



YES, MA, IT'S POSSIBLE!

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

We live in a modern era where messages are no longer carried by the wind as smoke signals but as electrical or digital impulses that literally travel at the speed of light. You can Bluetooth anything, as long as they're in compatible packets or frameworks.

When my son Bluetooth-ed a song I'd heard from his phone that I liked years ago (when I still had a cellular phone, he!he!), he was laughing at how awed I was upon getting the song on my phone in mere seconds. "Yes, ma, it's possible!" If truth be told, it's been a long time since I last handled a cellular phone. My one and only phone was commandeered by my son several months back when his newer, feature-packed one decided to, well, write 30. There's just no beating the old models of the modern era of cellular devices: fewer features but definitely hardier.

Anyways, the modern era has seen a rapid succession of technological advancements: tablets with LCD's and touch screens, a far cry from the stone ones that Moses was given for the Ten Commandments; phone applications on technological devices such as laptops, where before, phone applications had lain piled one atop the other because the service areas were impossible to reach; role-playing games that could be played among gamers from all over the globe, where before, role-playing had been confined to "You play the big sister and I play the little sister. Let's have a tea party." ; and phone cameras that could capture an entire movie at the cinema, where before, cameras used to literally spout smoke after a picture had been taken. It's a wonder how the photographers back then didn't die early of lung cancer!

We must acknowledge the efforts of many Tech giants that have produced and continue to produce a wide array of technological conveniences that astound us to no end. The arms race has been replaced by the electronics and technological race. Companies are suing each other, all in the name of one-upmanship. Such bickering creates confusion as to who built what first, but the advantage is passed on to the consumer: competition breeds better products and ultimately, more competitive pricing schemes. All we have to do is stay by the wayside until the best device is created and its price heavily-slashed.

I have not ceased hoping that someday, I will get hold of a new cellular phone in my hand. It will have the most basic functions for calling or texting. Who knows, it might even have a teleport application. Today's civilization is full of surprises, you know...

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What particular technological advances do you consider the most significant for this civilization?
2. What would you like the modern civilization to leave as a lasting legacy?
3. If you were an inventor in this era, what specific device would you create? Why would you create that device?
4. Do you think the current technological race has been beneficial to consumers like you and me? Why or why not?
5. What technological invention would you consider the most destructive? The least useful?