

BIOGRAPHY FROM
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS
LEGENDS, FOLKLORE, AND STORIES OF ANCIENT WORLDS

The Life and Times of

NOSTRADAMUS



Russell Roberts



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PUBLISHER’S NOTE: This story is based on the author’s extensive research, which he believes to be accurate. Documentation of such research is contained on page 47.

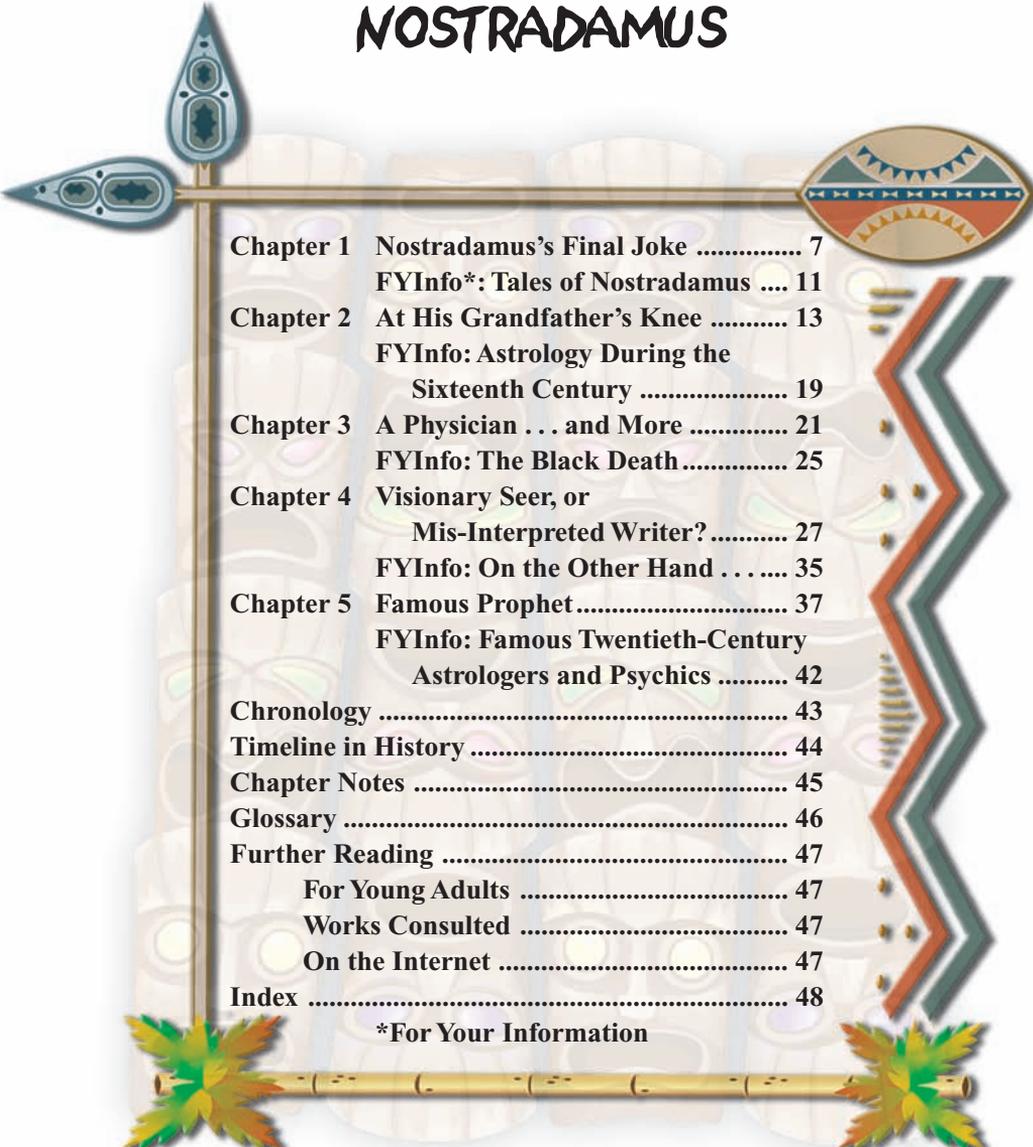
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To reflect current usage, we have chosen to use the secular era designations BCE (“before the common era”) and CE (“of the common era”) instead of the traditional designations BC (“before Christ”) and AD (*anno Domini*, “in the year of the Lord”).

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***For Your Information**



CHAPTER
ONE



NOSTRADAMUS'S FINAL JOKE

Night hung like a dark cloth in the old church, smothering even the faint light from the flickering candles. A group of men gathered around a section of wall were using shovels, pickaxes, and other tools to carefully chisel out pieces of brick, stone, and other materials. They were after something that was behind the wall.

Outside the church—the Church of the Cordeliers in southern France—an owl perched on a tree branch and hooted occasionally. Its strange tones echoed, adding to the eerie atmosphere. Shadows filled the aisles where, during the day, people came to pray. The men had brought lanterns with them to provide light so that they could see while they worked, but it was almost as if the darkness were . . . alive. It seemed to swallow the light as soon as it came out of the lamps, preventing it from properly illuminating the room.

What was that? Several of the men jerked their lanterns around, swinging them back and forth as they tried to pierce the inky darkness. What had made that noise? Was it a mouse, scampering away . . . or was it something else?

Nervously the men looked around. Sweat poured down their faces, for this was hot and hard work. Their clothes were dirty and

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stained with perspiration. The shadows thrown off by lantern light hugged the walls, dancing and twisting as the candle flames flared up and down. Superstitious all, the men glanced around as they worked, wondering who—or what—was hiding in the darkness, ready to pounce on them.

Suddenly there was a shout. One of the workers had broken through the thick wall. Quickly he and another man began pulling more bits of brick and stone away from the edge of the hole, making the opening larger. The others crowded around, anxiously peering into the hole. What was in there?

Some of the men jumped back. Several crossed themselves and mumbled a quick prayer. Their eyes grew wide, but they could see nothing except the odd, dancing shadows on the wall. The men's nervousness increased as their eyes drifted toward the hole in the wall once again.

There, standing upright inside the wall, just past the broken pieces of brick and stone, was a coffin. It had obviously been there for many years. Spiderwebs covered it, and some of its wood was soft and rotting from water damage.

The men resumed their task, expanding the hole in the wall until it was large enough for the coffin to fit through. Carefully they reached in and pulled it out, then laid it very gently on the floor of the church. Almost as one, the entire group of men stepped back, gazing silently at the wooden box and thinking about the person it contained.

It was the coffin of Nostradamus, one of the most famous prophets in history. According to his secretary, Nostradamus had asked “not to hear feet passing over him when he slept for the last time,”¹ so his body had been entombed standing upright inside the walls of this church.

Nostradamus had died on July 2, 1566—one hundred thirty-four years before his coffin was found. All that would be left inside the

coffin should be bones, a few wisps of hair, and possibly a few bits of clothing. Why, then, were the men so interested in getting the coffin out of its resting place within the church walls?

Indeed, who were these men? Were they grave robbers trying to find a secret document that was supposed to have been buried with Nostradamus? Legend said the document would explain how to interpret his famous predictions. Or were the men church officials merely trying to move the coffin of the celebrated seer to a new and better gravesite?

No one knows. But no matter who the men were, when they opened the coffin and viewed the skeletal remains of Nostradamus, they found no document or papers that revealed the secrets of his incredible predictions. However, something they did find astonished them. For around the neck of the skeleton hung a medallion that was inscribed with the date of that very year—1700. Nostradamus had predicted the exact year in which his tomb would be broken into . . . over a century before it happened!

Quickly the men put the coffin back and resealed the tomb. No one wanted to disturb any further the remains of a man who had somehow managed to gaze through the mists of time and see so far



Napoleon Bonaparte as emperor of France, World War II, people landing on the moon, and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Did Nostradamus see these events occurring from his vantage point hundreds of years in the past?

Chapter ONE



September 11, 2001, was the day of the worst terrorist attack on the United States in its history. Did Nostradamus peer through the mists of time and see it occurring?

predictions—nearly everyone wants to know the future—and Nostradamus’s fame grows even greater.

Who was this mysterious Frenchman who, centuries after his death, is more popular than ever? Could he really predict the future? Did he sift through the sands of time and see things occurring 100 . . . 200 . . . even 1,000 years into the future? Should we believe him?

into the future. How did he do it: luck, sorcery, even black magic? He was plainly not a person to be taken lightly—even in death.

Today the same thing remains true. Millions of people throughout the world are very serious about Nostradamus and his predictions, even though centuries have passed since his death. With each passing year, more and more evidence seems to indicate that Nostradamus predicted world events long before they happened. The rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte and Adolf Hitler . . . the French Revolution . . . wars . . . even the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, on New York City and Washington, D.C. People read his writings and are convinced that he predicted these occurrences. Then they turn to his other verses for even more

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