

Tibetan Explanation of the Cause of an Eclipse.

Every one has heard of the Chinese myth explaining an eclipse and the enormous dragon that stalks through the sky seeking to devour the sun. But the Tibetan legend is a little different and very interesting as described by Sven Hedin in his "Trans-Himalaya." After describing the eclipse and the terror and depression with which it was received he says:

Then I visited Hlaja Tsering with the corner pillars of my caravan. He sat at his acquired table drinking tea and had his long Chinese pipe in his mouth.

"Why is it that it has just been so dark?" I asked him. "The gods of the Dangrymtso are angry because you will not allow me to visit their lake."

"No, certainly not. A big dog roams about the sky and often conceals the sun. But I and the lama Lobsang have prayed all the time before the altar and have burned joss sticks before the images of the gods. You have nothing to fear. The dog has passed on."

"Very fine!" I cried and made a desperate attempt to explain the phenomenon. Robert held up his saucer to represent the sun, and I took two rupees to represent the earth and moon crossing each other's orbit. Hlaja Tsering listened attentively to Muhammed Ibsa's translation of my demonstration, nodded approvingly and finally expressed his opinion that this might do very well for us, but that it did not suit Tibet.

Why It Comes Out Cold Through Partially Closed Lips.

When one breathes out used air from the lungs through the wide open mouth the breath has the same temperature as the body, 98.6 degrees F., and frequently on a cold day we warm our fingers by breathing on them. If, however, we blow the breath vigorously from the mouth the temperature of the breath appears to be much lower than when breathed gently and with open mouth and is decidedly cooling in its effect, writes J. Gordon Ogden in Popular Mechanics.

The latter fact is due to the well known principle established by Lord Kelvin, that a compressed gas upon expanding will absorb heat. The breath, compressed by being forced to pass through the small orifice made by the puckered lips, immediately expands upon being admitted to the outer air and to do so must take up heat.

This is also the identical principle involved in the manufacture of artificial ice. Ammonia gas is first compressed into a liquid and then liberated into a network of tubes surrounding large sheets of iron boxes filled with distilled water. The liquid ammonia, set free at one end of the pipe system, begins at once to evaporate, and by the time it has scammed through the long iron tubes it has become gas. As we have learned, to change a liquid to a gas requires heat. This heat is taken from the iron piping, an excellent conductor, which in turn robs the water of its heat, thus freezing it.

The Mexican Mosquero.

The finest fly traps are not in it with a little Mexican spider named mosquero. Natives gather from oak trees a branch covered with this spider's nests and hang it up in the house. The spiders begin on the flies by wholesale. Mosquero nests are very tidy, pretty and old maidish. A lot of tiny beetles make their home therein with the spiders. The beetles live on fly legs, the crumbs and scraps from the mosquero's table, and pay for their bed and board by keeping the web house perfectly clean and refined, eating everything and dropping no litter in the Mexican professional gentleman's house. Mrs. Mosquero is a very quiet, orderly lady who never wanders from her own fireside or strays from her own back yard, but when a fly calls round she gets very busy with her spider knives and saws.—New York Press.

Lovers of Sports.

The Anglo-Saxons love sport. No matter in what part of the world they are found the spirit is strong among them. Wherever the restless Anglo-Saxon dominates the love of sport is dominant. The Americans are—at least the most of them—descendants of this virile race, and nowhere is the love of sport so much exhibited as in this country. Our people are patrons of horse racing, of baseball, of golf, of football, of all out of door sports as no other people. The English are great sportsmen, but not to the extent that Americans are, for the reason that the opportunities are greater here.—Nashville American.

Conciliatory.

Head Walter (dignified and pompous)—Have you ordered, sir? Despairing Patron—Yes, I ordered a porterhouse steak half an hour ago, and I wish to apologize for my rudeness. With your permission I will withdraw it as an order and renew it as a suggestion.—Chicago Tribune.

Comparisons.

Small Tommy—My pa's awful smart. Little Elsie—What does he do? Small Tommy—He's a mechanic and makes locomotives. Little Elsie—That's nothing. My pa's a commuter and makes two trains every day.—Chicago News.

Good and Evil.

Nothing is truly good to a man which does not make him just, temperate, courageous and free, and nothing can be evil to a man which does not give him the contrary disposition.—Marcus Aurelius.

Significant Signals.

"Do you not see the handwriting on the wall?" asked the foreboding friend. "No," replied Senator Sorghum; "the headlines in the newspapers are enough for me."—Washington Star.

Friendship—One soul in two bodies.—Pythagoras.

Presence of Mind.

A visitor to an insane asylum was walking in the grounds when a man came up to him and entered into conversation. After walking about for some time, discussing topics suggested by the place, the two set out on a tour of inspection, the visitor to go over the asylum. At length they reached the foot of a flight of steps, up which the visitor found himself out upon the roof, a height of more than a hundred feet from the ground. As they gazed below his companion started him suddenly by proposing to see who could jump farthest toward the grounds! Not until then had it dawned upon the visitor that his guide was mad. Mercifully he was a man of ready wit, and his wit saved the madman's life "Oh, anybody can jump down," said the visitor. "Let us go down and see who can jump to the top." The madman thought it a good idea, and retracing their steps, the two began their jump from the earth instead of from the roof.

The Mammoth Cave Rat.

The cavern rat found in the Mammoth cave is of a soft bluish color, with white neck and feet. It has enormous eyes, black as night, but quite unprovided with an iris. These eyes are perfectly insensible to light, and when the experiment has been made of catching a cavern rat and turning it loose in bright sunlight it blunders about, striking itself against everything, is unable to provide itself with food and finally falls down and dies. In its native depths, however, it is able to lead a comfortable enough existence, as its enormously long whiskers are so extremely sensitive that they enable it to find its way rapidly through the darkness. The principal food of the cavern rat consists of a kind of large cricket of a pale yellow color and, like most other cave dwellers, itself perfectly blind.

The Lilies.

Two thousand years ago it was supposed that water lilies closed their flowers at night and retracted far under water, to emerge again at sunrise. This was Pliny's view, and it was not impeached until the English botanist John Ray, in 1688 first doubted its veracity. The great lily of Zanzibar, one of the grandest of the lily family, opens its flowers, ten inches wide, between 11 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon. They are of the richest royal blue, with from 150 to 200 golden stamens in the center, and they remain open four or five days. It is not generally known that there are lilies that have nocturnal habits—night bloomers as well as day bloomers. They are very punctual timekeepers, too, opening and closing with commendable regularity.

Bunyan's Wicket Gate.

In the village of Elstow there is abundant material that is visibly associated with John Bunyan. The isolated church tower contains the very bells in the ringing of which Bunyan rejoiced and afterward trembled. Above all there must be mentioned the wicket gate which figures early in the story of "Pilgrim's Progress." The wicket gate of "Pilgrim's Progress" is commonly represented as a garden gate or a turnpike gate, but really the term denotes a small doorway cut out of a large door. Concealed behind a tree at the west end of Elstow church is just such a small doorway in the broad wooden surface of the great door. Through this lowly opening Bunyan must often have passed when a boy.—Harper's Weekly.

The Major's Value.

"Major Bunks," said a veteran, "was a pompous chap. The boys had a good deal of fun once over his exchange. "It seems that on a very dark night a stalwart Confederate took the major prisoner. This fact, together with the narrative of the prisoner's return to camp, was signalled to headquarters tersely: "Major Bunks, captured during night march, exchanged later for two plugs tobacco."

Doctors Are More Thorough Now.

A physician at a dinner in Denver sneered at certain Biblical miracles. "Lazarus," he said, "was raised from the dead, and yet I don't see any dead folks being raised in our time." "No," said a clergyman, an eminent Biblical scholar, with a smile. "Modern medical science has progressed too far for that, eh?"—Washington Star.

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Useful Camels of Bagdad.

Nearly 90,000 camels are used in the village of Bagdad as beasts of burden, and, with donkeys, they form the only means of carrying goods to inland points. Camel caravans go in "strings," seven camels to the string, with two men in charge. For a camel 450 pounds is a good load, the pack being divided into halves. A burdened camel travels two miles an hour; on long trips across the desert twelve miles a day is an average march, though swift messengers, like the mounted dromedary posts from Bagdad to Mossoul and Damascus, make forty, fifty and even more miles at a stretch.

Freight between Bagdad and inland points in Mesopotamia is commonly packed in pairs of bales, each bale weighing about 225 pounds, for the convenience of camel drivers in loading. The rates charged for carrying freight across the desert vary with conditions, being lowest when camels are cheap, labor and pasture plentiful and freight offerings none too numerous. For a common burden camel \$30 is a fair price, though the trotters and swift messenger camels are worth more. A young camel can sometimes be had about Bagdad for as little as \$3 or \$4.

Besides its use for riding and carrying purposes, the Mesopotamian Arabs depend on the camel for milk. Sheeps are made from its tough, calloused hide, and in time of famine its brittle, strong-tasting flesh is eaten. Condensed milk, made by boiling fresh camel milk until evaporation leaves only a hard, chalky substance, is prized among the desert nomads. By rubbing this substance between the hands it reduces to powder, and when mixed with warm water it makes a refreshing drink highly esteemed among the desert folk. "Mereesy," as it is called, will keep in good condition for two years. When made from buttermilk it tastes sour and is prized among Arabs who have eaten much of sweet cream. Fresh warm camel milk is also the food of many valuable horses owned by desert sheiks.

Camel calves are weaned in their eleventh or twelfth month. When a camel caravan is on the march the very young camel are often tied upon the backs of mother animals, since they cannot endure the fatigue of a long march. Valuable dogs and Arab desert hounds, called "sluggies," also ride in the same way.

Unless camels have been especially trained to the abstinence they cannot go as long as is commonly supposed without water. When marching near rivers they drink twice a day. They feed largely on the tough, scrubby verdure, known locally as camel thorn, which grows throughout Mesopotamia, except on the extreme desert wastes. Their habits are peculiar; unlike horses, they seem to be fond of mess for the human associates, though they will seldom wander far from the caravan tents, even if left untied overnight. It is no uncommon sight to see 2,000 to 3,000 camels on the desert waste outside Bagdad's walls. They represent the combined herds of caravans which are at Bagdad, bringing in wool, etc., and taking out other cargo to different parts of Mesopotamia.

Medical.

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On November 23rd, 1909, Mrs. Johnson was interviewed and she said: "I still have unlimited confidence in Doan's Kidney Pills. They permanently cured me of kidney trouble and have had no relapse of kidney medicine during the past two years. Other members of my family have taken Doan's Kidney Pills and in each case benefit has been received."

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