

If you have read "The Jentacular Experience" and "Holiday of a Lifetime", the two bonus stories from "1001 Nights in the Trans-Arabian Corporation's Boardroom", then this explanation of the messages contained in the bonus stories may be useful to you.

The Jentacular Experience

The whole point of this story is there is a difference between intelligence and the 'street smarts' needed to manage a business or a career.

Snorky and his friends are obviously really bright. They revel in it. It becomes their point of difference, and the public go along with it.

Derek displays his craftiness early. By taking the opposite tack to the market, you leverage your opposition's strength as a weakness. He does this with his simple menu and names.

If you're opening the second pizza bar in the district, and the other one has splashed all over it "Delivered in 30 minutes or it's free" you could go with "Our quality hand-made pizzas can't be rushed. Allow 35 minutes for delivery". Who wouldn't wait 5 more minutes – even though that's not necessarily the case – for a better pizza?

So Snorky and crew are intelligent, and quite wise beyond their years. They do have a level of street smarts as well. The reason that Derek gets a win over them is not just because he is rat-cunning; it's because they don't think he's smart enough to match wits with them.

I guess the main message is that having the smartest general and/or the biggest army doesn't always win the battle. Sometimes it's better planning, more flexibility and adaptability, or just taking advantage of a slice of luck.

Credit where credit is due. Take a bow, Anu Garg. It's amazing how much I enjoy Anu's Word a Day emails I get (see my links page), and getting "Jentacular" and "Lexiphane" a week apart were really the genesis for this story.

This story is not in the book because I wrote it a little later than the book.

Holiday of a Lifetime

In the story of *The Time Machine* in *1001 Nights in the Trans-Arabian Corporation's Boardroom*, Winner Foubert says "Time travel is not all about paradoxes and being your own Grandfather", and this led me to consider a story where time travel was about those things.

However this story did not make it into the book, because it got away from me.

It was conceived as a story about Sam, who invented time travel, but then undersold his achievement because he thought people might not believe him.

But then I started writing the story about why the family wanted to visit the ancestor, and that story was, frankly, much more dramatic. It was supposed to be a paragraph, it became bigger than any

single element. So I think it's a great story; it just doesn't have many pearls of wisdom hidden in its depths. Don't go looking, it ain't there.

The character of the Capitano is a bit of a laugh. It's been pointed out to me that the police get a bad run in the book – the wheelbarrow full of doughnuts in *In Search of the Perfect Egg and Chips* and the Chief Of Police in *Bringing Badgers Back*.

This is not intentional (Honestly, Officer!). The police are just a bit like New Zealand, quite a convenient scapegoat for jokes about bad management or bad weather to lighten the stories up. I have the greatest respect for both!