
The stopwatch

The story of the stopwatch was told to me by my father Cees. He is Dutch but has been living abroad for several years. In 1999 he resided in Venezuela. At that time he was fifty-six years old. He had found a job in the timesharing business on Isla de Margarita. Tourism was flourishing on the island so it wasn't difficult to find a job. On the day of this amazing story my father had made a deal with a client. Although the contract hadn't been signed yet he insisted on an advance at the management of the hotel. They finally decided to give him one hundred dollars.

My father took a stroll along the streets and was very happy with the money. He had been living on a low budget for some time so he promised to buy himself a present. He bought a nice digital watch from a street vendor and went back to the hotel.

The watch had several functions including a stopwatch. Walking along the swimming pool of the hotel my father played with the stopwatch. He was playing a well-known game. He pressed the start button of the stopwatch, waited for 10 seconds and then pressed the stop button to see if it stopped at exactly 10.00 seconds. He was training his accuracy.

After a while my father went to the bar for a cup of coffee. Someone started talking to him so he forgot about the stopwatch. When he had finished his cup of coffee he decided to take a stroll along the lobby. He suddenly realized the watch was still running, so he pressed the stop button. At that moment an attractive young woman came into the hotel. She looked around and took a seat near the fireplace. My father wanted to get in touch with her so he walked to the fireplace, presented himself and took a seat.

Her name was Conny. This surprised my father because Conny also is the name of my mother, his first wife. Conny had come to Isla de Margarita to organize a conference for marketeers. They got along pretty well. Their conversation was friendly and intimate. Cees and Conny talked about several matters. Then Conny asked my father about his star sign. He told her his sign was Libra and that he was born on October 13th, 1943. She replied her sign was Gemini and that she was born on the 26th of May, 1964.

My father reacted as struck by lightning. He took his watch from his wrist, gave it to Conny and told her to press the button of the stopwatch function. On the digital screen appeared six numbers. 26 minutes, 5 seconds and 64 milliseconds: 26.05.64.