

The End of the World

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In his younger boyhood days the writer was kept in a constant state of fright by those who could prove "definitely" from biblical passages that the end of the world would come within two or three years. Every unusually dark cloud made the boy quake at the thought that our beautiful earth would be exploding and burned before nightfall.

The expectancy of the end of the world has through the centuries instilled both joy and dread in the minds of mankind. The early Christians seemingly considered it an immediate and happy event. About A.D. 1100, the widespread belief that the certain end was right at hand surely influenced the excesses of the Crusades.

Many times during the past century a definite date for this terrestrial catastrophe has been assigned, but the old world still rolls right along through empty space, sustained by mighty and orderly universal processes which are absolutely uninfluenced by the errors of human judgment.

Some have thought that all earthly life would be poisoned should we ever pass through the tail of a comet. But this has occurred twice during the past century (1861 and 1910) without any noticeable effect. And it is likely that heads of comets have struck the earth with only local destruction occurring. An asteroid impact might be somewhat similar.

It is pretty well agreed that our moon, after getting farther from the earth for awhile, will in the distant future approach much nearer than now. However, because of tidal forces it will break up into countless pieces which will form a luminous ring around our world like the ring around Saturn. Aside from the inconvenience of some of the fragments tumbling to earth, this would cause no general destruction.

Sun Will Go Out

Assuming the correctness of the present theory regarding the source of the sun's heat, old Sol will not "run out of fuel" for untold ages yet. But it will surely finally go out and leave our solar system with only the stars as the source of light and heat.

A source or real destruction would be the approach of another huge sun (a star) from the depths of space which might plunge into our sun. The increasing brightness of such a star through the multitudes of generations while it would approach us, would allow scientists ample time to predict the end. If our sun should suddenly flare up as a nova, all life on the earth would soon be ended.

Astronomers see the possibility of the earth's destruction at some future time through natural occurrences. But there is no evidence that this is an event of the near future. If it takes place at all, it may be a



GOT THE REAL STUFF—These 74 children in the Garfield School at Garfield, Utah, have a right to grin. They just learned that when they were inoculated last year they all got the real Salk anti-polio shots. None were given inactive vaccine.

Sunday, April 17, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

On The Side

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Heart, my heart, wear hope's crown
No matter what fate may bring:
Love that died in winter's frown
May live again in spring.
Think of all that yet is thine,
And of the world so far,
Heart, my heart, do not repine,
Still seek love everywhere.—Heine.

Not so long ago a color psychologist said if a secretary wore a red dress it would stimulate her brain. Make her quicker on the trigger mentally. Now another expert on the same subject claims black typewriters are depressing. That they slow up a secretary and decrease her endurance. He suggests brighter colors for typewriters and favors yellow. Keep this in mind, mister. If your girl Friday seems a trifle slow mentally and lacking in speed as a typist, buy her a few red dresses and a yellow colored typewriter.

Asking
Queries from clients. Q. What are the seven buildings in New York City which are sixty stories in height or higher? A. I asked four Manhattan taxi drivers this question and none could answer it completely. A. 1—Empire State. 2—Chrysler. 3—Citibank. 4—Bank of Manhattan. 5—R.C.A. 6—Woolworth. 7—Number 600 Fifth Avenue.

So they say
For those born under Virgo (August 23-September 22) the lucky color is purple; lucky day, Wednesday; lucky number, five. So if you are a Virgo, all you have to do is to put on a purple necktie, go out to the track on Wednesday and play five and five in the daily double. Or, so say the stargazers.

Passing By
Mae West. Last of the Brooklyn bonfires. With the aid of platform shoes Mae achieves an illusion of height on the stage and screen but she is really only about five feet. Also, though she specializes in portraying sexy sirens, she leads a spinster-like existence in her private life. She neither drinks, smokes nor stays out late. As to her brief matrimonial alliance of years ago with a man named Frank Wallace, she once said: "It was a kissless marriage. I am still a spinster."

Briefly
Ovid, author of "The Art of Love," maintained that no woman really understands love until she is 35. Balzac agreed with him. . . . Get it right. The first man to be styled "Public Enemy Number One" was John Dillinger. The term "Public Enemy" as applied to criminals was originated by the great Chicago legal light, Frank Joseph Loesch.

Sidelights
Not everybody can wink with mind — mind in the growing, from feeble beginnings to concepts without end.
(Copyright, 1955,
by Eugene Burns)
(Released by
McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best question on nature and wildlife a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week, new questions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your questions to: IS THAT SO! care Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

By E. V. Durling

both eyes. That is, wink first with the left eye and then with the right eye. Try it. If you can do it you are a Grade A winker. . . . The longest name in the Bible is Makershalahashbaz, and if you don't know in what chapter it appears, your Sunday school teacher should blush for your ignorance.

Love Letters
Before you were married, how did your wife start off her letters to you? How about now? I am referring to salutations such as "darling," "beloved one," "honey bunch," etc. A reader of this column, a United States Marine, once told me he received a letter from his girl friend beginning, "my darling, divine, devastating, delightful, darling dream man." And that the letter concluded, "your itty bitty cuddling cutie."

SUCCESSFUL BIDDER
Portland — (U.P.)—The insurance firm of Jewett, Parton, Leavy & Kern won a drawing for insurance on the Astoria-Megler ferry at the State Highway Commission meeting here Friday. Their low bid of \$152,424 was identical with that of Durham & Bates. The winner was decided by a secretary pulling one of two slips out of a hat.

GUESTS' DRINKS OKAYED
Salem — (U.P.)—The House Friday passed a bill that would permit liquor to be sold in private clubs to the guests of members. Present law says only members may be served in such establishments.

County Classroom Teachers Set Meeting

Last regular meeting of Jackson County Classroom Teachers association will be held as a dinner session at Eagle Point on Monday, April 18, at 6 p.m.

Speaker will be Miss Mary Bowman, state director of physical education for girls. There will be a demonstration by Eagle Point High school girls under the direction of their instructor, Miss Lillah Hartzo.

Reports on the Oregon Education association convention will be given and other business transacted.

Anyone who has not made reservations for the dinner are asked to do so early Monday by telephoning 2-4424, the office of the county school superintendent.

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Is That So?

By Eugene Burns
Ranger-Naturalist

Is an animal's mind like ours? Can an angelform learn anything? Can a raccoon think? A chimpanzee reason?

A human, after all, has a superior, reasoning mind. He can employ conscious means toward achieving planned ends; reason in abstractions; with imagination look forward into the future; by recalling past experiences, guide himself in future action; comprehend such imponderables as roundness and justice.

Certainly these products bespeak a reasoning mind—but look, are they not all mature adult products?

million or a billion years from now. From the scientific standpoint no time prediction is possible.

Let's go back, back say when we were nine. What then? Was our comprehension of imponderable concepts as clear or as full as it is now? Patently, no. But make no mistake, there was an abundance of intelligence. And at age 9, we were capable of learning, and fast.

But now, let's lift six years, and go back to the age of three.



Now, what did we "see" at three? Certainly the world from our three-year old view was most circumscribed, limited to the ball we were holding, the person standing next to us—mother, father, brother or neighbor. But yet, although our concept of the realities of life may have been fuzzy—death as an end, for example, could not be comprehended—yet, at three years our senses were alive, some, including eyesight, a good deal better than now.

Senses Weak at Birth
And before that? Let's go back even farther, beyond the vague understandings of hunger, sleep, security—back to the moment we were born. What, then? Then, even our senses were weak: although our eyes were wide-open, yet we were blind because our vision was not backed by enough mind to report and interpret the images; our nostrils were unable to report what smells went through them; high notes struck on the piano, meant nothing.

And back before that? As the human develops in the womb, there is a time when he has gill slits, when he shows a tail—in fact, looks just like a tadpole.

And in that development from conception to mature adulthood, the human lives through the beginnings of consciousness, too,

progressing gradually through awareness, finally attaining the ability to deal in abstractions. In expressing ourselves, we begin by making little whimpers or protestations and wind up contemplating an expanding universe.

Animal's Mind Like Human's
Again, can the angelform learn. Can the raccoon think? The chimpanzee reason?

Most assuredly, like humans, they can learn, think, and reason. But any given animal's mind is like the human's providing you place him in the same relative stage of development, from conception to death.

When the babe is held by its mother while adults are conversing about the new super-hydrogen bomb, 6,000 times as potent as the one which annihilated Hiroshima, is it filled with dread? No. No more than the tadpole which doesn't know to squirm as the kingfisher dives upon it.

Certainly, the far, far away thoughts of adulthood are not the thoughts of childhood—and the thoughts of a child are not the thoughts of animals, either.

Can Find Way Through Maze
Animals, however lowly in the scale, can learn. A worm patiently trained, can find its way through a simple maze. A cockroach, completely against its instincts, can be taught to prefer light to darkness. A cat doesn't sit on a hot stove twice.

To be sure, between the raccoon and the man there is a difference—the 'coon may have the cunning to outwit a smart dog, but yet the raccoon is ignorant of the meaning of justice—strictly, this is a product of a mature human being, whose mind has developed far and beyond that of raccoon.

Admittedly, in the raccoon there is not enough mind to do calculus—but there is enough mind to lure a dog away from her brood and into the water where she can drown him; or putting mussels on a sun-baked rock to make them open their shells.

In the angelform, mind flickers feeble and small; in chimpanzee it has grown to a much greater quickness; in human, it has progressed where it deals with imponderable concepts. But whether worm, raccoon chimpanzee or human—there is

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