

The Cutting Edge

a. { The story is told of a notorious medicinal sword so sharp it could sever a ^{standing} man's head from his body ~~and~~ yet leave it as if untouched. Absurd?

May be, but it is possible that a blade could be so thin, sharp and strong as to cut the flesh of man and yet allow the healing to occur ^{scarlessly} in minutes because the tissue damage ~~would be~~ so slight. ~~Creating the healed wound visibly scarless?~~

Unconsciously Don Crabtree had been doing this to himself for the largest part of his life. ~~he~~ ^{tried as a boy} ~~he~~ ^{might have} chipped away at learning how primitive man made arrowheads. Hundreds, if not thousands of pounds of ^{extremely} sharp flakes of flint, glass, obsidian, ~~and~~ quartz and simulated Indian artifacts had passed through his hands: ^{many cutting him} ~~as they passed over~~ ^{all ready made} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~year~~ ^{year} ~~through~~ ^{through} his never slowed him in his quest to understand and produce duplicates of the finest of Indian artifacts. The cuts healed ~~even~~ as he continued the work in hand. ~~that was convenient~~ ~~so he continued~~ ~~his quest~~ ~~interrupted~~ ~~only~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~need~~ ~~to~~ ~~earn~~ ~~enough~~ ~~money~~ ~~to~~ ~~live~~ ~~on~~ ~~and~~ ~~he~~ ~~interrupt~~ ~~his~~ ~~activity~~ ~~for~~ ~~long~~ ~~periods~~ ~~perhaps~~ because of the growing frequency of surgical operations on him to remove blood clots focussed Don's attention on cutting, healing ^{and} the relative sharpness of blades, and especially the unique example his scarless and fast-healing hands represented.

Or it may have been the influence of his growing knowledge of Mayan/Incan/Aztec surgery. At any rate there was a confluence of facts and ideas which had him both diligently trying to make sixteen inch

→
Simultaneous
heart attack,

a. 24.14.9.1

Ca. 24.14.92.

adequate training and experience may correct this shortcoming.
 deny. Both doctor and taxidermist seem to believe that
 easily through one kind of tissue as another and steel knives
 he "didn't know where he was" because the ^{stone} knives cut as
 knives. However, his comment, like the surgeon's was that
 in half the time he said he would have needed using steel
 a bear. On that occasion the taxidermist did the job
 he persuaded a taxidermist to use his stone knives in skinning
 knowledge gained by Don about fifteen years ago - when
 (and no knowledge of the ~~fact~~ ^{fact} this added to the

rounding skin scars.
 surrounding skin and ~~cut~~ one shade of pink off ~~of~~ the skin
 scarcely visible about as wide as a silk thread, flush with the
 the typical tan, mixed scar while the stone knife scar was
 and the stone-knife caused scars. The scalpel offered
 it ~~is~~ ^{is} guide apparent ^{is} ~~now~~ ^{is} ~~different~~ ^{is} the scalpel-caused
 to tell how rapidly any part of the wound healed, but
 it was done and then recovered nicely. ~~The~~ ^{Although no one is}
 would use it for a part of the surgery only.

to remove a blood clot from Don's lung. That is to say, he
 then agreed to try one of Don's knives in the ~~same~~ ^{same} surgery
~~the~~ surgery ~~to~~ ^{to} keep Don alive ~~for~~ ^{for} making
 (a) Finally the surgeon who had ^{been} performing the

but all were met with skepticism if not blunt dissection.
 blades and large blades - of glass, stichian, and blunt
 extremely sharp stone knives. He ^{had} ~~had~~ ^{been} ~~like~~ ^{like}
 surgeons and scalpel manufacturers to use his ^{prepared and} ~~stone~~ ^{stone}
 also spending as much time trying to persuade
 stichian knife blades as the Oncans had done and

V

3.

The tale or fable at the start of this piece leads one to imagine that, ^{part of the absurdity is because} cutting bone is just not possible in the same sense that flesh is. Perhaps we forget those artists that do bone carving although we are well aware of how bone usually breaks rather than being cut by impact with bludgeon knife or sword. It is further noted

that the electron microscopist ^{open} uses a straight broken edge of glass or diamond, ^{to cut very thin slices of tissue bone & teeth for micro study} and the angle of the broken edge is not far from 90°. ^{so} to cut thin sections of tissue and bone - even teeth for microscopic study. The process is like but far more demanding than ^{knife} slicing of bologna.

Ca. 24.14.9.3

The Cutting Edge

Stories of Medieval Knights' feats ^{of strength, bravery and} and ^{of honor} quests with lance, sword and dagger have excited ~~the~~ ^{the} world's young and not so young for most of the last thousand years. The literary world celebrates these stories as the original romances or romantic novels.

Many feats of strength, bravery, honor or conquest were outright feats of magic - an innovation over the Greco-Roman practice of invoking a god.

Outline The sharpness of blades ancient and present
The taxidermist's "test"
The surgeon's "test"
The patient who requested the surgical test

The shaping of arrow heads
The use of fire and water
The use of wooden, bone, horn hammers
The use of pressure tools, bone, copper, etc.
The finding of "flint"
The working of flint
The heat-treating of flint
The "winter" search for recognition
The spring and summer of recognition
The fall of recognition and its honors
The winter of still broader recognition
Last Requests and experiments

The town of Tarr Falls
People of Tarr Falls
The countryside of T. F.
Snake River - Canyon
Farms

Loren Eiseley

The Endless Journey
Threshing Hours