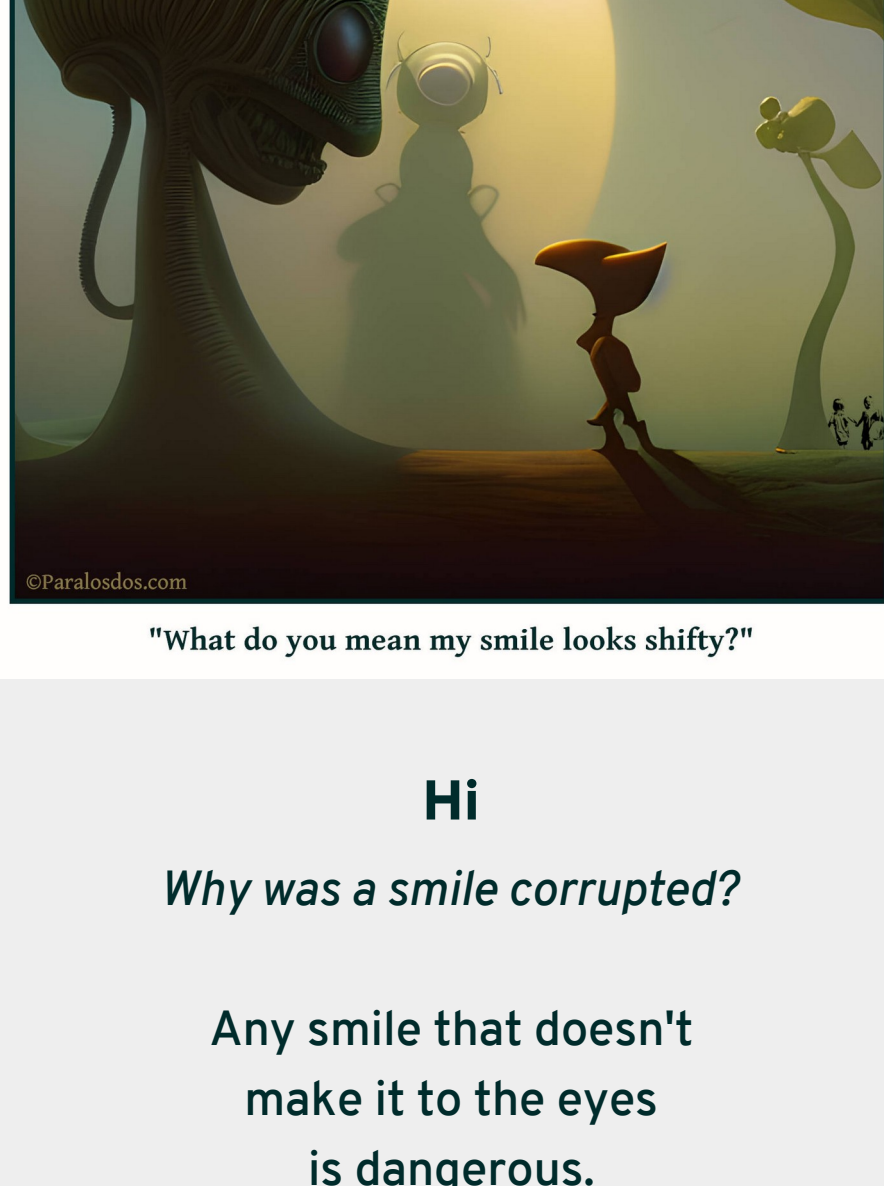


# Change Happens

Have a great day,  
find your way

## The Alien Life



"What do you mean my smile looks shifty?"

Hi

*Why was a smile corrupted?*

Any smile that doesn't  
make it to the eyes  
is dangerous.  
It's the rattle of a snake,  
the howling of a wolf,  
a warning and the truth.

It can rise  
the tide of anger,  
or freeze  
the blood  
in your veins.

A face of lies  
assembled.  
A message  
unrestrained.

A rare gift,  
better received  
from an enemy  
than a friend.

*All together now*

**The era of the megalopolis:  
how the world's cities are merging**



" On November 15 2022, a baby girl named Vinice Mabansag, born at Dr Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila, Philippines, became – symbolically – the eight billionth person in the world. Of those 8 billion people, 60% live in a town or city. By the end of the 21st century, cities will account for 85% of Earth's predicted 10 billion inhabitants. "

*Why don't the other animals talk?*

**Animal Communication Is  
Not the Same As Human Language**



" In general, we can start with the fact that animals, even though they communicate, are not exactly using language. We love dogs and cats and can kind of communicate with them. But, Bertrand Russell, the philosopher, once said, 'A dog cannot relate his autobiography; however eloquently he may bark, he can't tell you that his parents were honest though poor.' That's true: there's a lot that a dog simply could not say. "

*Also a great story*

**Mary Shelley's Frankenstein  
can illuminate the debate over  
generative AI**

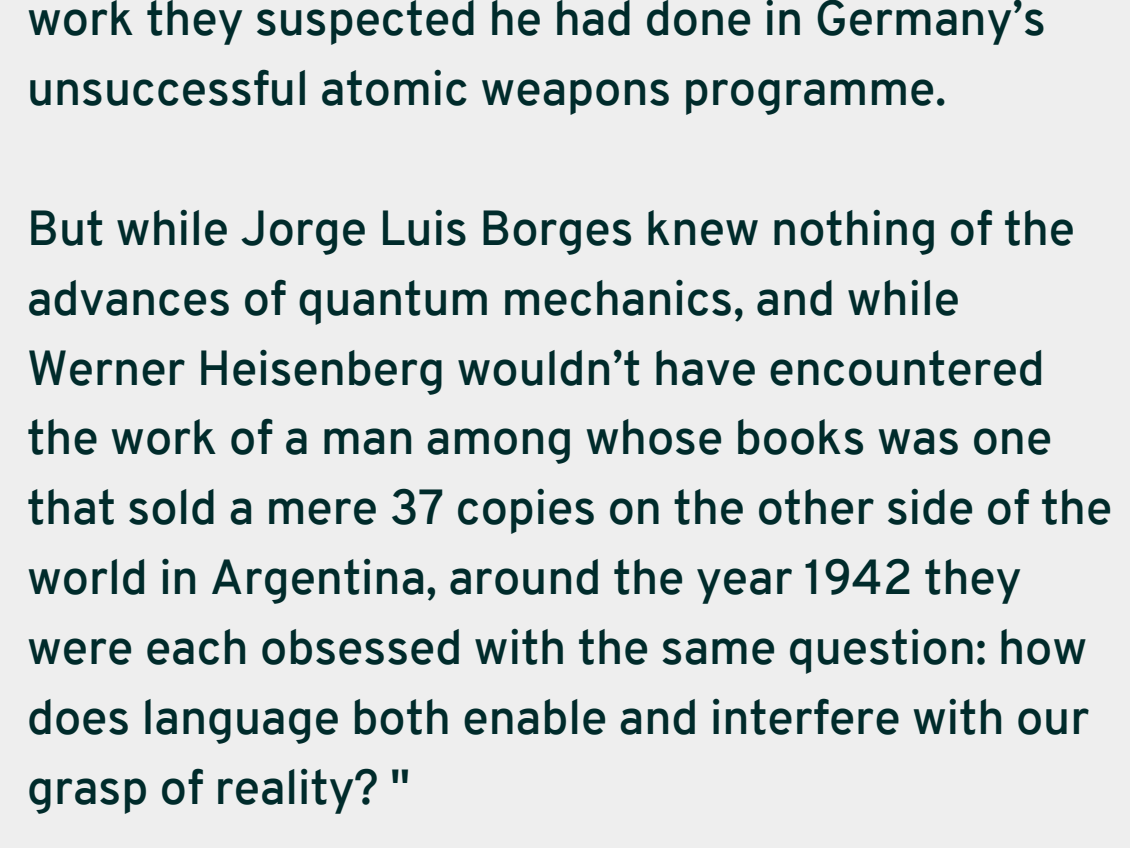


" Some worry that in pursuing technologies like AI, we are recklessly consigning our species to Victor Frankenstein's tragic fate. Our wonderchildren, our miraculous machines, might ultimately destroy us. This fear is an expression of what science fiction writer Isaac Asimov once called the 'Frankenstein complex,' a Luddite fear of robots. "

**September 21, 1949**

**People's Republic of China**

**Divided**



Mao Zedong proclaiming the foundation  
of the People's Republic of China

**Wiki Rabbit Hole**

" Major combat in the Chinese Civil War ended in 1949 with the CCP in control of most of mainland China, and the Kuomintang retreating offshore, reducing its territory to only Taiwan (a former Japanese colony that was received in 1945), Hainan, and their surrounding islands. On 21 September 1949, CCP Chairman Mao Zedong announced the establishment of the People's Republic of China with a speech at the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. This was followed by a mass celebration in Tiananmen Square on October 1, at which the proclamation was made publicly by Mao at the Tiananmen Gate, the date becoming the new country's first National Day. "

**A question for all**

**Quantum poetics**



" As history's bloodiest war metastasised from Europe outward, two men – a world apart from each other, and coming from profoundly different disciplines – converged on one fundamentally similar idea. One of the men was a poet and short-fiction writer with middling success in his own country but virtually unknown outside its borders. The other man had already won the Nobel Prize for work he had done around 15 years earlier and would soon top the Allies' most-wanted list for the work they suspected he had done in Germany's unsuccessful atomic weapons program. "

But while Jorge Luis Borges knew nothing of the advances of quantum mechanics, and while Werner Heisenberg wouldn't have encountered the work of a man among whose books was one that sold a mere 37 copies on the other side of the world in Argentina, around the year 1942 they were each obsessed with the same question: how does language both enable and interfere with our grasp of reality? "

*The book needs to be iconic first*

**Iconic Book Covers**



" First things first. What makes a book cover iconic? There are no hard and fast rules, of course –like anything else, you know it when you see it. But in order to compile this list, I looked for recognizability, ubiquity, and reproduction—that is, if there are a million Etsy stores selling t-shirts/buttons/posters/tote bags with the book cover, or if someone you know has ever dressed up as it for Halloween, or has a tattoo of it, it probably counts as iconic. That is: the most iconic book covers exist as cultural artifacts that are attached to, but slightly separate from, the books they were designed for. "

*They fly easily*

**How do birds fly?**



" Flight gives birds a fairly big set of advantages over other animals. It enables them to forage over a wide area and to catch food on the wing. They can migrate between regions, to take full advantage of seasonal gluts and avoid the coldest weather. Taking to the skies is also a fantastic way to escape predators and to find safe nesting sites to raise their young. Some species even use aerial displays to court mates. "

*"I live in my dreams — that's what you sense.*

*Other people live in dreams, but not in their own. That's the difference."*

**Hermann Hesse**



it's your life  
you understand



*Please feel free to forward Change Happens to anyone you think might enjoy it and have a most excellent day*