

The Time-Travelling Criminal

If you found a bag full of money lying in front of you, what would you do? Some would take it for themselves although others would ignore it. Honestly, I just thought that it was litter. As soon as I picked it up, I felt a hand upon my shoulder and turned to see a policeman waiting to arrest me. In an instant, everything disappeared. When I opened my eyes, I was shocked to see that I had travelled back through time into the Anglo-Saxon era.

A huge, hairy man, who was dressed in fine linen, told me my sentence.

"You must carry a red-hot iron bar for nine paces. Only then will you be acquitted of your crime."

Terrified, I held my hands out. The bar glowed with searing heat, so I bit my lip ready for the pain. But, when my hand touched the metal, everything disappeared and I found myself propelled forwards in time to Tudor Britain. This time a tall, thin gentleman, who looked extremely stern, read my sentence.

"You are a rogue and a vagabond. To pay for your crime, you shall walk home from here, being whipped the whole way."

Horrified, I started walking. I heard a loud crack of the whip behind my back. As soon as it made contact, everything disappeared and I found myself thrust ahead to Georgian Britain. I was standing in the middle of a street, the bag of money dangling from my hand.

"He's a thief. Get him!" a shrill voice shouted to a Charley, a man paid to protect the streets and capture criminals. Luckily, I was able to sprint away but my foot landed on a cracked paving slab. Immediately, everything disappeared and I was driven onward in time. I found myself back in 2024, in a courtroom. An old judge, wearing a long black gown on his back, read my sentence.

"You are guilty of stealing money. As it has been returned, I sentence you to...200 hours of community service. You shall help educate children of the perils of stealing."

Relieved, I accepted my punishment.

If I had left the money, then I would never have found myself in this mess.

366 words

Should be 300-350