1.

SALVE CASSIUS, I'M NOT SURE THAT MY STEP-FATHER, JULIUS, DESERVED THIS FATE. THERE HAVE BEEN WIMPERS FROM THE FURIES. THEN HE DID WANT TO BE KING AND YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I WHAT FATE AWAITS KINGS IN ROME. AM I THE LAST TRUE ROMAN OR WHAT? ANYWAY, GREECE IS BEAUTIFUL THIS TIME OF YEAR AND I NEED A BREAK. MY SPIES TELL ME THAT THEY'VE HAD THIS IDEA TO IMPROVE THE TOP SECURITY CIPHER. INSTEAD OF ENCODING WITH A STEP OF III OR IV, NOW THEY ENCODE WITH III XI XIV AND REPEAT IT OVER AND OVER UNTIL THE MESSAGE IS DONE. WHAT A LOT OF EXTRA WORK! NOT TO MENTION THAT MY SCRIBES CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT. MAY THE FURIES PURSUE THAT USURPER, ANTONY AND SLIMEY HIS LITTLE BRAT, OCTAVIAN. KISS ANTONIA FOR ME VALE, BRUTUS

AN INVERTED ALPHABET PROVIDES THE NEAT PROPERTY THAT YOU CAN ENCODE AND DECODE WITH THE SAME KEY. THE NORMAL CAESAR CIPHER FORMS A GROUP AND CAN BE SOLVED BY REPEATED ITERATION WITH ANY PRIME ELEMENT OF THE GROUP (E.G. A NUMBER RELATIVELY PRIME TO TWENTY-SIX, LIKE ONE OR THREE, BUT NOT TWO OR THIRTEEN). THE INVERTED ALPHABET CAESAR ALSO FORMS A GROUP, BUT IT TAKES TWO ITERATIONS TO GO THROUGH IT. THERE ARE VIGNERE-CAESAR AND VIGNERE-INVERTED-CAESAR CIPHERS IN THE EXAMPLES, SO BEWARE WHEN YOU TRY TO DECRYPT THEM. KAPPA WILL STILL WORK, BUT THE NEXT STEP WON'T. ANOTHER HINT, THE MORE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO SOLVE THE SYSTEM, THE BIGGER THE CIPHER MESSAGE.

2.

MY ADVENT ON MARS

I opened my eyes upon a strange and weird landscape. I knew that I was

on Mars; not once did I question either my sanity or my wakefulness. I

was not asleep, no need for pinching here; my inner consciousness told

me as plainly that I was upon Mars as your conscious mind tells you

that you are upon Earth. You do not question the fact; neither did I.

I found myself lying prone upon a bed of yellowish, mosslike vegetation

which stretched around me in all directions for interminable miles. I

seemed to be lying in a deep, circular basin, along the outer verge of

which I could distinguish the irregularities of low hills.

It was midday, the sun was shining full upon me and the heat of it was

rather intense upon my naked body, yet no greater than would have been

true under similar conditions on an Arizona desert. Here and there

were slight outcroppings of quartz-bearing rock which glistened in the

sunlight; and a little to my left, perhaps a hundred yards, appeared a

low, walled enclosure about four feet in height. No water, and no

other vegetation than the moss was in evidence, and as I was somewhat

thirsty I determined to do a little exploring.

Springing to my feet I received my first Martian surprise, for the

effort, which on Earth would have brought me standing upright, carried

me into the Martian air to the height of about three yards. I alighted

softly upon the ground, however, without appreciable shock or jar. Now

commenced a series of evolutions which even then seemed ludicrous in

the extreme. I found that I must learn to walk all over again, as the

muscular exertion which carried me easily and safely upon Earth played

strange antics with me upon Mars.

by the way, one of these ciphers is in AES as implemented in the cryptography

module (hazmat). The key is a common word iterated to fill 128 bytes

4.

'I'M AFRAID I AM, SIR,' SAID ALICE; 'I CAN'T REMEMBER THINGS AS I USED--AND I DON'T KEEP THE SAME SIZE FOR TEN MINUTES TOGETHER!' 'CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THINGS?' SAID THE CATERPILLAR. 'WELL, I'VE TRIED TO SAY "HOW DOTH THE LITTLE BUSY BEE," BUT IT ALL CAME DIFFERENT!' ALICE REPLIED IN A VERY MELANCHOLY VOICE. 'REPEAT, "YOU ARE OLD, FATHER WILLIAM,"' SAID THE CATERPILLAR. ALICE FOLDED HER HANDS, AND BEGAN:-- 'YOU ARE OLD, FATHER WILLIAM,' THE YOUNG MAN SAID, 'AND YOUR HAIR HAS BECOME VERY WHITE; AND YET YOU INCESSANTLY STAND ON YOUR HEAD-- DO YOU THINK, AT YOUR AGE, IT IS RIGHT?' 'IN MY YOUTH,' FATHER WILLIAM REPLIED TO HIS SON, 'I FEARED IT MIGHT INJURE THE BRAIN; BUT, NOW THAT I'M PERFECTLY SURE I HAVE NONE, WHY, I DO IT AGAIN AND AGAIN.' 'YOU ARE OLD,' SAID THE YOUTH, 'AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, AND HAVE GROWN MOST UNCOMMONLY FAT; YET YOU TURNED A BACK-SOMERSAULT IN AT THE DOOR-- PRAY, WHAT IS THE REASON OF THAT?' 'IN MY YOUTH,' SAID THE SAGE, AS HE SHOOK HIS GREY LOCKS, 'I KEPT ALL MY LIMBS VERY SUPPLE BY THE USE OF THIS OINTMENT--ONE SHILLING THE BOQ-- ALLOW ME TO SELL YOU A COUPLE?' 'YOU ARE OLD,' SAID THE YOUTH, 'AND YOUR JAWS ARE TOO WEAK FOR ANYTHING TOUGHER THAN SUET; YET YOU FINISHED THE GOOSE, WITH THE BONES AND THE BEAK-- PRAY HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO DO IT?' 'IN MY YOUTH,' SAID HIS FATHER, 'I TOOK TO THE LAW, AND ARGUED EACH CASE WITH MY WIFE; AND THE MUSCULAR STRENGTH, WHICH IT GAVE TO MY JAW, HAS LASTED THE REST OF MY LIFE.' 'YOU ARE OLD,' SAID THE YOUTH, 'ONE WOULD HARDLY SUPPOSE THAT YOUR EYE WAS AS STEADY AS EVER; YET YOU BALANCED AN EEL ON THE END OF YOUR NOSE-- WHAT MADE YOU SO AWFULLY CLEVER?' 'I HAVE ANSWERED THREE XUESTIONS, AND THAT IS ENOUGH,' SAID HIS FATHER; 'DON'T GIVE YOURSELF AIRS! DO YOU THINK I CAN LISTEN ALL DAY TO SUCH STUFF? BE OFF, OR I'LL KICK YOU DOWN STAIRS!'

7.

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| HISTORYOFBILLYTHEKIDACOWBOYOUTLAWWHOSEYOUTHFULDARINGHASNEVERBEENEQUALLEDINTHEANNALSOFCRIMINALHISTORYWHENABULLETPIERCEDHISHEARTHEWASLESSTHANTWENTYTWOYEARSOFAGEANDHADKILLEDTWENTYONEMENINDIANSNOTINCLUDEDBYCHASASIRINGOHISTORYOFBILLYTHEKIDTHETRUELIFEOFTHEMOSTDARINGYOUNGOUTLAWOFTHEAGEHEWASTHELEADINGSPIRITINTHEBLOODYLINCOLNCOUNTYNEWMEXICOWARWHENABULLETFROMSHERIFFPATGARETTSPISTOLPIERCEDHISBREASTHEWASONLYTWENTYONEYEARSOFAGEANDHADKILLEDTWENTYONEMENNOTCOUNTINGINDIANSHISSIXYEARSOFDARINGOUTLAWRYHASNEVERBEENEQUALLEDINTHEANNALSOFCRIMINALHISTORYBYCHASASIRINGOINTRODUCTIONTHEAUTHORFEELSTHATHEISCAPABLEOFWRITINGATRUEANDUNVARNISHEDHISTORYOFBILLYTHEKIDASHEWASPERSONALLYACQUAINTEDWITHHIMANDASSISTEDINHISCAPTUREBYFURNISHINGSHERIFFPATGARRETTWITHTHREEOFHISFIGHTINGCOWBOYSJASHEASTLEEHALLANDLONCHAMBERSTHEFACTSSETDOWNINTHISNARRATIVEWEREGOTTENFROMTHELIPSOFBILLYTHEKIDHIMSELFANDFROMSUCHMENASPATGARRETTJOHNWPOEKIPMCKINNIECHARLIEWALLTHECOEBROTHERSTOMOPHALLIARDHENRYBROWNJOHNMIDDLETONMARTINCHAVEZANDASHUPSONALLTHESEMENTOOKANA |
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