

SCHOTT'S ORIGINAL MISCELLANY

A gallimaufry of uncommon knowledge, compiled exclusively for Weekend by Ben Schott

THE NOBLE TRUTHS

At the heart of Buddha's teachings are the following Four Noble Truths:

Life involves suffering, and is inevitably sorrowful
Suffering has its roots in desire and craving which arise from ignorance
The end of suffering comes with the cessation of desire
Nirvana can be reached by the Noble Eightfold Path

The Noble Eightfold Path outlines a method of disciplined and right behaviour:

Right view understanding the Four Noble Truths
Right aspiration having caring thoughts and intent for all living things
Right speech speaking kindly, truthfully, without bad language
Right bodily action following the Five (or Ten) Moral Precepts
Right livelihood work that will harm nothing living
Right endeavour practise meditation and work at stopping bad thoughts
Right mindfulness to give full attention and best effort to one's actions
Right concentration which leads to enlightenment

Of the Ten Moral Precepts listed below, the first five are universal obligations; the remaining are for those intent on attaining Nirvana by embracing religion:

not to kill · not to steal · not to commit adultery
not to lie · not to be drunken
to abstain from food out of season
to abstain from dances, songs, music, entertainments
to abstain from personal ornamentation and perfumes
to abstain from a lofty and luxurious couch
to abstain from taking gold and silver

POISONED

<i>Victim</i>	<i>circumstances</i>
Georgi Markov	stabbed with an umbrella poisoned with ricin
Britannicus	Roman prince, poisoned by his stepbrother Nero
Chiron	sage centaur, accidentally shot by Hercules with a poisoned arrow
Belle Elmore	poisoned by her husband, Hawley Harvey Crippen
Snow White	tricked into eating a poisoned apple by her wicked stepmother
Rasputin	poisoned by group of nobles; this failed so was shot, then drowned
Boadicea	poisoned herself after being defeated by the Romans
Emperor Claudius	poisoned by his wife Agrippina
Imru'-al-Qays	Arab poet, killed by Emperor Justinian with a poisoned cloak
Achilles	killed by a poisoned arrow shot into his heel by Paris
George Wythe	poisoned by a nephew, but lived long enough to disinherit him
Socrates	condemned by Athenians for corrupting youth; drank hemlock
Alan Turing	committed suicide by eating an apple dipped in cyanide
Sir Thomas Overbury	poisoned by the agents of Lady Essex

PLASTERBOARD COLOURS

Various types of plasterboard are manufactured to satisfy particular building requirements. To ease identification they are usually faced with coloured paper:

Pink – *fire-resistant* · Green – *moisture-resistant* · Pale blue – *sound-resistant*

A RECEIPT TO CURE TRUE LOVE

Take two ounces of the Spirits of Reason, three ounces of the Powder of Experience, five drams of the Juice of Discretion, six ounces of the Powder of Good Advice, and two spoonfuls of the cooling Water of Consideration, make it into Pills, and drink a little Content after them. Once Dose clears the Head of Maggots and Whimsies, then take another Dose, and drink a little Content, and you'll be restored to your right senses. – *Anonymous*, c.1765

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MOLES

<i>Location of mole</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Right shoulder	happiness to man or woman
Left shoulder	a man to be quarrelsome; a woman to have many husbands
Left cheek	fruitfulness in man or woman
Left ribs	a man to be very cruel; a woman to be proud
Right shoulder	a man to be a slave to love; a woman will be beloved of great men
Right loin	an industrious man; a good woman
Buttock	honour to a man; riches to a woman
Right belly	a man to flow in riches; a woman to be happy in marriage
Under right breast	a man will get preferment abroad; a woman will be loved
On right breast	good fortune
Back	riches and honour
Right hip	good fortune in wedlock
Navel	many children; fecundity

TO CHUSE A SWEETHEART BY HER HAIR

Much hair denotes a hot person · Curled black hair denotes heat
Smooth hair denotes a good genius · Red hair denotes a treacherous person
Chestnut hair denotes a just person

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