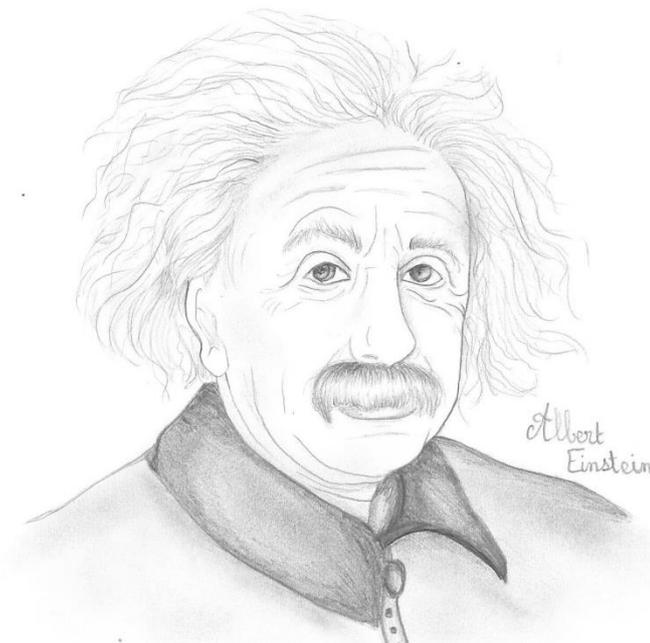


Back and forth

August 7th, 1945

Albert Einstein was reading his newspaper, like every morning, with his coffee. But the headlines weren't as cheerful as usual : he learned that Hiroshima had been bombed by the nuclear bomb the day before. Albert felt ill. He plunged back into his memories and remembered that he had worked on the nuclear reaction, which led to the invention of the nuclear bomb. He began to feel anxious and guilty, although he wasn't the one who invented the nuclear weapon. He began to imagine the worst : what if all countries got the nuclear weapon ? Humans would be able to kill each other ! All day, he thought about the disaster it may cause. He regretted his work. The next night, Albert had a bad nightmare : there were nuclear bombs everywhere, a true nuclear war ! He woke up with a start and wiped his forehead with his sweaty hand. He found a very crazy idea : he would go back in time to explain the future to himself, when he didn't begin his studies about the nuclear reaction, to warn himself.



It was a very ambitious idea and very complicated to achieve ! Albert started to do a lot of research in the biggest libraries of the world. He went to Alexandria in Egypt, "*the cradle of humanity*". Here he spent many days studying the old parchments, left by the old scholars. After he went to Morocco, he visited "*the Medina of Fes*", where the oldest library in the world was located. Following this research, he returned to America. And he began this tedious work.

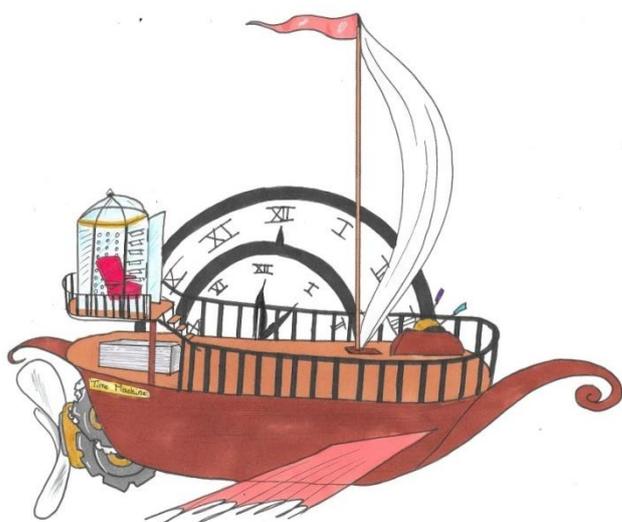
After long months and huge calculations, Albert finally completed his work : the first time machine was created ! It had a square form and was composed of many buttons, to regulate the hour, the day, and the date of the arrival.

He set the time machine in 1900, on March 11th, at 10am. After that he went in the machine and he pushed the button. The structure started to shiver and suddenly everything stopped. Albert lost consciousness ...

At the end of April 1860, London was covered with 20cm of snow, which gave it a magical side.

A man bent down with difficulty (his joints were sore) to pick up a letter. It came from the University of London; he was asked to come one last time to retrieve old belongings of his that had been found. "Another stupidity" he thought after briefly looking at its contents. But he decided to come anyway: he also wanted to see relatives of his who were staying in London.

He got up and turned away with a hip movement; he was Michael Faraday!!



The scientist returned to his country house and prepared for the trip. He arrived in London on March 6th and stayed there for 4 days. He decided to return home on March 11th. He had just left the city when a blue and red flash crossed the sky: a fuzzy shape was in the center.

Michael Faraday closed his eyes, the light became dazzling; when he opened his eyes again a large crate was there and a man stood in front of him.

A man came out of the machine, he looked like a very old man with his hair standing on his head, he seemed lost. He looked at his face and he was looking all around him. He asked Michael Faraday: What year is it? Michael seemed confused but he

said: "we are in 1860, like everybody". The old man shouted in surprise: "We are in 1860??". Michael introduced himself and kindly told him that he was in the London countryside, not far from his holiday home. He offered to spend a few days with him. But the old man fainted.

When Albert woke up, he was surrounded by two people: an elderly man and a young girl wearing a nurse uniform.

The man asked him how he felt and he told him what had happened in the last 6 hours. So he had taken him home and asked a nurse to look after him.

Albert introduced himself and while the nurse was finishing her exams, he explained to Michael that he went from the future to correct one of his mistakes (concerning the discovery of the nuclear reaction). However his time machine had a problem and he was here. So he asked Michael to help him.

The young nurse had finished her work, she went out and realized she had forgotten her briefcase. She went back into the house and heard Albert's voice. He was explaining to Michael how he had developed the time machine. The girl was very interested in science and she dreamed of becoming a scientist herself. But she was a girl, and at that time science was only for boys. She thought that the time travel story was amazing and that it was a great technological advance.

Albert explained to Michael that he did not know how to complete his mission. Michael had an idea : write a diary and hide it. So when Albert will be a child, he will find this diary and he won't talk about his discovery to the press. It was a very good idea, but Albert asked Michael: "But if the bad person found the diary, then it would be a disaster." Michael sighed, "I hadn't thought of that."

Then the young nurse behind the door had an idea. She knocked discreetly and explained to the two scientists that they could just write with a code. She explained that she knew a code. She used it to write letters to her friend (for fun). The two scientists looked at each other and accepted the idea. The girl was very happy for several reasons. Firstly, she was helping two very famous scientists, and secondly, she was meeting a person from the future. She asked Albert a question: "*Are girls in the future allowed to study science ?*" Albert told her that it would come with time and that she had to be patient. The code was a set of symbols and letters. After many hours of work, they reached the end. Now they had to hide the newspapers. So they went to Ulm in Germany (Albert's childhood town). Albert put the newspaper in a small wooden hut. When he was young he loved to hide in it to think.

Back at Michael's house, the two scientists and the young nurse began researching how to send Albert back into the future. The young woman's help was invaluable. She knew many formulas and physical principles. She had read dozens of books on general science. Michael helped a lot with his discoveries in electricity. And finally Albert already had the basis of the machine. The three of them managed to perfect the second time machine. After a few months the machine was finally ready. It was time for Albert to return to his own time. After many thanks, Albert climbed into the machine and felt the sensation of falling ...

In 1860, after this visit from Albert Einstein, Michael Faraday resumed his life as a scientist and the young nurse fulfilled her dream. She became a physics teacher. Later, she had a little daughter and she passed on her passion for physics. We know her little daughter by another name: Marie Curie.

Today, we know that Albert's mission has failed, because the young Albert lost the diary or didn't decode the secret message ...