**Everything Is Possible**

## If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,

## nothing will be impossible for you.

## *(St. Matthew 17:20)*

## Jesus looked at them and said, For men this is impossible, but for God everything is possible. (St. Matthew 19:26)

**What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.**

***(St. Luke 18:27)***

**The eye has not seen and the ear has not heard**

**and the heart of man has not conceived**

**the things which God has prepared for those who love him.**

***(1 Corinthians 2:9)***

**I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.**

***(Philippians 4:13)***

## Only he who attempts the absurd is capable of achieving the impossible. (Miguel Unamuno) To achieve the impossible dream, try going to sleep. (Joan Klempner)

**Thirteen people have fallen out of airplanes with no means of slowing their descent and yet survived due to freakish landings that somehow broke their falls, according to research by a Massachusetts amateur historian. One of the survivors, World War II airman Alan Magee, was blown out of his B-17 over France, fell 20,000 feet, crashed through the glass ceiling of the Saint-Nazaire train station, and was alive when German soldiers found him. *(Popular Mechanics, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 19, 2010)***

## Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. (Muhammad Ali)

**True, you can put an alligator to sleep by rubbing its stomach. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Se-Quo-Yah (Cherokee): an Indian who could neither read nor write, invented the only written alphabet used by the North American Indians.  
(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Weird Inventions & Discoveries, p. 32)**

**The American statement, the statement that America makes to all the world is, “Yes you can. You can do it.” This is giving governments fits these days. Suddenly, as if by magic, people all over the world have awakened and have seen what America has done, and they say that they want more out of life. They want a better home. They want a better lifestyle. They want more education. They want a better world for themselves and for their children. And they want it now. And America is there saying to all the world, “Yes you can. You can do it.” *(Foster McClellan, Unity Minister)***

**Antarctica: Then I stumbled outside for a quick turn around the Stars and Stripes. It's not every day you can walk “around the world” before breakfast. (John Dyson, in Reader's Digest)**

**Anything is possible. Stay open, forever, so open it hurts, and then open up some more, until the day you die, world without end, amen. *(George Saunders)***

**Statisticians say 15 people a day are injured “by ashtrays,” but they don’t say how. (L. M. Boyd)**

**On February 12, 2001, the Near-Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (NEAR) Shoemaker spacecraft set down on the asteroid Eros, becoming the first human-made object to land on an asteroid. (The Daily Chronicle)**

**Until a few years ago it was considered impossible for any athlete to run the mile in less than four minutes. This was one of the ultimates attributed to athletes. Yet in 1954 Roger Bannister, a British medical student, ran the mile in 3:59. And, in the few years since no less than 16 different runners have run the mile in better than four minutes. He crossed the barrier, which was really a mental barrier, making it possible for others. (A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity)**

**The avalanche that swept down the north face of Mount St. Helens in May 1980 was large enough that it could have buried downtown Portland, Oregon, 40 stories deep! (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance)**

**Aztecs raised only turkeys and dogs for food, say historians. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Babies up to seven months old can breathe and swallow at the same time. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 42)**

**Ancient Arabians who bathed regularly were tax exempt. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 97)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*A hibernating bear can go as long as six months without a bathroom break. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 105)***

**The Grizzly bears have been trained to carry back packs, I’m told. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**In the Bible, a man by the name of Lot became the father of his own grandchildren. See Genesis 19:30-38. (E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts)  
The majority of migrating birds fly at altitudes of about 3,000 to 6,000 feet. But here again, Canada geese are impressive -- they have been detected by radar as high as 29,000 feet! (Country Magazine)**

**First man: “Why are you limping?” Second man: “I bit myself on the toe this morning.” First man: “How could you bite your toe?” Second man: “My dentures fell out in the shower.” (Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)**

**A Goodyear blimp weighs 12,000 pounds. But if you're reasonably strong, you can lift it. Its helium displaces all but 50 of those pounds. (L. M. Boyd)  
Terry King went blind after a shell burst in his face while he was in combat training for Vietnam. He lived near the water and had always longed for a cabin cruiser. Unable to afford one, he decided to build one himself. But how could a blind man build a boat? King found a volunteer from the Blind Service Association, Inc., who was willing to tape-record a book on boat building. After listening to the tape, Terry eventually managed to build a 33-foot cruiser in his back yard. Though he would always need someone to pilot it, he was happy, because building the boat was “the biggest challenge I could meet.” (Ardis Whitman, in Reader's Digest)**

**There are sixty-two thousand miles of arteries, veins, and blood capillaries in the human body. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 72)***

**In 1898, a professional boxer fought an amateur boxer in a match in Copenhagen. After the match, the amateur boxer accepted a glass of lemonade from the professional. The amateur was then banned from amateur boxing for having made “material gain” from a fight. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 42)**

**We are an impossibility in an impossible universe. (Ray Bradbury)**

**In the Kalahari Desert of Africa, women breast-feed their babies every 13 minutes -- releasing a hormone within them that stops pregnancy for two to three years! (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 202)  
The tricky elephant seal can hold its breath under water while it sleeps. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Sign in a General Motors plant: According to the theory of aerodynamics and as may be readily demonstrated through wind tunnel experiments, the bumblebee is unable to fly. This is because the size, weight and shape of his body in relation to the total wingspread make flying impossible. But the bumblebee, being ignorant of these scientific truths, goes ahead and flies anyway -- and makes a little honey every day. (Reader's Digest)**

**Bureaucracy is the art of making the possible impossible. *(Javier Pascual Salcedo)***

**A cherry tree planted in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as a single seedling produced both cherries and peaches. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!:Book of Chance, p. 144)**

**The Mormon Tabernacle Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, was built without any nails. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 64)**

**Most of life's problems are like cloverleaf exchanges on the highways. It may not seem like it at first, but there is a way out. (Bits & Pieces)**

**A government worker in Binghamton, N.Y., who had to stay at his desk during the recent massacre wants compensation for missing his lunch hour. Binghamton’s Department of Social Services building was locked down during the spree that left 14 dead, and employee James Kauchis has since demanded pay for his lost lunch hour. County Executive Barbara Fiala was flabbergasted. “A lot of people lost a lot more that day than just one hour,” she said. (The Week magazine, April 24, 2009)**

**The mind of man is capable of anything, because everything is in it -- all the past as well as all the future. (Joseph Conrad)**

**On April 6, 1935 the Amateur Athletic Union held a contest in Madison Square Garden. In the foul-shooting contest, Harold Levitt started heaving foul shots into the basket at seven o'clock. By midnight, he had dunked 499 consecutive free throws. (Bruce D. Witherspoon, in Astounding Facts, p. 338)**

**President Calvin Coolidge translated Dante's “Inferno” into English in his spare time. So the historical footnotes indicate. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other simultaneously. He always wrote backward so that one could only read his writing with a mirror. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 108)***

**Imagine what the headlines would be if scientists discovered a living dinosaur. “Impossible,” you say, “the dinosaurs that roamed Earth millions of years ago are all now extinct.” Are you so sure? Scientists were once absolutely convinced other species were long since extinct. Working their nets in waters off the coast of Africa one day in 1938 fishermen caught an unusual fish. It was 5 feet long and weighed over a hundred pounds, with ugly, gray-blue scales and strong, snapping jaws. Scientists investigated and said it looked exactly like fossilized remains of Coelacanths. This fish lived in the time of dinosaurs, millions of years ago, but no one believed they still existed. Soon, several more Coelacanths were found living deep in the pitch-black waters off the African coast. Who knows what else might be down there? (Clark/Long, Weird Facts, p. 3)**

**It's kind of fun to do the impossible. (Walt Disney)**

**When somebody tells you nothing is impossible, ask him to dribble a football. (Quoted in Founders Bank Newsletter)  
  
Two park rangers on patrol in central Norway’s Lierne region witnessed the unprecedented sight of an eagle swooping down and carrying off a bear cub nearly half of the bird’s weight. The rangers told public broadcaster NRK that the cub had been trotting along behind its mother before being snatched. Experts earlier said that bears have no natural predators. Torgeir Nygaard of the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research said the chances of an eagle snatching a bear were about as unlikely as “finding snow in the Sahara.” (Universal Press Syndicate, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, May 3, 2004)**

**A Chinese man can tow a car attached to his ears while tiptoeing over two lines of eggs. Zhang Xingquan of Jinli province drew a crowd of astonished onlookers when he demonstrated his talent, towing the car for about 60 feet without breaking a single egg. Zhang, who has been practicing the stunt since he was 8, can also pick up a bicycle with his mouth while standing on eggs. (The Week magazine, June 3, 2005)**

**Studies show that the best time to teach an earthworm tricks is shortly before midnight. (Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World , p. 72)  
African eels heading upstream even climb over dams. (L. M. Boyd)\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
A snapping turtle's egg bounces. Tell Kareem. (L. M. Boyd)**

**The epicenter of January’s earthquake in California was 20 miles from one of the largest egg farms in the United States, where hens had produced their usual one million eggs in the hours before the trembling began. Damage to the farm was a snapped water line and one broken egg. Said the manager to his employees: “We had a 6.6 earthquake that broke fewer eggs than we do when we’re working.” (Universal Press Syndicate)**

**Egg shells are very porous so water and gases like oxygen and carbon dioxide can pass in and out of the egg. (Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)**

**A trailer truck carrying 400 crates of eggs hit the Rhyne Bridge at Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1956. Damage to the truck and bridge was put at $6,000 – but not a single egg was broken. (Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 153)**

**Peruvians in 1610 made mortar with the whites of 10,000 eggs instead of water. They put together a structure that still stands – “The Bridge of Eggs.” (L. M. Boyd)**

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**How can a person go for eight days without sleep? They only sleep at night, not during the day. (The Daily Chronicle)  
  
At the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Nikola Tesla, regal in tails, gave nightly exhibitions, closing the performance by standing calm as one million volts of electricity coursed through his gaunt frame. (The Old Farmer's Almanac - 1995, p. 236)**

**Nothing is so embarrassing as watching someone do something that you said couldn't be done. (Sam Ewing, in Mature Living)**

**Some of the world's greatest feats were accomplished by people not smart enough to know they were impossible. (Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)**

**Without a parachute, a Russian survived a 21,980-foot fall from a damaged plane. Lieutenant I. M. Chisov fell on the steep side of a snow-covered mountain and slid to the bottom, breaking his pelvis and damaging his spine. (Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 420)  
  
In 1971, at Memorial Hospital in New York City, a woman weighing less than 100 pounds ran a fever of 114 degrees -- and survived without brain damage or physiological aftereffects. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts)  
After several practice fire drills, the employees of a northeastern company's regional office invited the fire chief and his staff to watch them go through a drill. With the ringing of the fire alarm, the 600 employees evacuated the four-story building in four minutes and ten seconds. Everyone was proud and pleased -- until the buzzer sounded quitting time that afternoon and someone timed that evacuation. This time the building was cleared in two minutes flat. (Bits & Pieces)**

**A pet fish is being blamed for starting a near-fatal house fire. Investigators believe the fire started when Kipper, an 8-inch-long catfish, got into a territorial altercation with another fish. The vigorous scuffle caused water to slosh out of the aquarium into an electrical plug, starting a fire that engulfed a nearby couch, and soon the entire house. “At least we are here to tell the tale,” said home-owner Sharron Killahena of Poole, England, who escaped with her two children. (The Week magazine, May 26, 2006)**

**In a watery ocean big enough to float Saturn, Saturn would float. (L. M. Boyd)**

**When Henry Ford wanted to get unbreakable glass for his cars, he wouldn’t see any of the experts. They knew too many reasons why it couldn’t be done. He said, “Bring me the eager young person who doesn’t know the reasons why unbreakable glass cannot be made.” He got unbreakable glass. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 253)***

**It was a company joke that had been tried on every embryonic engineer since the electric light was scarcely a gleam in Edison’s eye. The service engineer would be assigned the “impossible” task of frosting electric light bulbs on the inside. A new engineer at General Electric, Marvin Pipkin, was put through the usual routine. Not being aware that it was a joke, he discovered a way not only to frost bulbs on the inside, but also to etch the glass with soft, rounded pits which gave the bulbs added strength and affected a maximum diffusion of the light. Fortunately no “wise guy” told Marvin Pipkin that he had been assigned the impossible, so he went ahead and did it. *(Derric Johnson, in The Wonder of America, p. 136)***

**Rocky Mountain goats can climb up cliffs which are almost vertical. Tough pads on their hooves act as suction cups, and stop them from slipping on the steep rocks. (The Usborne Book of Facts & Lists: Omnibus Edition)**

**Mount Erebus, the only active volcano in Antarctica, spews crystals of pure gold when it erupts. The microscopic particles are too fine and widely dispersed to harvest. (Barbara Seuling)**

**At the Port Royal Golf Course in Bermuda on March 27, 1975, twenty-one year old Joe Flynn recorded the lowest 18 hole score ever, an 82. If you think those statistics might not be up to par, Flynn’s 18 hole mark was for throwing the ball. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 70)**

**Every great achievement was once impossible. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**When Hannibal invaded Italy, in the third century B.C., his military engineers employed fire and vinegar to smash a path through the Alps. The engineers heated immovable rocks with blazing logs, then poured vinegar over the rocks. The rocks split into fragments that could be pushed aside. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 259)***

**Is it possible that the ground in the Arctic can get as much heat from the sun during one day as the ground along the Equator? Tavern types win small wagers with this one, too. Answer is yes -- in the summer – because of the long Arctic day. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Meg F. Quijano relates the following incident that happened upon her return from a meeting of the National Organization for Women. Her five-year-old daughter, Lisa, greeted her with the news that when she grew up she wanted to be a nurse. There was a time when nursing was thought by many to be a “woman's job.” Quijano told Lisa she could be anything she wanted to be. “You can be a lawyer, a surgeon, a banker, President of the United States -- you can be anything.” Lisa looked a little dubious. “Anything? Anything at all?” She thought about it, and then her face lit up with ambition. “All right,” she said. “I'll be a horse.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**The impossible: what nobody can do until somebody does. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Nothing is improbable until it moves into the past tense. (George Ade, writer)**

**The Indians of Tierra del Fuego, at the southern tip of South America, near Antarctica, wore no clothes to protect themselves from the sleet-filled air and icy waters. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 79)  
A Colorado man who was run over while helping two elderly women cross a road has been ticketed for jaywalking. Jim Moffett, 68, was hit by a truck when he ran to assist the two women shuffling across a busy intersection. Moffett is now in intensive care with internal injuries – and a $22 jaywalking ticket. “We understand Mr. Moffett was doing something with great intentions,” said Trooper Ryan Sullivan, “but it was still dangerous for anyone to be in the road.” (The Week magazine, March 6, 2009)  
  
Jesus crossed the “mortality barrier” where for centuries man had thought of himself as “born in sin and shaped in iniquity.” He bridged the gap between man's mortality and his potential divinity, and thus, for all time he became the “wayshower”, the “saviour”, the bridge over which all may pass in “putting on the Christ.” (A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity)**

**It is impossible to keep a straight face in the presence of one or more kittens. (Cynthia E. Varnado)  
6 people who spoke several languages:  
1. District Court Judge John Pickering -- 20  
2. Friedrich Engels -- 8  
3. John Adams -- 7  
4. Jean Paul Getty -- 7  
5. Edgar Allen Poe -- 6  
6. Christopher Columbus -- 4. (World Features Syndicate)  
As many as four trillion watts of laser light can be generated in the Argus in a billionth of a second -- the equivalent of six times the power produced in the same time span by all the electrical power plants in the United States. (Lee Edson, in Reader's Digest)**

**“E” is the most commonly used letter in the English language, but not in Ernest Vincent Wright’s book. The author wrote a 50,000 word novel, Gadsby, without using the letter at all. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 87)**

**Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way. (Abraham Lincoln)**

**A large maple tree cut down by E. J. Webb, Jr., of Statesville, North Carolina, had a wild cherry tree 20 feet high growing inside its hollow trunk! (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 144)  
The 1922 champion marbles shooter, Bud McQuade, hit his target marble, but broke it in half. The judges ruled he'd have to knock the second half out of the ring, too. He got it on the next shot. (L. M. Boyd)**

**A moment exists within each of us in which context suddenly shifts. And what has seemed impossible becomes possible, an instant in and out of time when we take responsibility for the world and what it could be. *(George Leonard)***

**The workout that the average adult gives his muscles each day is equivalent to loading 24,000 pounds from the ground onto a four-foot-high shelf. (Barbara Seuling)**

**If the Alps had looked as formidable to Napoleon as they did to his advisors, he would never have attempted crossing them in midwinter.  But he displayed the focus of his consciousness when he said, “There shall be no Alps!” He wasn’t denying their existence, only their impassibility. *(Eric Butterworth, in Spiritual Economics, p. 68)***

**On March 29, 1848, the Niagara Falls froze solid, stopping the flow of the tremendous Niagara Falls. For a few hours, locals were able to walk along the riverbed upon which the falls cascade. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 11)***

**Jockey Leo Cecil broke his nose when thrown by a horse during spring training at Arlington Downs, Texas, in March 1937. Three weeks later the same horse threw him again -- and his nose was reset by the fall!  
(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 206)  
England's Queen Anne (1665-1714) outlived all of her seventeen children. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 11)  
Ecuadorian artist Manual Andrata has become famous in certain circles by painting pictures on grains of rice and heads of pins with hairs plucked from the back of his hands. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Among the items the U.S. Patent Office has in its files, is a toilet lid lock (U.S. Patent 3,477,070) to prevent unauthorized access to the toilet. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 33)**

**Some of the better piano players are said to get 200 different sounds out of one piano key, depending on finger stroke and foot pedal. (Boyd's Curiosity Shop, p. 144)**

**With sufficient thrust, pigs fly just fine. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**The planet Saturn, like some others, is made up primarily of liquids or gasses and is less dense than water. If you placed it in a bathtub – a very big bathtub – it would float. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 104)**

**Try picturing a presidential candidate campaigning on a platform promoting rural life and good liquor. In 1840, the William Henry Harrison-John Tyler ticket campaigned -- and won -- with the slogan: “Log Cabin and Hard Cider.” (L. M. Boyd)  
An eighteenth-century German named Matthew Birchinger, known as “the little man of Nuremberg,” played four musical instruments including the bagpipes, was an expert calligrapher, and was the most famous stage magician of his day. He performed tricks with the cup and balls that have never been explained. Yet Birchinger had no hands, legs, or thighs, and was less than 29 inches tall. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 122)  
Jose Luis of La Roda, Spain -- was stricken with pneumonia 32 times--and each time recovered without the use of penicillin. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!)  
The Royal Canadian Mounted Police do in Canada what is done here by the FBI, the Secret Service, the Border Patrol, the highway patrol, the local police--and even in part, the CIA. (L. M. Boyd)  
  
During the building of the Central Pacific portion of the transcontinental railway over the Sierras, three locomotives and forty cars were dismantled and hauled over the mountains on sledges and logs, a feat comparable with the crossing of the ice-clad Alps by Hannibal and his armored elephants. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 287)**

**So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable. (Christopher Reeve)**

**In 1916, Jones Wister of Philadelphia invented a rifle for shooting around corners. It had a curved barrel and periscopic sights. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 150)  
At latitude 60 degrees south it is possible to sail clear around the world without touching land. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 55)***

**Knowledge of what is possible is the beginning of happiness. (George Santayana)**

**When a distinguished and elderly scientist says that something is possible, he's almost certainly correct; when he says something is impossible, he's very possibly wrong. (Arthur C. Clarke)**

**An instrument developed at the University of Arizona by Dr. Frank Low for taking temperature readings of distant planets was so sensitive it was capable of detecting a lit cigarette ten thousand miles away. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 65)***

**People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it. (George Bernard Shaw)**

**Charles M. Schwab, on leave from his job as chairman of the board of Bethlehem Steel, performed great production “miracles” in the last year of World War I. When he was director-general, the U.S. Shipping Board's Emergency Fleet Corporation once launched a hundred vessels on a single day. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 289)  
Claim is the mammal with the keenest sense of smell is the polar bear. It's known they have sniffed their way home over unfamiliar territory from 300 miles away. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Thanks to an unusual combination of weather patterns last week, 49 states were at least partially covered by snow. Hawaii was the sole exception. (Associates Press, as it appeared in *The Week magazine, February 26, 2010)***

**So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible. (*Norton Juster. children's writer)***

**Sound carries so well in the Arctic that, on a calm day, a conversation can be heard from 1.8 miles away. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 61)***

**A species of sponge, called the Red Sponge, can be pushed through a piece of fabric so it is broken into thousands of tiny pieces. The animal does not die. Rather, all the pieces reassemble until the sponge returns to its original form. *(Absolute Trivia Web site, as it appeared in Catholic Digest)***

**Our world of today revolves completely around things which at one time couldn't be done because they were supposedly beyond the limits of human endeavor. Don't be afraid to dream! (Joseph Strauss)  
To watch a sunrise in the west would not be the news break of the century. Westbound jet pilots see that all the time. (L. M. Boyd)**

**The human body can survive three minutes without oxygen, three days without water, and three weeks without food. *(Barbara Seuling, in You Can’t Sneeze with Your Eyes Open, p. 4)***

**A prisoner in a German jail, serving a six-year sentence for robbery, used his teeth to escape. He gnawed away at the wooden bars of his cell until he could squeeze out. Alas, although he chewed his way to freedom, he was caught and put in jail again – this time behind iron bars. *(Barbara Seuling, in You Can’t Sneeze with Your Eyes Open, p. 17)***

**They say nothing is impossible, but how do you get off a mailing list? (The Rotarian)**

**In the last five years thieves have stolen, among other things, a small railway station, a fifty-ton crane, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of big earth-movers, bulldozers, etc., huge trucks, a bridge, seventy tons of paving stones from a street still very much in use, 15,000 books from the New York Public Library all in one haul, and an old steam locomotive. By George, some folks are just plain crooks. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 9)**

**In 1859, French acrobat Blondin (born Jean Francois Gravelet) crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope as 5,000 spectators watched. (Associated Press)**

**If a deaf person understands the physics of sound, he or she can tune a lute, a viol, a spinet, or any stringed instrument. The sound made by a vibrating string depends on its length, its mass, and how much it is stretched. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 381)**

**In the sixth century B.C., a half-mile tunnel was dug on the Aegean island of Samos under the supervision of the Greek architect Eupalinus. Though the tunnel was started at both ends and worked toward the middle, the two halves met only a couple of feet off center; it was a stunning achievement in those days. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 170)**

**It’s possible for a woman to bear twins, each of whom is the offspring of a different father; medical men agree to that. Twins have been born as much as a month apart. *(L. M. Boyd, in Boyd’s Book of Odd Facts, p. 3)***

**The impossible is often the untried. (Jim Goodwin, in Graham, Texas, Rotary "Scandal Sheet")**

**If the world should blow itself up, the last audible voice would be that of an expert, saying it can’t be done. (Peter Ustinov, actor)**

**During the thousands of years since Florida rose from the sea, hurricanes have torn loose vegetation, including tree branches, from Cuba, swirled them high over the Gulf Stream, and deposited them battered but alive at random over the southeastern part of the United States. Thus West Indian mahogany, gumbo limbo, poisonwood, and cocoplum, all native to the tropics, are found growing on the U.S. mainland. (Isaac Asimov)  
  
Among the cleverest historical wagers was that made by Cleopatra of Egypt, with her lover Marc Antony. The crafty “serpent of the Nile” bet the Roman general that she could drink 10 million sistertia ($500,000) worth of wine before leaving the table. Antony rose to the bait, losing the wager when Cleopatra dropped two pearls, valued at the agreed-upon sum, into a glass of wine, which she then drained. (Denver P. Tarle)**

**Certainly you can lift 100 pounds of water. Or more. You do so every time you stand up. (L. M. Boyd)**

**A tsunami, a giant sea wave , struck the port of Arica in Peru (now Chile) on August 8, 1868, lifted a ship, the U.S.S. Wateree, carried it on its crest three miles up the coast and two miles inland, and deposited it in the middle of the desert, just feet from the Andes Mountains. (Barbara Seuling)**

**Give the American people a good cause, and there’s nothing they can’t lick. (John Wayne)**

**Thin girls used to write to Ladies’ Home Journal for advice on how to gain weight. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 120)**

**Bowhead whales can sing two notes at a time. Imagine that! One whale makes a duet. (L. M. Boyd)  
Claim is that scientists now can open a bottle of vintage wine and test it to figure out fairly accurately what the weather was like where and when its grapes were growing. (L. M. Boyd)**

**It is possible to fly without motors, but not without knowledge and skill. (Wilbur Wright)  
The twentieth president of the United States, James A. Garfield, could write classical Greek with his left hand and classical Latin with his right--at the same time. (Barbara Seuling)  
Never tell a young person that anything cannot be done. God may have been waiting for centuries for somebody ignorant enough of the impossible to do that very thing. (John Andrew Holmes, in Wisdom in Small Doses)**

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