

Nostradamus Decoded – Core Predictions

This document refines Nostradamus’s **Les Prophéties** by distinguishing between the full set of 942 quatrains and the ~194 unique predictions hidden within them. Many verses are repetitions, variants, or deliberate obscurations. By filtering down to the true core, this version provides a clearer structure for study.

I. Context

Michel de Nostredame (1503–1566), known as Nostradamus, published **Les Prophéties** in 1555. It consists of 942 quatrains divided into ten Centuries. Century VII, however, contains only 42 quatrains, likely due to manuscript loss or deliberate omission. Roughly 194 quatrains represent unique, core predictions; the rest are repeats or scrambled variants.

II. Why Only ~194 Unique Predictions?

- 1. Repetition: About 20–25% of the verses are duplicates or near-identical restatements.
- 2. Obscuration: Nostradamus admitted to **raboutier obscurément**—to patch together obscurely—using rephrasing and cryptic scrambling.
- 3. Manuscript Gaps: Century VII’s missing verses suggest loss, censorship, or intentional concealment.

III. Literary & Cryptographic Tools

- Languages: French, Latin, Greek, Italian, Provençal.
- Wordplay: Anagrams, riddles, phonetic disguises.
- Astronomy: Celestial markers (eclipses, comets, conjunctions).
- Nonlinear Order: Quatrains shuffled to resist chronological interpretation.

IV. Thematic Categories of the 194 Unique Predictions

| Category | Approx. Number of Quatrains | Notes |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Wars & Political Upheaval | ~40 | Leaders slain, invasions, dynastic collapse, foreign kings crossing seas. |
| Plague, Famine, Disasters | ~35 | Pestilence, fires, droughts, floods, earthquakes, three days of darkness. |
| Celestial Events & Omens | ~25 | Solar eclipses, comets, planetary conjunctions tied to unrest. |
| Religious & Cultural Shifts | ~30 | Papal crises, schisms, new law from the East. |
| Technology & Future Visions | ~15 | Iron birds, fire from the sky, moving mountains (machines, bombs). |
| Ambiguous / Symbolic | ~50 | Allegories, mythic allusions, heavily coded verses. |

V. Why He Concealed the Core 194

- Survival: Prophecy was dangerous in 16th-century France; obscurity protected him.
- Legacy: Repetition inflated the volume, making his work seem larger, ensuring constant reinterpretation.
- Control of Meaning: Ambiguity allowed quatrains to remain flexible and 'applicable' to later events.

VI. Conclusion

Of the 942 quatrains, roughly 194 contain distinct material. The rest are deliberate echoes, obscurations, or structural padding. Recognizing this distinction enables more accurate categorization of Nostradamus's prophetic content and provides insight into his strategy of concealment and survival.