

Contrived.

The man received a text message about a meteor shower, a rather mundane subject, but the text message included exact times and directions to look.

This caused the man to reflect on how life now seemed contrived, rather than simply living and experiencing each day as it arrived.

For him, the wonder and joy of present-time living seemed to have been supplanted by being informed in advance of what would happen.

He remembered working in a field in northern England decades earlier when the sunny day steadily grew dark. He was confused until he looked up and saw the moon eclipsing the sun. He needed to work, but he often glanced skyward, and he continued doing so until the eclipse ended.

As he reflected, he remembered the past was decades ago, and the present was now.

Now did not exist in his past; his past existed only in his memory.

A feeling of conviviality now supplanted his earlier conviction that life was contrived: all he needed to do was to live as he did before. Before was before computers, or BC as he called it.

In 1970BC, there was no advance notice of the eclipse, just as there isn't now for those people who don't check for or receive advance notices.

The man smiled as he remembered that, while he could not control external influences, he could control how they affected him.

He accepted the difference between contrived and convivial and was happy.