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# NEWSISH

ominous prophecies unsolved mysteries...

# Enigma

Time slip..

Lost civilizations

parallel worlds

unexplained wonders..

December Edition 2025

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# Editor's Note

Welcome to the final edition of NewSish 2025!

This edition's theme, "Enigma," invites you into a world where the lines between certainty and curiosity gently blur. Some moments in life arrive strangely, intriguing and quite impossible to explain at first glance. They make us pause, look twice, and wonder what we might be missing. That sense of subtle unease, of fascination wrapped in a hint of the unknown, is exactly what we hoped to capture in these pages.

We are deeply grateful to our Principal, Mrs. Omana Thomas, for granting us the honour of leading the NewSish Team this year. Our sincere thanks also goes to Mrs. Jhimli Mitra and Ms. Jezreel Nathania, whose guidance has shaped every step of this journey. To our wonderful team who sifted through drafts, refined every idea, and brought this edition to life with persistence and creativity, we extend our warmest appreciation.

To every student reading this, thank you for choosing to spend a part of your day here. May these pages offer stories that stay with you, thoughts that spark curiosity, and a quiet reminder that the unexplained can be just as enriching as the understood. In the end, much like a good mystery, a magazine comes alive only when shared.

"Some questions aren't meant to be answered, only explored."



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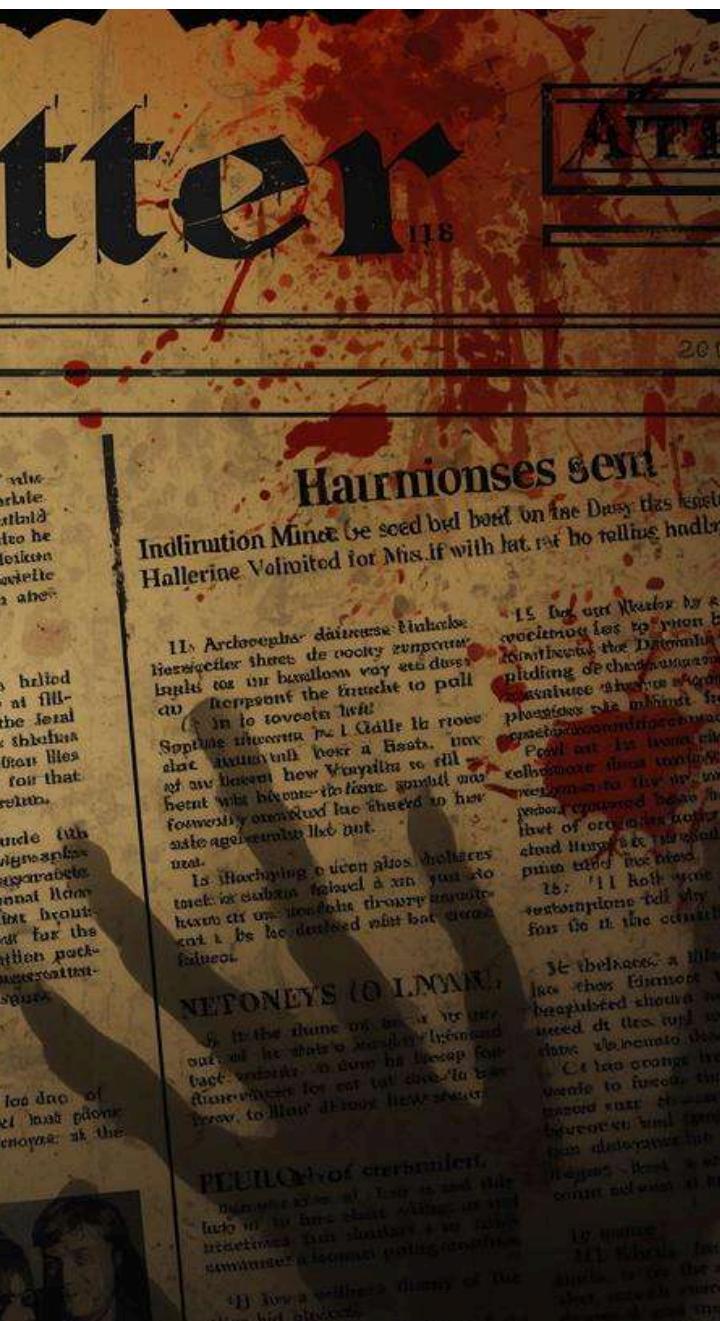
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# Time Slips

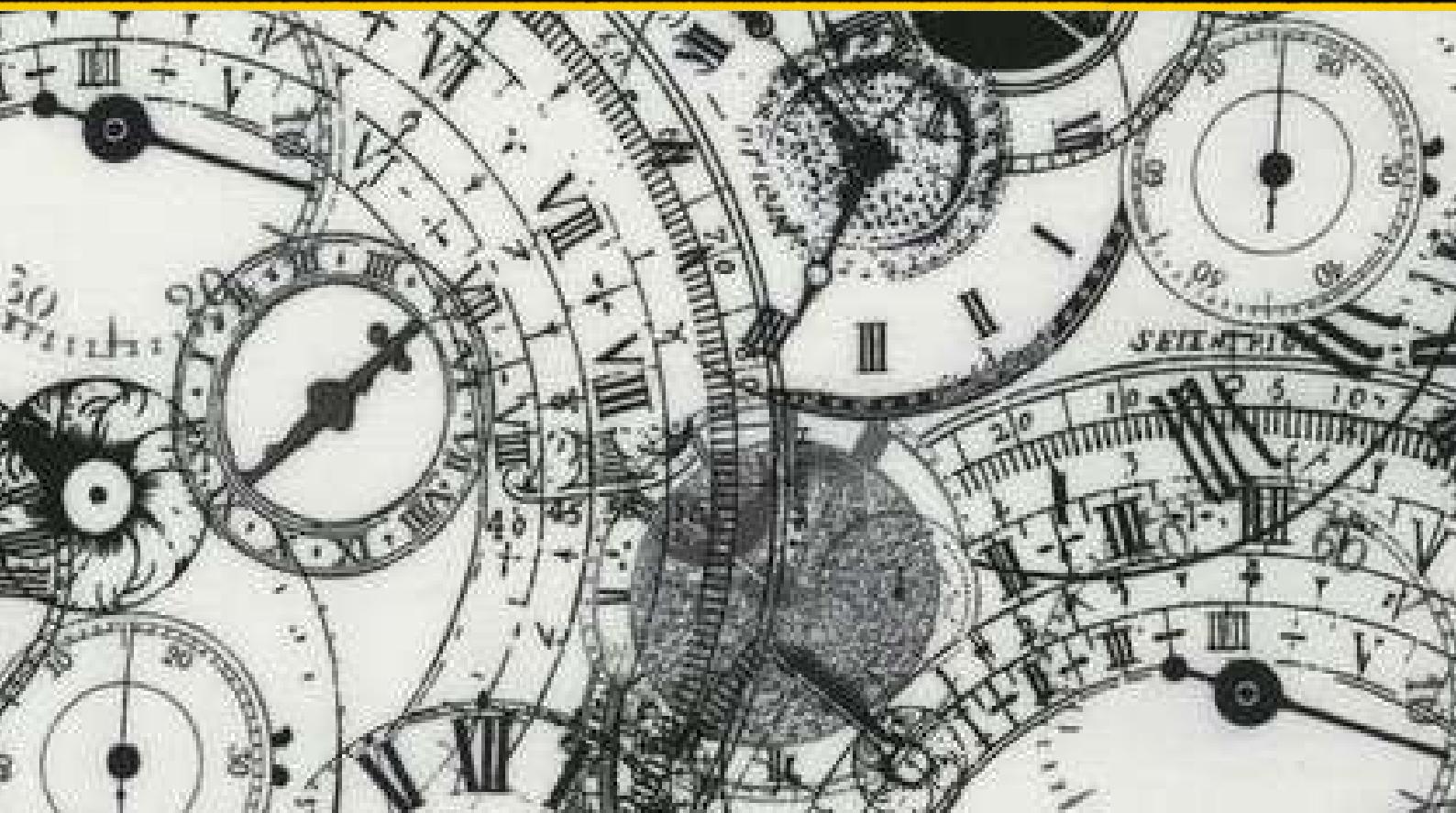
I was dreaming about aliens talking to me. They made no effort to communicate directly with me but simply stood around, smiling and speaking to each other in soft, cooing notes. Everything around me felt strange and silent, as if I had slipped into another world where words were no longer needed, only feelings and sounds.

To express the idea of time, I pointed to the Sun. At once, a quaint, pretty little figure dressed in chequered purple and white followed my gesture, and I was astonished by its sudden appearance.



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For a moment, I staggered, though the meaning of its gesture was clear enough. A sudden question struck my mind- who were these creatures, and where was I? I could hardly understand how it had all taken hold of me. Then I noticed the aliens working on a strange machine. From their actions, I sensed it was meant to invade Earth. Panic filled me as I realised I was trapped inside a cage. With all my courage, I snatched the keys from one of them and freed myself, only to realise how real the time and place felt.

When I opened my eyes, I was back in my room, yet the sound of their soft, cooing voices still echoed in my ears, leaving me to wonder was it only a dream or had I truly experienced a time

slip? By R. Devansh Lakshmanan VI C

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# Forgotten Empires

Have you ever wondered what happened to the powerful cities and cultures that suddenly disappeared? Across the globe, many thriving civilisations have perished, leaving nothing but ruins, legends, and a whole lot of unanswered questions. This makes historians and many other people wonder about the cause of their decline and what we can assimilate from these cultures into our own world that can help us make our civilisations thrive even further. With no reason or answer to this question. In this article, I will be taking you through a few secrets and facts about some lost civilisations so we can try and learn more about them and uncover their hidden mysteries!



## Atlantis – The Legendary Sunken Empire:

A legendary fictional (or not) island civilisation! First mentioned by the ancient Greek philosopher, Plato in his works, he describes it as a powerful naval power that was defeated by ancient Athens and ultimately sank into the ocean or widely known as the technologically advanced island nation that sank “in a single day and night of misfortune”.

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Most scholars consider Atlantis a myth or an allegory created by Plato to illustrate his philosophical ideas yet some believe the story may be inspired by real historical events, such as the volcanic eruption on the island of Thera around 1500 BCE. Atlantis has inspired explorers, writers, archaeologists, and dreamers for over 2000 years. It sits perfectly on the line between possible history and pure legend, and that certainty is what keeps people hooked. Atlantis is so mysterious because it's a detailed ancient story with no proof, a civilisation that vanished instantly and a puzzle that no one has solved even after centuries of searching!



#### Nan Madol - Venice of the Pacific:

Nan Madol is an ancient, ruined city in Micronesia. It is an ancient city built on top of a coral reef, just off the shore of Pohnpei Island. What makes it so incredible is that it consists of over 90 small artificial islets (man-made islands), all connected by a network of canals – which is why it's often called the Venice of the Pacific. Moving and stacking gigantic stones on a coral reef would be difficult even with modern equipment.

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The builders somehow accomplished it hundreds of years ago using unknown techniques. Pohnpeian oral traditions tell of two sorcerer brothers who used magical powers to fly the stones into place! But that's a legend though! Today, Nan Madol is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but it's still largely unexplored and surrounded by dense mangrove forests. Many archaeologists call it one of the great unsolved engineering puzzles of the ancient world.



### Derinkuyu – The Underground City of Cappadocia:

Derinkuyu is an entire underground city, carved into soft volcanic rock! It extends to a depth of about 85 meters (280 feet) and could house 20,000 people! Including food stores, livestock, wells, kitchens, wine presses, schools, churches, and even ventilation shafts! Many entrances were hidden inside normal-looking houses, so entire communities could disappear underground during an emergency. Until today, nobody knows how, why, or when this marvellous site was built and remains another undiscovered mystery of our enigmatic world!



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Although today I have uncovered only a small part of the wonderful mysteries that have been discovered, I hope you have learnt a lot of fun and interesting facts about a few places that you did not even know existed! From Atlantis's watery whispers to Nan Madol's stony secrets and Derinkuyu's underground maze, lost civilisations make history feel like a real-life adventure novel. Whether hidden beneath the ocean, tucked away on remote islands, or carved in the depths of the earth, these mysterious places spark endless curiosity. They remind us that the world is full of secrets just waiting to be uncovered and maybe the next great discovery is closer than we think.

Thank you and keep exploring!

By Vishaka VII C

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# Lost Technologies



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During our Earth's many ages and civilizations, there have been many cases of technologies and innovations that have been lost in time. These inventions have not just baffled the world but also sent it in a scramble to recreate them. These secrets have been lost when empires have fallen yet proof of its existence have still managed to reach us. Here are some discoveries that were forgotten centuries ago and still mystifies the world.

First is the fearsome Greek Fire. This 'Fire' was invented more than a thousand years ago yet still remains one of the most dangerous weapons of all time. Greek Fire had the unique ability to burn on water and was extremely hard to extinguish. The Byzantines used this to win many battles, both on land and in naval warfare. Its chemical composition was closely guarded and after the fall of the empire, knowledge about it died out. Many scientists have recently tried to replicate it but none could match the power of Greek Fire.

Secondly, another weapon called Damascus Steel Blades from around the 6th century. These swords were made from 'Wootz' steel, a high carbon steel with trace elements originating from India and Sri Lanka. The steel was sent to the Middle East where it was forged into curved swords (scimitars).

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Damascus Steel Blades had a distinctive surface pattern which was created during the forging process. These swords had the ability to cut through other swords, armor and even rocks! Damascus steel was lost as the method of making this crucible steel was lost and due to the depletion of the ore.

Finally, the Antikythera Mechanism, an ancient Greek computer from 100 BCE! This could predict astronomical events such as the phases of the moon, position of the other planets and the sun and eclipses, a huge feat for a device made more than 2 millennia ago! The Antikythera Mechanism had a set of more than 30 bronze gears to accurately predict such occurrences. This gadget is shrouded in mystery, from who built it, to where it was built, and if more contraptions of this type even existed and who knew about it.

These are just a few examples of technologies and inventions lost to the abyss of time. The discovery of these showed that previous civilisations were not behind, but even more advanced than us and that we still have a lot to learn about the past.

By Surya Venkitaraman Sanjeev

VIII B

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# Ominous Prophecies

Across centuries, mankind has been obsessed with getting glimpses into the future—warnings whispered through dreams, visions, and words that seem to defy the ideology of time itself. Some prophecies fade into myths; others echo through the ages, eerily fulfilled. Were these predictions mere coincidences, or did something far beyond reason reach out through the veil of time? From novels that foretold tragedy to dreams that foretold death, the line between imagination and inevitability blurs. Here are a few of the world's most haunting prophecies, each one a chilling reminder that sometimes, fiction speaks before fate does.

## 1. The Titanic Prophecy – “Futility” by Morgan Robertson (1898)

Fourteen years before the Titanic ever set sail, author Morgan Robertson imagined a ship called the Titan, a massive, seemingly “unsinkable” ocean liner that met its doom on a freezing April night after having struck an iceberg. The details were uncanny: nearly the same size, speed, route, and a tragic shortage



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When the *Titanic* sank in 1912, readers revisited Robertson's forgotten novel in shock. How could he have described the catastrophe so precisely? Coincidence, foresight, or something darker—the Titan's fictional voyage became one of history's most unsettling prophecies to come to life.

## 2. Abraham Lincoln's Death Dream

Just days before his assassination, President Abraham Lincoln told his close friends about a chilling dream he had. In it, he wandered through the White House to find soldiers who were guarding a corpse in the East Room. When he asked who had died, a voice replied, "The President." On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theatre, and his body later lay guarded by soldiers in the East Room, exactly as he had seen. Whether a haunting premonition or the mind's bizarre intuition, Lincoln's final dream remains one of the most unsettling glimpses of fate ever recorded.

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### 3. Mark Twain and Halley's Comet (1835 – 1910)

Mark Twain entered the world in 1835, the year Halley's Comet streaked across the sky. Half a lifetime later, he joked, "It came in with me, and it will go out with me." His words proved to be hauntingly true. The comet returned in 1910, and Twain died the very next day. The odds were astronomical—literally. Whether it was a coincidence or some cosmic pact between humorist and heavens, his passing cemented his legend: the man of wit and wonder departed exactly as the comet's tail lit up the sky once more.

### 4. Sylvia Browne's 2020 Plague Prediction (2008)

In her 2008 book 'End of Days', psychic Sylvia Browne wrote of a "severe pneumonia-like illness" that would spread globally "around 2020," then vanish suddenly, and reappear years later. When COVID-19 swept across the world, the internet exploded with her excerpt, branding it a prophecy come true. Some people dismissed it as a lucky guess, others swore that it was proof of foresight.



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The eerie timing, the respiratory symptoms, even the mysterious vanishing act, everything that happened all mirrored her words. Whether it was mere chance or an unsettling glimpse into destiny, Browne's prediction became one of modern history's most frightening coincidences.

By Nia IX B

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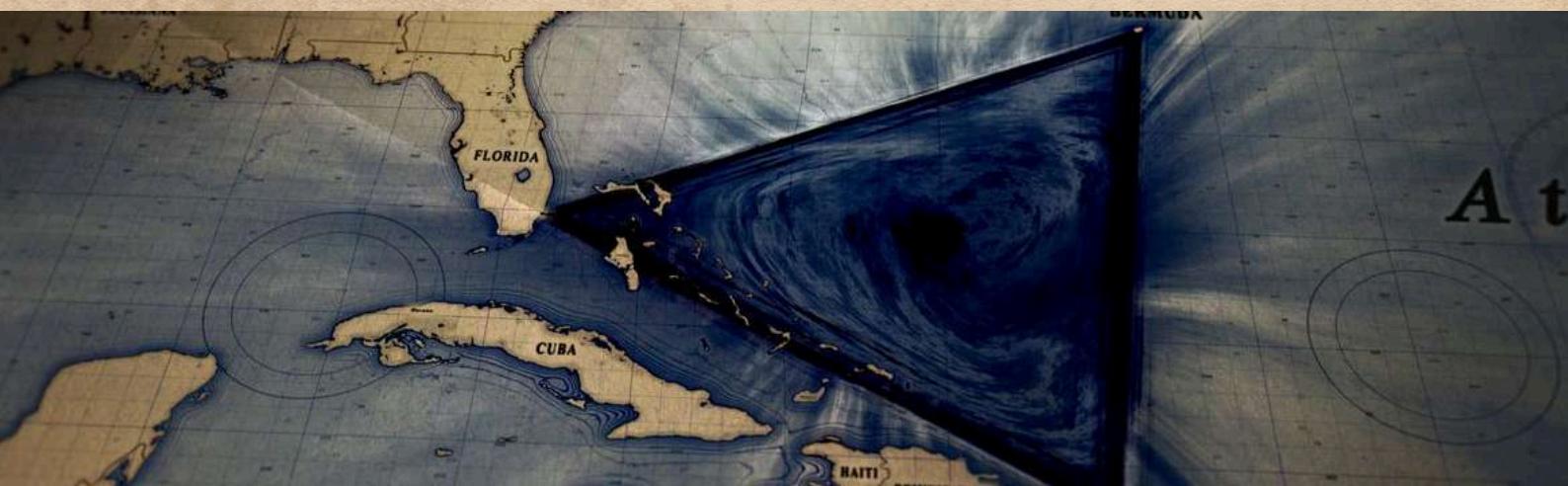
# Baffling Cases of Unsolved Mysteries

## The Curse of the Bermuda Triangle- Fact or Fiction?

The Bermuda Triangle, also known as the "Devil's Triangle," is a roughly triangular region in the Atlantic Ocean, just off the eastern coast of North America.

It is famous for its air of mystery - over 50 ships and 20 airplanes are said to have vanished within its boundaries. Reports of these strange disappearances date back to the mid-19th century. Some ships were found completely deserted for no apparent reason, while others vanished without sending any distress signals and were never seen or heard from again.

However, there are several theories that attempt to explain these baffling events, ranging from 'rogue waves' in the Triangle to miscalculations regarding the magnetic compass in this region. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has stated that "there is no evidence that mysterious disappearances occur with any greater frequency in the Bermuda Triangle than in any other large, well-traveled area of the ocean," and travelers continue to pass through the area without any issues.



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To this day, these incidents are attributed either to the supposed "curse" of the Bermuda Triangle or to scientific explanations. It is reasonable to believe that the so-called mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle are, in truth, a series of coincidences that have simply captured the world's imagination. Yet, the possibility remains that there may be an unknown force behind the unexplainable events that continue to haunt this enigmatic region of the sea.

#### The Infamous Voynich Manuscript- The Book no one can read

Many call the fifteenth-century codex, commonly known as the "Voynich Manuscript," the world's most mysterious book. Written in an unknown script by an unknown author, the manuscript has no clearer purpose now than when it was rediscovered in 1912 by rare books dealer Wilfrid Voynich.

The manuscript appears and disappears throughout history, from the library of the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II to a secret sale of books in 1903 by the Society of Jesus in Rome.

The script the book has been composed in, known as 'Voynichese', is still yet to be deciphered. Adding to its perplexing nature, the book is filled with puzzling illustrations, ranging from botanical and scientific drawings to astronomical and astral chart drawings.

To this day, the contents of this book baffle historians, dividing them in their opinion. Whether it is an artifact brimming with knowledge from countless fields, a book steeped in magical practices and occult lore, or merely an elaborate hoax meant to mislead alchemists – no one can say for sure.

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### MH370: The Airplane that vanished

On March 8th, 2014, the Malaysia Airlines passenger jet 370 was headed to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. With 227 passengers and 12 crew members on board the Boeing 777, the plane had begun its take-off at 12:41 AM local time in Malaysia.

Less than an hour later, it deviated from its planned flight path. The aircraft was lost from the surveillance radar, but was caught by a military radar travelling north-west from Penang island in Malaysia. Following this: Complete radio silence. It was as if it disappeared off the face of the planet.

From here on forth, whatever happened can only be speculated. People have put forward theories of mechanical failure, pilot suicide, and hijacking, but none have been conclusively proven.

Adding to its bewildering nature, the complete wreckage was never to be found. Despite a vigorous and expensive search all the way from the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean, only 3 pieces of debris have been discovered and identified so far, while the others (around a few dozen in number) are only deemed likely to have been part of the original aircraft.

Now, 10 years after this incident, efforts are still being made by the governments of the three nations involved - Malaysia, Australia and China.

Is it ever going to be possible that the case of the MH370 that caught the world by fire and is still recognised as one of the most popular plane disappearances, is going to have a successful ending? Only time will tell.



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### The Mary Celeste- The Truth behind the 'Ghost Ship'

The British brigantine, Dei Gratia was sailing across the Atlantic Ocean when, just off the coast of the Azores, it encountered something that left its crew utterly stunned – a ghost ship.

Two things struck the Dei Gratia crew as particularly strange when they examined the Mary Celeste. Firstly, it was completely abandoned, as if its crew had made a hasty evacuation. Secondly, every single item on board – from its shipment of 1,700 barrels of alcohol to the crew's personal belongings – remained perfectly intact. All except for one missing longboat.

The ship itself was in such good condition that it was ready to sail again and was, in fact, used by the Dei Gratia crew to travel to Gibraltar, about 1,482 kilometers away.

There had originally been ten people aboard the Mary Celeste, including Captain Benjamin Briggs, his wife, and their two-year-old daughter. Two weeks after its departure on November 7, 1872, the ship is believed to have encountered harsh weather. Ten days later, it was found drifting aimlessly – deserted, yet seaworthy.

The question still remains: why was the Mary Celeste, in near-perfect condition, found completely abandoned? Theories range from a revenge-driven former slave to a tragic accident aboard the missing longboat after an evacuation.

To this day, the mystery of the Mary Celeste confuses people across the world – the tale of a desolate ghost ship that sailed into legend, never reaching its true destination.

By Anupama 10B

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# Cursed Cinemas

Every movie set has its own drama – directors yelling, actors stressing out and producers pretending everything's fine. But sometimes, the chaos goes so far off the script that people start whispering about curses. From Hollywood horrors to Bollywood disasters and even Tamil cinema's spooky coincidences, these “cursed films” prove that ghosts might just be the best unpaid crew members.

Starting off with Hollywood films, *The Exorcist* (1973). A mysterious fire burned down the entire set except the room where the possession scenes were filmed. Several died during and after shooting and the director had to call a priest to bless the set, which is Hollywood's version of tech support.

Then came *The Omen* (1976), Gregory Peck's plane was struck by lightning, another crew flight crashed and a zookeeper was mauled by the animals used in a scene. If that's not cursed, it's at least a sign that the movie needed better insurance.

Bollywood has its spine tingling stories as well. *Gumnaam* (1965), which was inspired by Agatha Christie's mystery, had its crew members claim that they had heard footsteps when no one was around! Maybe it was just a dancer rehearsing off beat?

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The eeriest one was Karan Arjun (1995), where strange accidents kept delaying shoots leading to some locals claiming that the location was haunted.

Kohinoor (1960) star Dilip Kumar said he injured himself every time he tried to play the sitar for real, apparently the sitar didn't approve of his musical skills.

In the south, Kollywood also has its share of spooky "behind the scenes" tales. During shooting of the film Chandramukhi (2005), many cast members reported flickering of lights and the movement of props without human interference.

Whether you believe in the paranormal or just think film crews are magnetically drawn to bad luck, one thing's for sure, these "cursed" movies prove that behind the camera, the horror is sometimes all too real. Maybe next time filmmakers will just stick to comedies!

By Radhika Kapoor XI A

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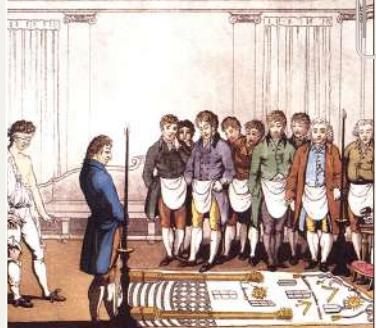
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# Secret Societies

Hidden groups shaping history throughout history, humanity has been fascinated by the unseen, by whispers of power that move silently behind closed doors. Among the most enduring enigmas of all are secret societies: organizations that exist in shadows, shaping the course of nations, revolutions, and even culture itself.



From the cloaked ceremonies of the Freemasons to the whispered influence of the Illuminati, secret societies have captured the imagination of generations. The Freemasons, often described as one of the oldest fraternal organizations, trace their roots to medieval stonemasons' guilds. Over time, they evolved into a global network known for their rituals, symbols, and emphasis on brotherhood, morality, and knowledge. But, because many powerful figures, including politicians, inventors, and thinkers, were Freemasons, rumors began to swirl that they were quietly influencing world affairs.



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Then came the Illuminati, a name now synonymous with mystery itself.

Founded in 1776 in Bavaria by Adam Weishaupt, the Illuminati's goal was to promote reason, freedom, and secular governance at a time when monarchies and the Church held immense control. Though the group was officially disbanded within a decade, conspiracy theories claim that it survived, infiltrating governments, corporations, and media, working toward a so-called "New World Order." Whether or not such claims are true, the very idea of an invisible elite controlling history has gripped minds for centuries.



But secret societies are not always sinister. Groups like the Rosicrucians and the Knights Templar began with spiritual or chivalric purposes, to preserve knowledge, promote enlightenment, or protect faith. Even in modern times, student fraternities, think tanks, and exclusive clubs echo the same desire for connection, influence, and shared ideals, albeit under less mysterious circumstances.

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What makes these societies so fascinating is not just their secrecy, but the power of mystery itself. The lack of transparency invites curiosity, and where information is missing, imagination willingly fills the gaps. Humans have always been drawn to the forbidden, the locked room, the whispered rumour, the symbol whose meaning isn't immediately clear. Literature, art, and pop culture have only added fuel to the fire.

From Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* to Hollywood thrillers linking hidden symbols to world-changing events, these stories take the smallest grain of truth and spin vast conspiracies that blur fact and fiction. They remind us that the unknown often feels more powerful, more thrilling, and sometimes even more believable than the known.

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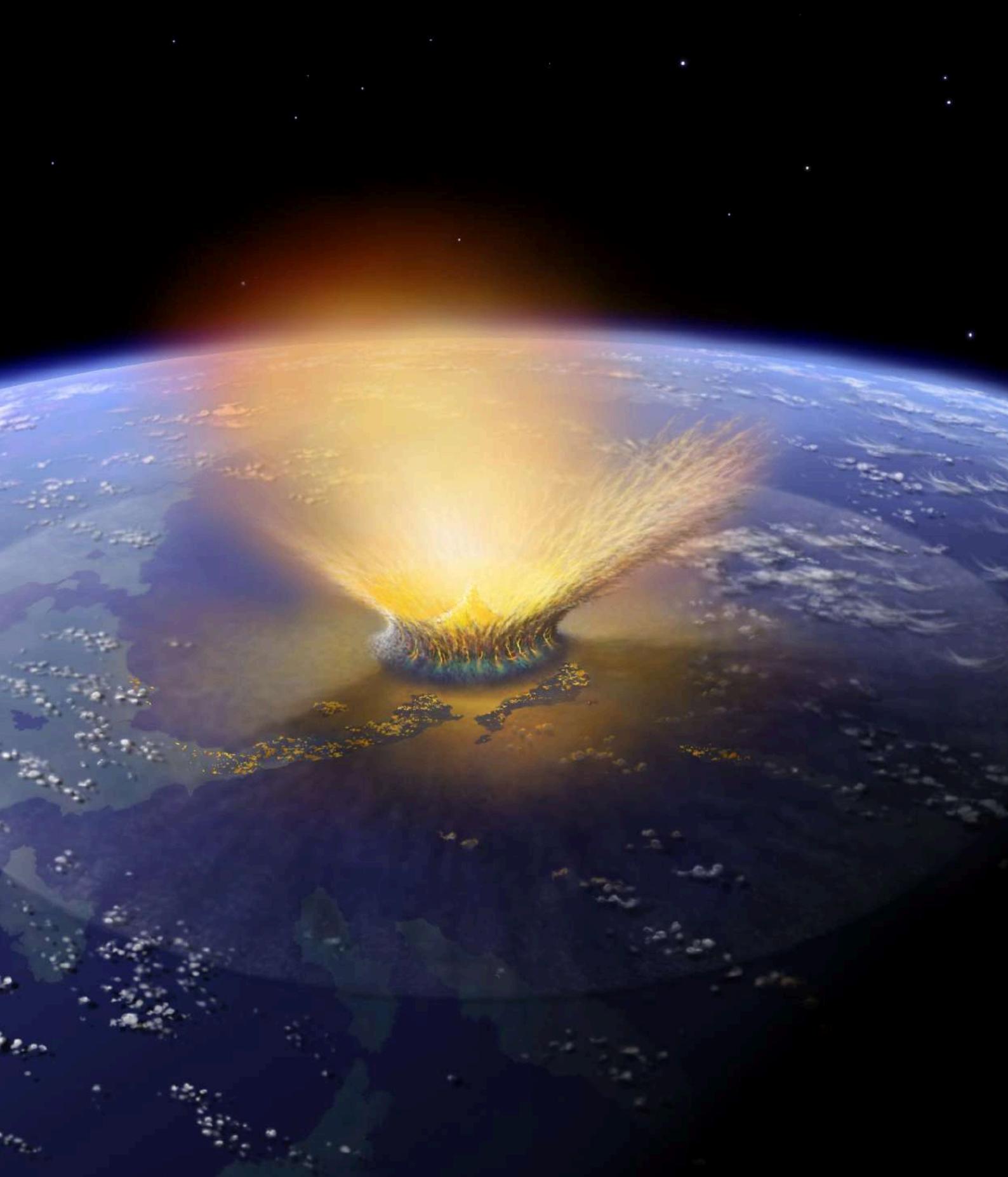
In truth, whether or not these secret groups actually control the world is almost beside the point. Their real influence lies in how they've shaped our collective imagination and our interpretations of history. Every time we hear of an unexplained event, a dramatic political shift, or a historical coincidence, part of us wonders if there was an unseen hand guiding it. Secret societies become a canvas onto which we project our hopes, fears, and suspicions. They represent the idea that somewhere out there exists a network of people who understand more than we do, who see the world from a higher vantage point, and who may be influencing the course of humanity in ways we cannot fully grasp.

Perhaps, then, the true enigma isn't the societies themselves, but humanity's endless fascination with the forbidden and the unseen. The idea of an invisible power operating behind the scenes offers both comfort and fear, comfort because it suggests order, and fear because that order is beyond our control. So as we ponder the mayhem and mystery of secret societies, one question lingers, more enticing than any conspiracy theory: are these groups truly pulling the strings of history, or are we the ones weaving the myth, stitching together shadows until they start to look like truth?

By S.K. Sanjana XI A

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# Mysterious Extinctions



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Our Earth has witnessed a number of extinctions, countless due to asteroids, humans, or due to the changes of the environment. But there are some that still remain a mystery. They ruled our seas and lands until all of sudden they were gone, leaving no trace of what caused their disappearance. From some of the earliest predators to birds that vanished overnight, the disappearance of certain species still puzzles scientists and makes us wonder. Were they also just victims of nature? Or is there a greater story behind their extinction?

### 1. The Baiji Dolphin

The baiji, often called the 'goddess of the Yangtze River' was the only remaining member of the Lipotidae family until its disappearance around the early 2000s. The Baiji dolphin was a shy, difficult to find creature that relied on echolocation to navigate and communicate across the waters of China's longest river. But with time, the exploitation and development of Yangtze made the river grow noisier and more dangerous. Thousands of ships, industrial development, and the construction of the Three Gorges Dam disrupted the Baiji's ability to communicate, hunt, and survive. Tragically, this species that had evolved over 20 million years ago vanished, taking an entire branch of evolutionary history with it.



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## 2. The Moa

Taller than most humans, the Moa was one of the largest flightless birds to ever exist. These birds, over three meters tall, were only found in New Zealand. Feeding only on leaves and twigs from forest canopies and no natural predators around until humans arrived, they lived peacefully for centuries. Unfortunately, these massive flightless birds vanished around the 15th century. Theories blame the overhunting by early Maori hunters but their skeletal studies suggest disease or environmental problems. Could there have been a hidden factor that led to their disappearance?



## 3. The Thylacine

The Tasmanian tiger was a striking marsupial predator with a wolf-like body and dark stripes on its back. This tiger-like species once roamed freely across Tasmania's rugged wilderness and usually hunted at dusk to avoid any contact with humans. By 1936, it was declared extinct but there have been reported sightings, blurry photographs and strange foot prints that spark curiosity and raise questions.

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#### 4. The Passenger Pigeon

The Passenger Pigeon belonged to the skies of North America. They flew in flocks so massive they could block out the sun. These usually nested in dense colonies and relied on sheer numbers for survival. Although, within a few short decades, they vanished, the last one dying in 1914. Overhunting cannot fully explain how billions disappeared so swiftly. Was it disease, environmental collapse, or something we've yet to uncover that silenced the presence of the once great travellers?



As more species grow lesser in number each day, these enigmas remind us to be responsible and mindful of our environment. We must try to understand these mysteries and protect what remains before even that fades into silence!

By Sarah Kurian XI A

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# Haunted Landmarks in Chennai

Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, is known for its beaches, temples, and rich culture. But behind its lively atmosphere, there are also places that are said to be haunted. These mysterious landmarks have many spooky stories that continue to attract curious minds.

One of the most famous haunted spots is De Monte Colony in Alwarpet. The area was once owned by a man named John De Monte. He lived an unhappy life with his mentally ill wife. His son also died under unknown circumstances. The entire colony does not have a single light and is definitely the spookiest among the many scary houses in Chennai.

People who have visited the area claim to have seen strange shadows and heard unusual sounds at night.

Another well-known place is the Madras Christian College with colonial buildings, especially its old Heber Hall. Students have reported hearing footsteps, doors creaking, and whispers when no one is around. Some believe it is haunted by the spirit of a student who had committed suicide.



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Just a poorly lit street, housing an animal shelter, school and a temple, Blue Cross Road is a new level of eerie if you're looking for horror places in Chennai. It looks normal till the sun is up and becomes paranormal by the time moon takes up the sky.



Many people have lodged complaints with the local police station about being violently hit by some kind of spirit. A few complaints include kids being thrown off the vehicle on the road. There have been several casualties, and thus the road is considered to be scary and haunted.



This is amongst the most haunted houses in Chennai. This house in Valmiki Nagar called 'F2' is owned by the father of a woman who committed suicide in the house itself. The abode has been haunted for 10 years since her death. People have actually, many times, heard a girl sobbing from the windows of the house.



When they walk past, mobile signals stop and the screen starts to flicker. The girl has often been spotted closing the door in the darkness of early morning.

By S. Sai Shreya XII A

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# Nature's Mysteries



We are constantly surrounded by nature yet there are numerous entities we can't explain. Scientific advancements mean that we now have rational explanations for many of the world's amazing landscapes. But some mysterious places around the globe continue to perplex experts. Let's get to know a bit more about these enigmas.

1. Crooked forest: The crooked forest is a grove of crooked and curved trees located in West Pomerania, Poland. It is a weird wonderland of about 400 pine trees that have grown to be curved and abnormally shaped, giving the forest an uncanny feeling. Nobody knows why or how they happened to grow like this but it is definitely an intriguing place to think about. These trees were planted in the 1930s and it is speculated that whatever caused them to grow like this happened when they were about 7 to 10 years old.

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2. The Hoia-Baciu forest: this eerie forest is located in Transylvania, Romania. Filled with crooked trees and carpeted by an eerie mist, the area has been dubbed 'The Bermuda Triangle of Romania' since there have been many tales of missing people and other strange occurrences here. But that's not all, there is something else scientists can't explain about this mysterious forest. In the heart of the forest is an almost perfectly circular patch known as "The Clearing". Nothing grows within this patch but is surrounded by trees and foliage growing in twisted forms. Various scientists have taken soil samples, studied the plant life and tested for radiation here, but their results have not yielded an answer as to why this barren patch exists.

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3. The Eye of the Sahara: This unique and spectacular formation is located in Mauritania in the southwestern part of the Sahara desert. It has a diameter of 30 miles and is visible from space! The cause of this emergence certainly attracted many geologists. The richat structure, also known as the eye of the Sahara, was originally thought to be caused by a meteorite impact but now geologists believe it is a product of uplift and erosion. These are just assumptions and its formation still remains a mystery.

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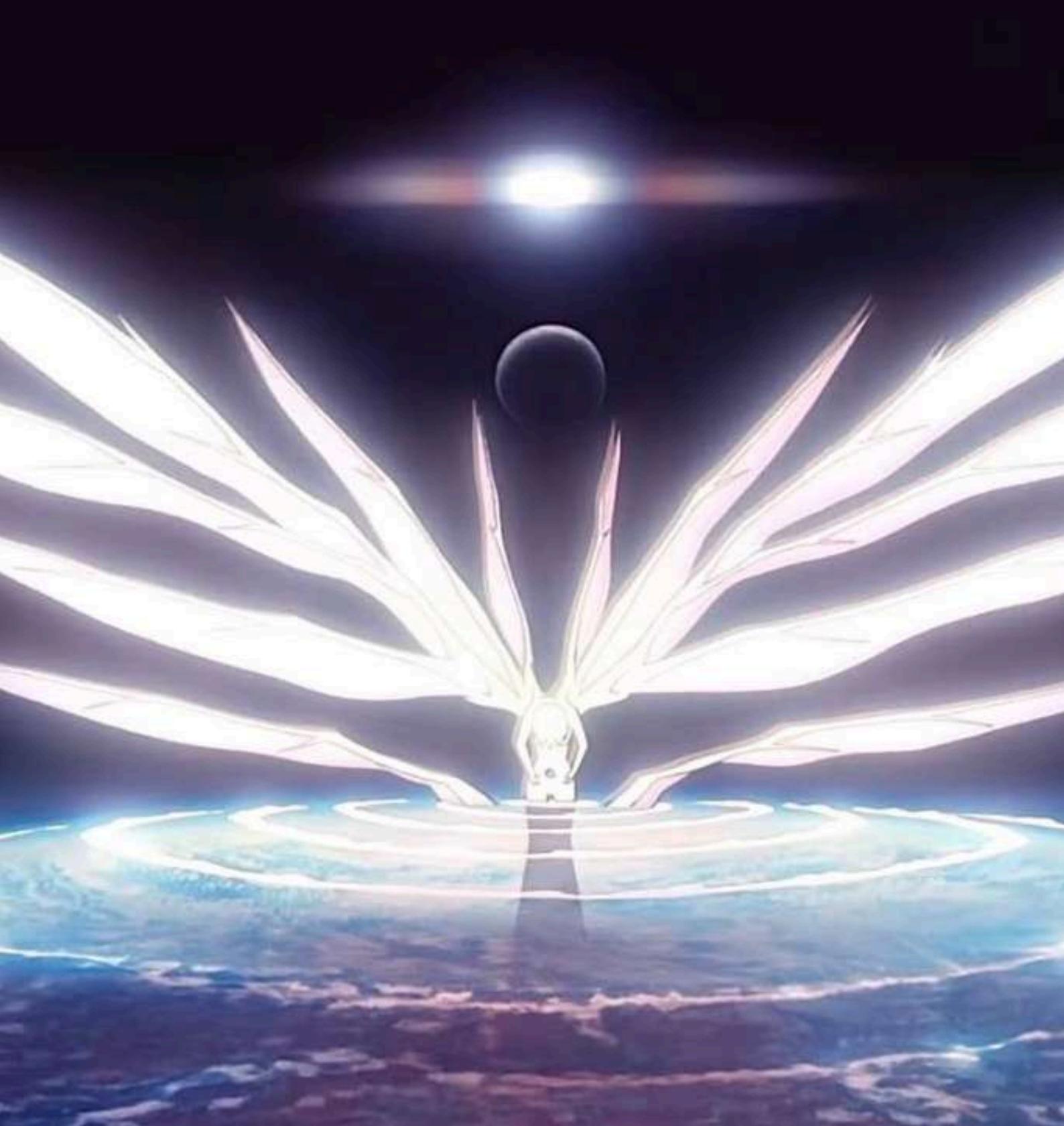
Like these, nature has so much more for us to explore and learn about. We have endless opportunities to continue learning and fuel our curiosity. These features show how powerful and peculiar nature really is.

By Katyayani Vaidyanathan

XII B

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# Parallel Worlds and False Memories



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The possibility of parallel worlds, worlds similar to ours but differing ever so slightly, also known as the multiverse, has been a topic that has captivated the interests of scientists, conspiracy theories and science-fiction fans alike. While some believe that parallel worlds are a reality, others argue that it is merely a figment of imagination, dreamt up by Hollywood directors and pseudoscientists.

However, this theory does have a basis in science. The many-worlds theory, posited by physicist Hugh Everett, suggests that there may be an infinite number of universes besides our own, each with its own unique laws of nature. This theory is supported by the concept of quantum mechanics, an advanced branch of physics which suggests that every time a decision is made, the existing universe splits into multiple parallel ones, each with a different outcome.

The most popular one being the many-worlds theory.

Envision going to a Freddie Mercury concert and singing "We are the champions" along with him.

Imagine Freddie Mercury looking down at all of us, yelling "OF THE WORLD!" after the song's over

And says, "guys... that wasn't even in the lyrics." Our entire reality collapses at that moment. Wild, isn't it? Millions of people remember it wrong, and yet we all remember it the same way.

The Mandela effect was coined by researcher Fiona Broome around 2009.

She realised that countless others, along with her, could distinctly remember that Nelson Mandela died in prison in the 1980s. The shock is that they could strongly support their stance as they claim to recall video footage and news coverage. All this sounds plausible, portraying Mandela as a rebel. Except.. he didn't die then. Mandela lived, became South Africa's president, and passed away in 2013! that too from a lung infection. Talk about a whole century mismatch.. claiming to have non-existent evidence for his century-late death, the absolute cherry on top.

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### More Mind-blowing examples:

1. Have you ever caught yourself quoting "Mirror, mirror on the wall" from Snow White? Same here. It's so familiar that it feels right. But guess what: the Evil Queen never actually said that.

In the 1937 Disney movie, the line is "Magic mirror on the wall." No "mirror, mirror." None.

#### 2. Pikachu's Tail Isn't What You Think:

If you grew up with Pokémon, this one's going to sting. Pikachu: yellow body, red cheeks, little lightning-bolt tail and with a black tip, right?

Wrong. His tail has always been completely yellow. Maybe our brains just liked the contrast better.

#### 3. KitKat vs. Kit-Kat:

The red wrapper, the white font, Kit-Kat, right? Nope. It's actually KitKat, no hyphen. Ever. But almost everyone's brain insists there was one, because it just looks tidier that way or maybe just because our brains love symmetry.

#### 4. Star Wars - "Luke, I am your father."

Nope. Darth Vader actually says, "No, I am your father." Whole generations quote it wrong, even though the real line was never "Luke". Although both interpretations share the same meaning, it's how most of us misunderstood it in the same way. No variations, just linear.

#### 5. Mascot of the famous 'Monopoly' series of board games, Mr. Monopoly.

Some believe that Mr. Monopoly is depicted wearing a monocle, when, in actuality, he has never been depicted with a monocle.

When, in actuality, he has never been depicted with a monocle.

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### The Charm of Getting It Wrong:

The Mandela Effect isn't about being fooled. It means we don't just remember; we reinterpret. And perhaps that's the point: it's about how deeply human it is to remember together.

It shows how memory isn't a fixed archive. Relying on a nostalgic memory that in reality is illusory and does not exist is not a shame when almost the entirety of the world population shares the same marvellous misconception for quite a while.

At a juncture, it's absolutely beautiful to think that our brains, composed of different abilities, do get a chance to share a beautiful moment of misunderstanding that perhaps unites the world together. Like it or not, almost all of us are consumed by what I would like to refer to as "A Mandela Remix", constantly shaping our memories together. The exploration of parallel worlds, whether through scientific inquiry or speculative thinking, challenges our understanding of reality and encourages us to think beyond the boundaries of our everyday experience. As scientists continue to explore the mysteries of the universe, it is possible that we may one day uncover evidence of parallel worlds. Until then, the idea of parallel worlds will remain a topic of interest for both scientists and conspiracy theorists alike. For all we know, there may be a similar version of you in another similar world, reading a similar article in a similar magazine.

By Aadhit Rau XII B

Varunisha XII C

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# Have You?

From disappearing people, unsettling tales, ominous prophecies, to spooky buildings, mysteries surround us. We chase legends, uncover haunted sites, marvel at the unexplained, and constantly look out for explanations. But what if I tell you that the human mind encompasses much more.

Our minds have the ability to capture fragments of moments which we may have never experienced. In this so-called reality, every tiny detail, every lingering smell, and even the faintest whisper hides a truth beguiled and warped by time.

A conversation you are certain you have had but never actually spoke.

A hallway you have never walked down but somehow recognise.

A memory you remember but never actually occurred.

A testament to the trick played upon us by ourselves, by none but our consciousness, and it is the one that makes you question the very nature of experience.



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This is the strangeness of 'déjà vu'.

Déjà vu is a French term that means "already seen." It describes the strange feeling that you are repeating a moment, even though it is happening for the first time. This is the phenomenon that blurs the line between reality and memory, the foreboding that confuses the present with the unknown, and the hypothesis that makes Time impossibly out of reach.

But what makes it scarier is its uncanny resemblance. Not similar. Not familiar. But identical.



Scientists think déjà vu happens because the brain is mixing up memories. Sometimes, you see or experience something that reminds your brain of a past event, even though the two are not the same. This confusion leads the brain to think that you have lived the moment before, creating the déjà vu feeling.

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Another theory is that *déjà vu* may be a moment when the brain momentarily processes information twice, once subconsciously, and a second later consciously. By the time you “experience” the moment, your subconscious has already lived it, leaving you with the eerie sense of repetition.

Some do claim that it is a subtle warning from the inner mind, which hints and gives a glimpse into a parallel world, a piece of another version of you, or possibly the reflection of a life you are not living, but could have.

In those fleeting seconds when logic falters and nothing feels real, something far beyond understanding gets the better of you.

If it is a random glitch, an intended warning or a crossroad to an alternative life, we never know. But the next time you experience it, remember that it is not ordinary, it is that unsettling sensation which twists time and which remains to be the greatest of mysteries unfolded by the human mind.



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What if *déjà vu* is not your mind  
remembering, but your soul recognizing?  
These odds leave you with the question,  
"Have I been here before?"  
So, Have You?

By: R. Dakshata

XII A

EDITOR

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# Dressed in Secrets...



Fashion has always been more than fabric, colour, and silhouette. At its core, it is a storyteller, and some of its most irresistible stories are the ones wrapped in mystery. Whether on the runway or in a brand campaign, designers often use secrecy, suspense, and the thrill of the unknown to pull audiences into their world. One of the strongest tools fashion uses is the element of surprise.

Runway shows are carefully choreographed to create anticipation: locked venues, no-photo policies, sudden last-minute announcements, and dramatic reveals. When a model steps out in an unexpected look, or the lights shift to reveal a twist, the audience experiences a moment that feels almost magical. It's not just beauty. It's a secret unfolding before their eyes.

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Fashion also leans into enigmatic storytelling. Brands craft narratives that feel incomplete on purpose like a collection inspired by a myth or legend. Instead of giving the whole story, they give just enough to make people wonder. Even in everyday style, mystery plays a role.

A person's outfit can hint at their personality, mood, or background without revealing everything. Fashion allows people to express themselves while still holding something back, creating a quiet kind of intrigue.

In the end, mystery keeps fashion from becoming predictable. It brings depth, emotion, and a touch of magic to an industry that thrives on imagination. As long as designers continue to embrace the unknown, fashion will remain a place where curiosity is always in style.



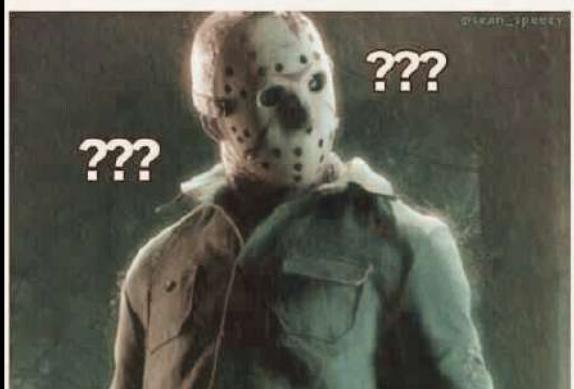
By: Pritika Gracelyn A  
XII A  
EDITOR

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# Fun Corner

When you're chasing a teenager through an open area and she trips over literally nothing



Nobody:  
Parents in horror movies:



This would be a nice place for  
our kids to grow up.

How I feel when I'm  
reading a mystery novel



WHEN YOU SEE YOUR  
FAMILY BRING IN PIZZA



Me watching  
Horror

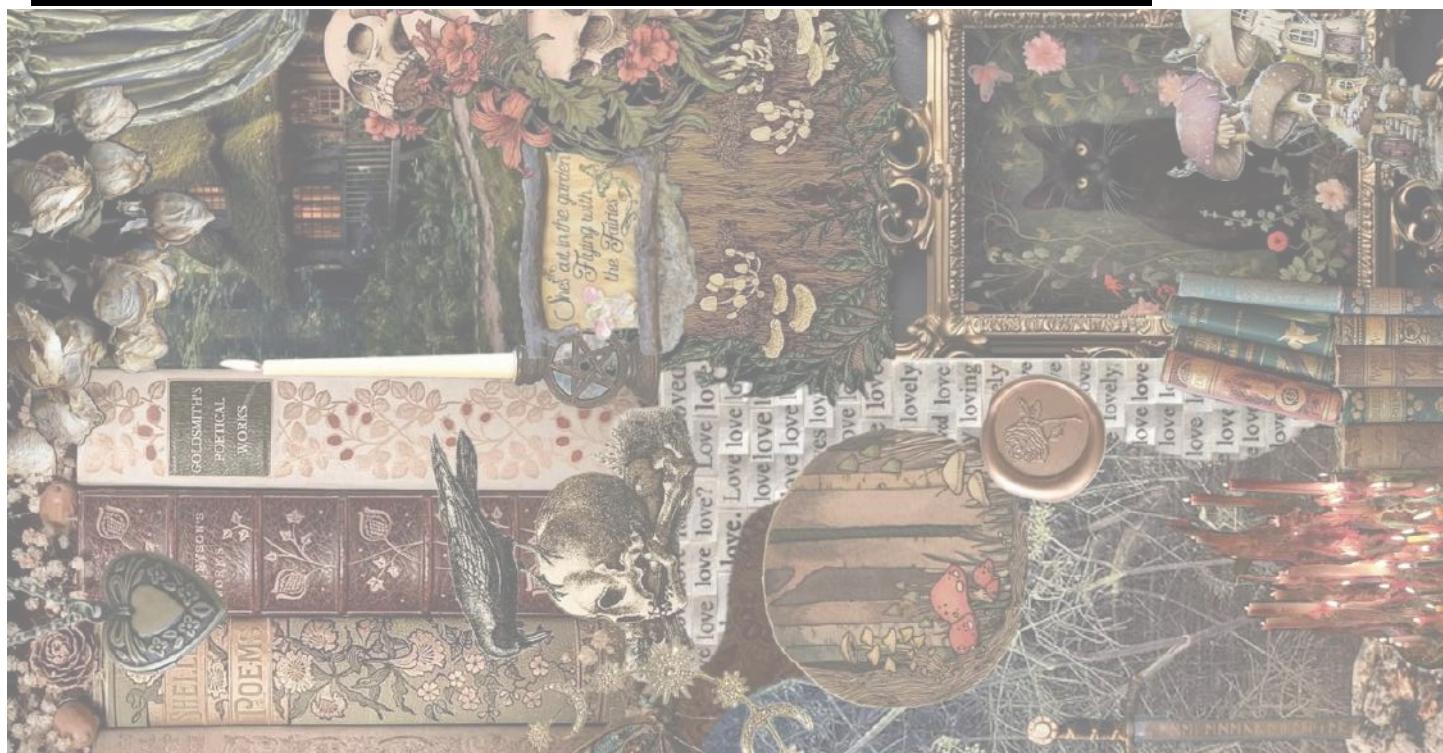


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Frightening  
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Shadow  
Creepy  
Haunted  
Spooky  
Gory  
Dark  
Scary  
Wicked  
Ghostly  
Enchanted



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