broad minded, rational, and a stickler for self-designed principles.

Abhors injustice and tries to judge all things fairly. Hates arguments and usually makes decisions in a hurry. Cannot stand anything dirty, disheveled, crude or coarse. Desire for perfection can grate on the nerves of others.

SCORPIO: Critical, skeptical and opinionated. Very shrewd and can be too incisive with the tongue or the pen. Can needlessly wound others with sarcasm or turn it into wit. Determination is boundless so can overcome all obstacles to reach goals. May use weakness of other to own advantage.

SAGITTARIUS: Sincere with a dry sense of humor. Speaks without thinking or considering the consequences. An overabundance of interests so often mentally scattered. Honest, generous and progressive and a nonstop talker. Always concerned with higher education and travel. Must watch a tendency to sermonize.

CAPRICORN: Hardworking with a cautious penetrating mind, good concentration and a memory for facts and figures. Tends to intellectual snobbery but can be tactful and diplomatic when wanting to make a point. Good common sense with the ability to turn ideas into practical use. Can have executive or political ability. Upholds traditional ideas and tends to be more realistic than idealistic.

AQUARIUS: Observant, intuitive and a good judge of human nature. A keen, original and inventive mind. Absorbs abstract ideas easily and has an interest in the occult. Studious and often self-taught. Loves to read especially character studies, human interest, or science. Writing and speaking come easily. Open to all views but will not change mind without logical analysis and due reflection. Truthful and objective and eccentric.

PISCES: Psychic, intuitive, and reflective. Learns by absorption rather than study. Dualistic with contradictory qualities therefore moody and sensitive. Acts from the subconscious more than reason so environment is important. Likes to be well informed. Tends to vacillate or daydream. Can be prone to morbid imagination, pessimism, persecution complex, or neuroses. May have musical or artistic talents.

Fear Not The Mercury Retrograde ...

We've all felt them ... Those moments in time when everything seems to be going backward.

The period of the infernal Mercury Retrograde represents the time when the masterful Hermes, god of communication turns into Loki the trickster and everything that can go wrong has a darn good chance of going wrong (known as Murphy's Law). Since Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and its orbit is quite short, there are more instances of *Mercury* retrograde than any other planet, reversing its direction three or four times per earth year. Scientifically no planet reverses its movement – it only appears that way to us here on Earth because of our geocentric view. Yet somehow during each Mercury Rx period a plethora of a variety of mishaps always seems to occur.

I do hope you do not throw yourself in a tizzy anticipating this event for life does go on despite good old Mercury especially for those born with a Mercury Rx who apparently aren't bothered by it one jot. Yet, what would we do without Mercury Retrograde to blame for everything that annoys and frustrates us?

Mercury Retrograde can stir up all kinds of things some of which you may not be aware so here's a list of the more common Mercury trickery that astrologers over the years have compiled:

Your cell phone gets cut off inexplicably for the duration.

New batteries don't work.

Faxes don't come through or are smeared or garbled.

People complain, complain, complain and on top of it all, tell you don't listen.

Mail is late or missing.

Cable service is lost for more than 5 minutes at a time.

Internet connections are slow or non-existent.

You agree to meet someone and both of end up in different locations.

You have a fight with your significant other.

You have a fight with your friend.

You have fight with your boss or co-workers.

You have a fight with the neighbor.

You're mad at the world!

You write a check that bounces.

A check deposited takes a month to clear. In the meantime the bank doesn't know what happened to it.

Your computer catches a nasty virus and you lose important files.

Your back up computer files but something goes horribly wrong.

You have a fender bender.

Your pet has turned into a maniac and is misbehaving horribly.

The weather report is completely wrong. Every day.

You struggle to finish a project.

You cannot speak clearly and are tongue-tied which is a departure from your usual glibness.

You break up with a partner.

A package arrives too late.

Your contacts or glasses bother you.

The copy machine runs out in the middle of a job.

You have several really embarrassing moments.

Your request for a raise or promotion is turned down.

Your commute to work takes almost twice as long.

Your car breaks down due to electrical problems.

You hear of bad news about a relative.

A friend or family member becomes seriously ill.

You seem to be more prone to cuts, bruises or even broken bones.

There are problems with medical records or tests. Tests may be lost or inaccurate.

You filled out forms and somehow missed several sections or put down wrong information.

Your subscription doesn't come on time or doesn't come at all.

You set a timer to record a show but ended up recording the wrong show.

Your clock starts displaying the wrong time.

You pay your bills on time but the payments arrive late.

There are errors on a bank statement.

An appointment gets cancelled.

You get a toothache.

You get an earache.

You just plain get sick!

You get a traffic ticket.

You call the wrong number and end up talking to someone you don't like.

The keys on your computer keyboard get stuck.

Mailed letters are returned for missing postage or wrong addresses.

You make expensive mistakes.

The ATM machine eats your bank card.

You misread schedules.

An air flight gets cancelled or delayed.

Your bag is lost during a flight.

You lose your internet connection for no apparent reason. Continually.

You lose your keys or wallet.

You wait on hold for an inordinate amount of time and then get disconnected.

You buy clothes that fit fine in the store but miraculously don't fit when you get home.

You set an alarm as usual but it goes off at the wrong time.

An email you wanted to keep secret goes public.

You open a fortune cookie but there's no fortune.

There's clothes missing from your dry cleaning.

The washing machine eats your socks.

Clothes go missing from the laundry (if it's not your cat maybe you've been jolted).

Food spoils before its expiration date.

You forget someone's name right after you've been introduced.

You toss coins into the toll booth basket and miss.

Your fav restaurant is out of everything you want to order.

You buy tickets for an event and then it gets cancelled.

Your mail is delivered to your neighbor's house.

You try to return a purchase but can't find the receipts.

Your bank balance drops and you get hit with charges.

Your favorite weekly program is pre-empted by news.

You have to take someone you care for to the emergency.

You take the wrong dose of medicine.

You forget to buy an essential item from your grocery list.

Your pen runs out of ink, your printer runs out of ink, everything that uses ink runs out of it.

You miss an important event by a few minutes.

A warranty expires just when you need service.

Your insurance company doesn't receive your premium payment.

Your pay check has the wrong deductions.

Your car won't start.

You get stood up for a date.

Your friend takes a joke the wrong way.

The pharmacy gives you the wrong prescription.

You try to make a purchase and realize that you don't have a credit card or cash with you.

Your stereo equipment stops working.

The neighborhood experiences a power outage.

Hotel reservations get screwed up.

You get off at the wrong exit.

A store refuses to take its own coupon.

You lose all your important phone numbers.

Someone spreads a false rumor about you or gossips behind your back.

So, what's a poor hapless human to do besides roll with the punches? Here's some suggestions:

Make sure to return all your calls but don't talk too long.

If taking a trip, make sure to take your maps or make sure your GPS is working. (Take the maps anyway!)

Be kind and patient with your computer. If you hit it you're likely to get hurt and need medical treatment.

Write down information when listening to your messages. Do not rely on your memory.

Don't sign any contracts. Reread them... once, twice, thrice, microscope and still don't sign it.

Try to smile at everyone rather than snap.

Compliment your boss even if you hate what he/she's wearing.

Have a glass of wine with dinner but don't polish off the whole bottle because you'll want to.

Clean up your closet and give the old clothes to charity. Make sure you check the pockets.

DO NOT GET YOUR HAIR CUT. Especially in a new style.

Reflect on mistakes – don't repeat them.

Think about buying a new car or house ... I said THINK about it, DON'T BUT IT until the retrograde is over.

Pay your bills on time.

Plan to look for a better job but DON'T QUIT ... until well past the retrograde.

Apologize. Don't make excuses.

Be tolerant but do not tolerate intolerance.

Mediate on your shortcomings rather than worry about them.

Use common sense but don't forget to enjoy a little nonsense.

Practice Tae Bo but don't forget to warm up.

Go hiking but don't forget your compass and water bottle.

Play with the dog but don't neglect the cat.

Plan to be fifteen minute early for an appointment because you'll probably run fifteen minutes late.

Examine yourself honestly but don't criticize others.

Slow down – don't rush.

A side note: As mentioned previously ... If you were born with Mercury Retrograde you may feel quite at home when things are going backward. I'll bet you're even one of those annoying types who reads the last chapter in a novel first. At any rate, you might even feel quite lucky during Mercury Retrograde periods but, it doesn't mean you're totally immune so don't get too smug. You still have to deal with all the rest who are in a tizzy so stay out of the line of fire when your neighbor is backing his car out of the driveway!

Another side note: Some people still undergo problems even after Mercury has gone direct. They are experiencing the Shadow of the Retrograde and don't get relief for a few more weeks until Mercury returns to the point where it started retrograde motion. This doesn't happen all the time there is a retrograde but is very frustrating when it does. And yet another side note: If a Moon Wobble occurs at the same time as a Mercury Rx, the propensity for plenty of mistakes regarding decisions can manifest easily since emotions rather than logic rule the day. [A Moon Wobble is an astrological cycle that was discovered by American astro-mathematician and astrologer Carl Payne Toby. It occurs approximately four times a year when the transiting Sun makes contact with the Lunar Nodes by conjunction (0° alignment) or square (90° angle).]

Urban Legends



Urban Legends are Mercury at its best. My favorite definition of the term Urban Legend comes from David Emery who defined it as. “An apocryphal, secondhand story told as true and just plausible enough to be believed, about some horrific, embarrassing, ironic, or exasperating series of events that supposedly happened to a real person.”

In true mercurial fashion, Urban Legends that are handed down as oral history are at best tricky since they tend to be embellished and refashioned according to region

and culture as they are repeated. The Internet is chock full of these stories that range from humorous to horrific. We are all familiar with the stories of the alligators in the New York sewers, the Hook Man who terrorized young lovers trysting in parked cars, Bloody Mary and even the hilarious tale of the killer biscuit dough or the poor lady in the 1960's who ended up with wasps nesting in her beehive hairdo.

Are there any astrological Urban Legends? You bet. One legend concerns Ophiuchus as the thirteenth sign of the zodiac which every so many years pops up as a threat to everyone via *certain* writers who claim it will reshape the Zodiac and thus possibly change your birth sign.

So what is the scoop on all of this?

It is a real constellation that lies between the constellation of Scorpio the Scorpion and Sagittarius the Archer. It is an Ancient Greek constellation that can be historically dated back to the time of Claudius Ptolemy, the Father of Astrology. By way of explanation in order to clarify doubt about a "13th sign", most astrologers use what is known as the Tropical Zodiac which consists of twelve 30 degree signs that originate with the Vernal Equinox. These twelve "signs" have the *same name* as the constellations but that's where the similarity ends. The 4th century B.C. Babylonians invented the 360° circle and the twelve 30° signs of the Zodiac which were properly called the Fixed Zodiac. The Babylonians also invented planetary and solar and lunar tables in order to be able to calculate "positions." In the 2nd century A.D. Ptolemy adopted the Tropical Zodiac (originally invented by Hipparchus in the 2nd century B.C.) to calculate his solar, lunar planetary and star tables. Around 300 A.D. astrologers began using the Tropical Zodiac and continue to use it to this day. This is why the astrological Tropical Zodiac has only twelve signs and does not include Ophiuchus as an actual Zodiac sign.

Another legend concerns author of the classic *Gone with the Wind*, Margaret Mitchell. In 1978, an Atlanta, Georgia astrologer was shown Xerox copies of Margaret Mitchell's early notes and discovered the notes contained clues that led said astrologer to surmise that Miss Mitchell based her famous characters upon the signs of the Zodiac. For example, Scarlet with her fierce me first energy was the quintessential Aries; Rhett Butler a dapper Leo; Melanie the ever-caring a Cancer and Ashley Wilkes the gallant Capricorn. In some circles the story still circles as an astrological allegory.

Nostradamus, the famous French astrologer, seer and physician was attached to an Urban Legend concerning an alleged 911 prophecy:

"In the City of God there will be a great thunder,
two brothers torn apart by Chaos,
while the fortress endures,
the great leader will succumb,
and the third big war will begin when the big city is burning"

David Kerr, a debunker, actually tracked those lines back to Neil Marshall, a student at Brock University in St. Catherine's, Ontario. He wrote the lines in 1997 as a high school student, for a website meant to demonstrate how the writings of this 16th-century mystic can be twisted. Despite this, the legend still persists in some circles.

There is an Urban Legend connected to Moscow's underground Metro-2 system. These lines that run below the official metro are part of a structure commissioned by Stalin as a nuclear shelter. It is believed that the twelve points created by the radial lines correspond with the twelve Zodiac signs. A ghost train associated with this is said to transport passengers to 'nowhere.'

The opal which is considered a birthstone for the signs of Libra and early Scorpio is considered very bad luck for anyone who wears it that is not born under those signs. This idea which most likely started out as a superstition has graduated to Urban Legend and is still causing fear for people today.

Egg balancing hails from China but has become popular in the United States. It is connected with the Lunar New Year in China and the Vernal Equinox in the United States. Some people swear it works and others ... no luck.

The signs themselves have Urban Legends attached to them born from exaggerated misnomers regarding the traits associated to them and from long going superstitions. Scorpios probably get the worst bash as the UL insists they are Godzilla-like, over sexed, vengeance seekers. Sagittarius cannot seem to get out from under the UL that they are the drunks of the Zodiac and Pisces, nothing more than a ditsy doormat.

The Moon has many types of legends tied to it. In the 1950s, the Czech doctor Eugene Jonas stumbled across an ancient Assyrian astrological text stating that women are fertile during certain phases of the moon. He used the theory extensively in his practice and there are many people out there who believe it to

work however, recent studies have turned up little statistical evidence for moon-induced baby production.

In India, a person born under the influence of Mars is called a *manglik* or having *Mangal Dosha*. People avoid marrying such a person, especially if the person is a woman. Marriage with such a person is believed to cause marital discord and divorce, even sometimes death. However, it is believed that if two *mangliks* marry, the effects of both cancel out.

The Age of Aquarius (of which astrologers cannot agree on exactly when it either started or starts) has become an urban legend ever since the theatrical production of *Hair* which seemed to imply its range was in the 60s and 70s via the lyrics of the song by the same name. Some astrologers believe we are currently in this phase and others think it is yet to come.

The art and science of astrology itself has been called an Urban Legend or superstition. Perhaps that is because Mercury is making a fool of those who don't really understand it and write nonsensical articles based on the solar brand that appears to be a one size fits all prophecy generally found in magazines and newspapers. It is comical when these writers rage on about how it is all non-scientific bunk ... but that too is Mercury having a run and some fun!



Tales of Bards



And there are among them composers of verses whom they call Bards; these singing to instruments similar to a lyre, applaud some, while they vituperate others. - Diodorus Siculus Histories 8 BCE

A general definition of a bard is a professional oral story teller, verse-maker and music composer, employed by a patron (such as a monarch or noble), to commemorate one or more of the patron's ancestors and to praise the patron's own activities. Bards were found the Ancient Celts, Irish, English, Welsh and Scottish peoples. The word bard is of Celtic derivation.

It is significant to note that Medieval History was not written but rather passed by word of mouth from one generation to another. Celt myths and Welsh legends carried the origins of the stories of King Arthur and the Arthurian Legend.

The Ancient Celtic Bards had their own privileged society. They were exempt from taxes and military service. They were believed to be closely tied to God singing His praises while celebrating the victories of the people, therefore, they held a very important and powerful influence. Their importance carried over through heredity. In most cases, a bard had to undergo a lengthy apprenticeship in order to acquire the necessary skills needed to serve. There were two classes of medieval bards: the bard Teulu who was part of the king's official household, and the pencerdd who were the heads of the bardic fraternity in the area.

According to John Michael Greer:

“Bards were required to memorize a great deal of poetic and mythological lore in order to complete training ... In many Druidic orders and traditions, the grade of Bard is one of the levels of initiation, either first or second in a sequence that culminates in rank of Druid.”

In Druidry, Bardic schools consisted of a Chief Poet and attendants. A good memory served a novice well since all learning was rote. Old records show that sensory deprivation was also employed as poems and stories were incubated, Tribe genealogy memorized and other-worldly inspiration sought. This meant much time spent in solitude under sparse accommodations.

A brief rehash summary of schooling from druidry.org:

Year One: The student progresses from Principle Beginner [Ollaire] to Poet's Attendant [Tamhan] to Apprentice Satirist [Drisac]. They learn the basics of the bardic arts: grammar, twenty stories and the Ogham tree-alphabet.

Years Two – Five: Learning ten stories and an unspecified number of poems per year is required along with dozens of philosophy lessons, extensive ogham combinations, diphthongal combinations, The Law of Privileges and various uses of grammar.

Year Six known as a Pillar (Cli): Study of 48 poems and 20 more stories.

In years 1-6, students were allowed to carry a bronze branch.

Years Seven – Nine known as Noble Stream (Anuth): Learning 95 tales while studying prosody, glosses, prophetic invocation, the styles of poetic composition, and specific poetic forms. In Ireland, learning place/names of the country was required. Student is allowed to carry silver branch.

Years Ten – Twelve: Ten, study of further poems and compositions, Eleven, 100 poems, Twelve, 120 orations and four arts of poetry. Student becomes Ollamh, Doctor of Poetry and is allowed to carry a gold branch.

During the Dark Ages, bards were inspirational to the people as they faced their hardships. Unfortunately, after a time, this encouragement was regarded with suspicion and thought of as degenerate and rebellious much like today's tabloids. During the 12th and 13th century, having bards as part of the king's household were no longer practiced, thus greatly affecting their position in society especially after the end of native rule.

As the bards began to become regulated and subject to various laws, they were replaced by troubadours and minstrels. Minstrels were primarily traveling minstrels and troubadours were composers who performed lyric poetry.

*O Hear the voice of the Bard
who present, past and future sees
whose ears have heard the holy Word
that walked among the ancient trees...*
William Blake, First Song of Experience

~*~

The Immortal Bard - by Isaac Asimov

"Oh, yes," said Dr. Phineas Welch, "I can bring back the spirits of the illustrious dead."

He was a little drunk, or maybe he wouldn't have said it. Of course, it was perfectly all right to get a little drunk at the annual Christmas party.

Scott Robertson, the school's young English instructor, adjusted his glasses and looked to right and left to see if they were overheard. "Really, Dr. Welch."

"I mean it. And not just the spirits. I bring back the bodies, too."

"I wouldn't have said it were possible," said Robertson primly.

"Why not? A simple matter of temporal transference."

"You mean time travel? But that's quite - uh - unusual."

"Not if you know how."

"Well, how, Dr. Welch?"

"Think I'm going to tell you?" asked the physicist gravely. He looked vaguely about for another drink and didn't find any. He said, "I brought quite a few back. Archimedes, Newton, Galileo. Poor fellows."

"Didn't they like it here? I should think they'd have been fascinated by our modern science," said Robertson. He was beginning to enjoy the conversation.

"Oh, they were. They were. Especially Archimedes. I thought he'd go mad with joy at first after I explained a little of it in some Greek I'd boned up on, but no-no-

"What was wrong?"

"Just a different culture. They couldn't get used to our way of life. They got terribly lonely and frightened. I had to send them back."

"That's too bad."

"Yes. Great minds, but not flexible minds. Not universal. So I tried Shakespeare."

"What?" yelled Robertson, "This was getting closer to home."

"Don't yell, my boy," said Welch. "It's bad manners."

"Did you say you brought back Shakespeare?"

"I did. I needed someone with a universal mind; someone who knew people well enough to be able to live with them centuries away from his own time. Shakespeare was the man. I've got his signature. As a memento, you know."

"On you?" asked Robertson, eyes bugging.

"Right here." Welch fumbled in one vest pocket after another. "Ah, here it is."

A little piece of pasteboard was passed to the instructor. On one side it said: "L. Klein & Sons, Wholesale Hardware." On the other side, in straggly script, was written, "Will^m Shakesper."

A wild surmise filled Robertson. "What did he look like?"

"Not like his pictures. Bald and an ugly mustache. He spoke in a thick brogue. Of course, I did my best to please him with our times. I told him we thought highly of his plays and still put them on the boards. In fact, I said we thought they were the greatest pieces of literature in the English language, maybe in any language."

"Good. Good," said Robertson breathlessly.

"I said people had written volumes of commentaries on his plays. Naturally he wanted to see one and I got one for him from the library."

"And?"

"Oh, he was fascinated. Of course, he had trouble with the current idioms and references to events since 1600, but I helped out. Poor fellow. I don't think he ever expected such treatment. He kept saying, 'God ha' mercy! What cannot be racked from words in five centuries? One could wring, methinks, a flood from a damp clout!'"

"He wouldn't say that."

"Why not? He wrote his plays as quickly as he could. He said he had to on account of the deadlines. He wrote Hamlet in less than six months. The plot was an old one. He just polished it up."

"That's all they do to a telescope mirror. Just polish it up," said the English instructor indignantly.

The physicist disregarded him. He made out an untouched cocktail on the bar some feet away and sidled toward it. "I told the immortal bard that we even gave college courses in Shakespeare."

"I give one."

"I know. I enrolled him in your evening extension course. I never saw a man so eager to find out what posterity thought of him as poor Bill was. He worked hard at it."

"You enrolled William Shakespeare in my course?" mumbled Robertson. Even as an alcoholic fantasy, the thought staggered him. And was it an alcoholic fantasy? He was beginning to recall a bald man with a queer way of talking....

"Not under his real name, of course," said Dr. Welch. "Never mind what he went under. It was a mistake, that's all. A big mistake. Poor fellow." He had the cocktail now and shook his head at it.

"Why was it a mistake? What happened?"

"I had to send him back to 1600," roared Welch indignantly. "How much humiliation do you think a man can stand?"

"What humiliation are you talking about?"

Dr. Welch tossed off the cocktail. "Why, you poor simpleton, you flunked him."