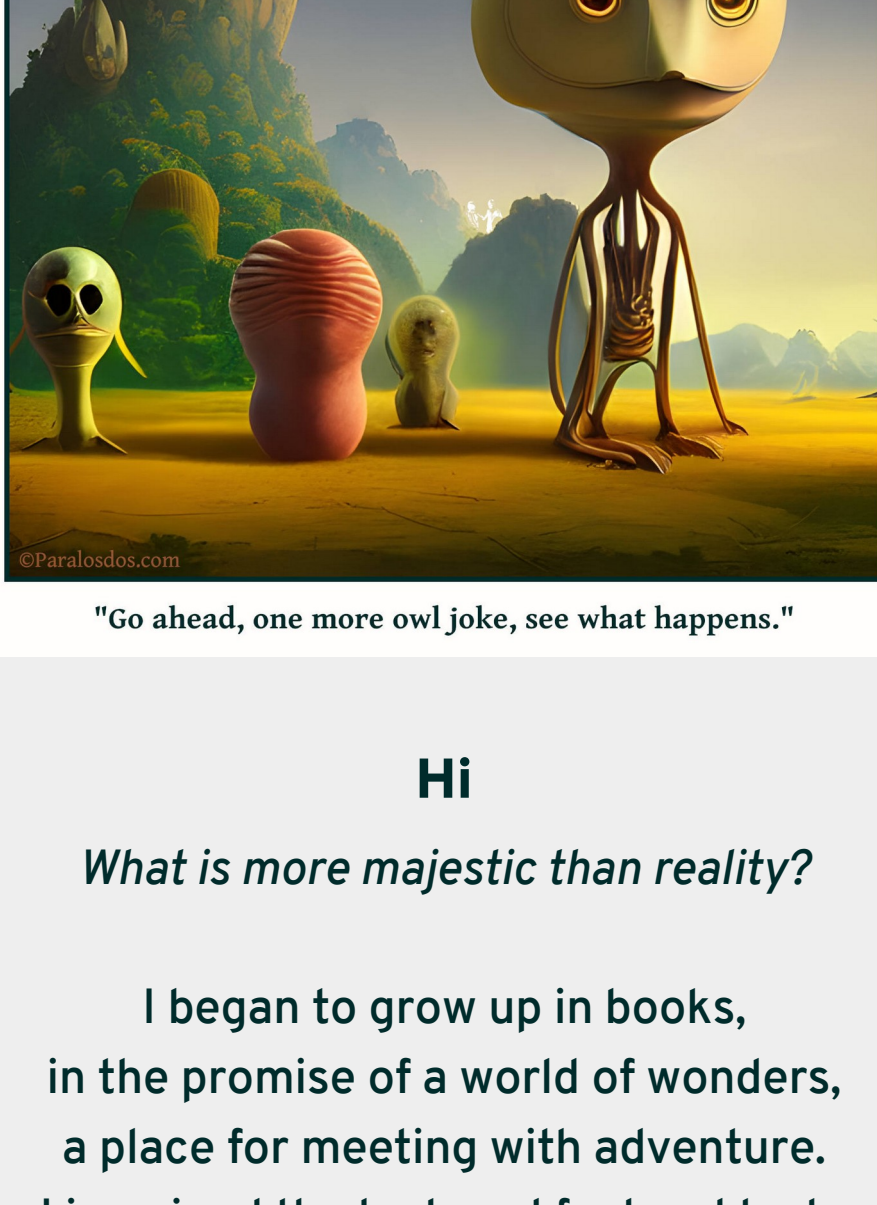


# Change Happens

Have a great day,  
find your way

## The Alien Life



"Go ahead, one more owl joke, see what happens."

Hi

*What is more majestic than reality?*

I began to grow up in books, in the promise of a world of wonders, a place for meeting with adventure. I imagined the look and feel and taste of everything at once. It lived across the page, what was more alive than that?

On a perfectly sunny morning, somewhere on a winter road, I almost passed a snowy owl waiting. On a post high enough above the ground, it sat, so still, a white that can't be painted. Only one of us thought to be awed.

I carry the books with me always, knowing now they were filled with descriptions of things seen and unseen, of things waiting to be looked upon.

*Human trials are beginning*

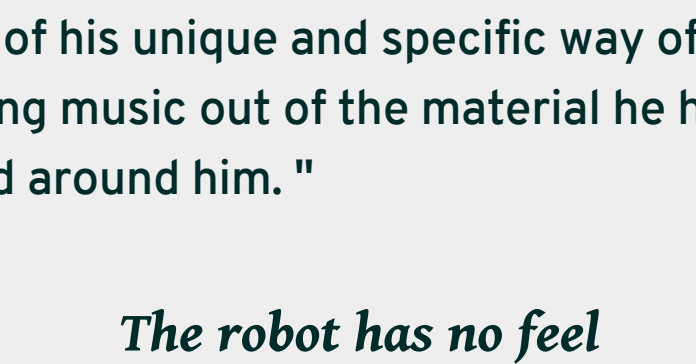
## Elon Musk wants to merge humans with AI



" There are also ethical risks for society at large that go beyond just Neuralink. A number of companies are developing tech that plugs into human brains, which can decode what's going on in our minds and has the potential to erode mental privacy and supercharge authoritarian surveillance. We have to prepare ourselves for what's coming. "

*Not just an imitation*

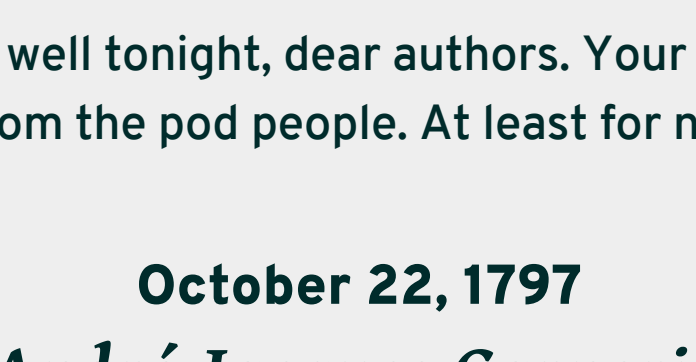
## Mockingbirds Are Better Musicians Than We Thought



" But now, listen more closely. You'll hear that this virtuoso bird isn't just copying other species' tunes. He's sampling them like a DJ and transposing, bending, tweaking them into his own quite deliberate form. We can always tell it's a mockingbird, not because of his copying, but because of his unique and specific way of composing music out of the material he hears in the world around him. "

*The robot has no feel*

## Margaret Atwood Reviews a "Margaret Atwood" Story by AI



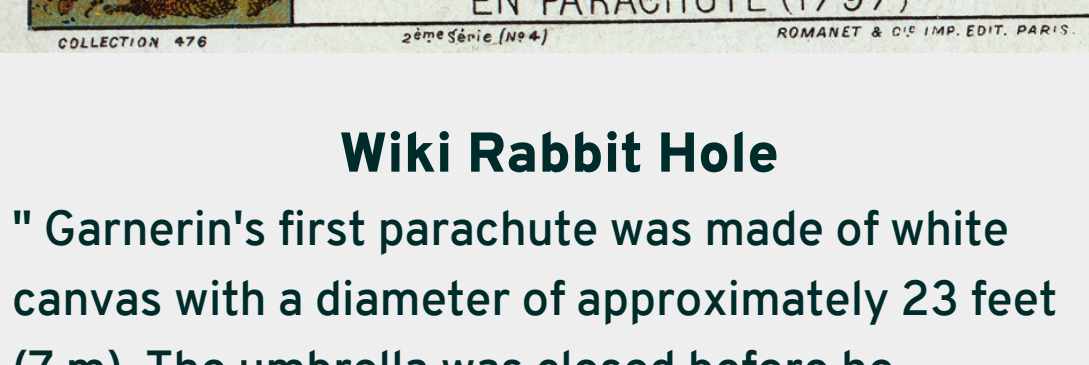
" Take heart! Not all is gloom! So far, generative AI chatbots don't seem able to reflect on what they're saying, though that in itself wouldn't differentiate them from some actual human beings. Also, they're bad at verbal texture, and they have a poor grasp of metaphor and sometimes even of punctuation. Well, they're learning from us, so why wouldn't that be true? "

So sleep well tonight, dear authors. Your vocation is safe from the pod people. At least for now. "

October 22, 1797

## André-Jacques Garnerin

### First parachute jump

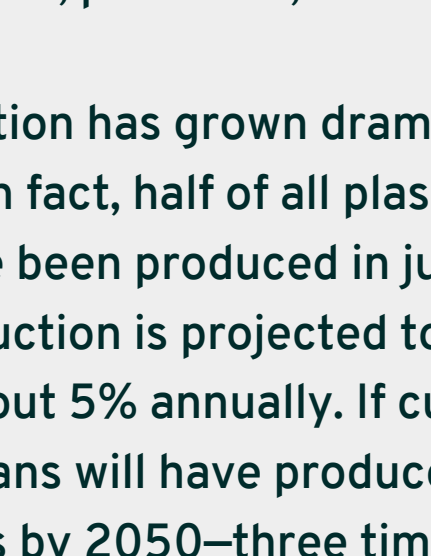


Wiki Rabbit Hole

" Garnerin's first parachute was made of white canvas with a diameter of approximately 23 feet (7 m). The umbrella was closed before he ascended, with a pole running down its center and a rope running through a tube in the pole, which connected it to the balloon. Garnerin rode in a basket attached to the bottom of the parachute; at a height of approximately 3,000 feet (1,000 m) he severed the rope that connected his parachute to the balloon. The balloon continued skyward while Garnerin, with his basket and parachute, fell. The basket swung violently during descent, then bumped and scraped when it landed, but Garnerin emerged uninjured. "

*Plastic in placentas*

## Think that your plastic is being recycled? Think again.

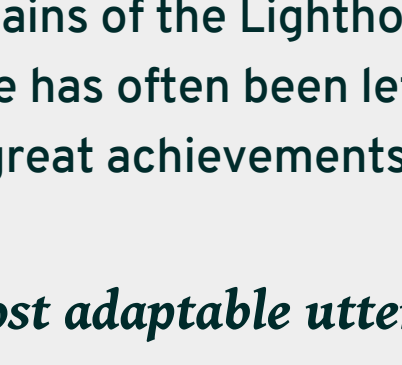


"In the past few years, scientists have found significant quantities of microplastics in the further reaches of the ocean; in snow and rainfall in seemingly pristine places worldwide; in the air we breathe; and in human blood, colons, lungs, veins, breast milk, placentas, and fetuses.

Plastic production has grown dramatically in recent years; in fact, half of all plastics in existence have been produced in just the last two decades. Production is projected to continue growing, at about 5% annually. If current trends continue, humans will have produced 34 billion tons of plastics by 2050—three times the current total. "

*Myths and memories*

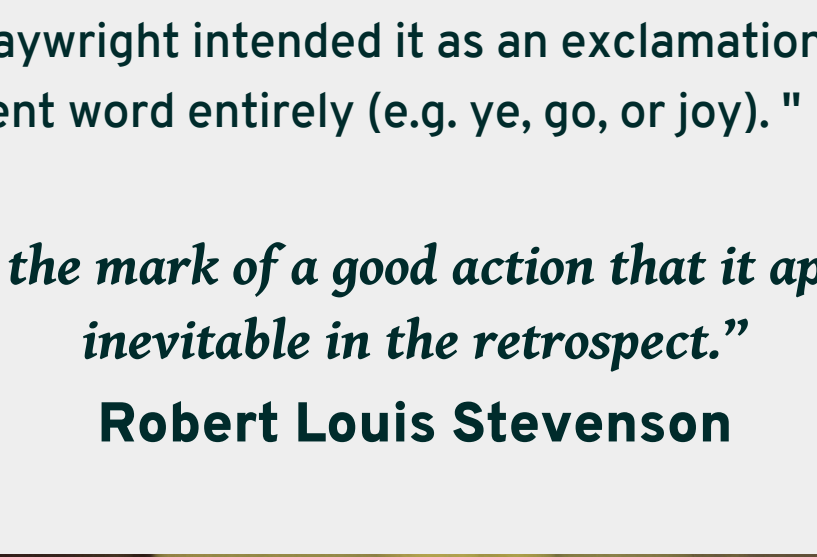
## What Happened to the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World?



" The idea of preserving the remnants of the past purely for the sake of preserving the past rather than for some continuing religious, practical, or political function is a surprisingly new idea. The notion that we would simply abandon the Empire State Building or the Eiffel Tower seems absurd to us, but countless people did that exact thing to their greatest works. Whether it's the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus or the ruined remnants of British castles, the vine-covered ruins of Chichen Itza or the sunken remains of the Lighthouse of Alexandria, time has often been left to take its toll on humanity's great achievements. "

*A most adaptable utterance*

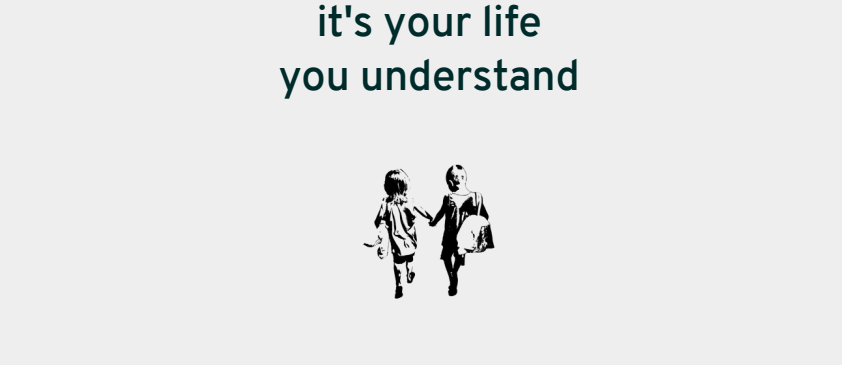
## The Surprisingly Long History of the Word 'Yo'



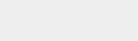
" The written record of our modern-day yo begins in the Late Middle Ages, when it started showing up in plays. Because translating Middle English isn't an exact science—spelling wasn't yet standardized, for one thing, and typos happened often—it's tough to say with certainty that every yo in these texts actually means, well, 'yo.' It's typically spelled io, 3o, yowe, or even jo, which leaves it up to each translator to suss out whether the playwright intended it as an exclamation or a different word entirely (e.g. ye, go, or joy). "

*"It is the mark of a good action that it appears inevitable in the retrospect."*

Robert Louis Stevenson



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