**Time Flies Like An Arrow**

Stephen Hawking has puzzled about time more than any of us, and his insights were wonderfully communicated in his best-selling book, *A Brief History of Time*. This great scientist describes the three arrows of time—facts that make the past different from the future.

1) **Disorder Increases with Time.**

   We all know what disorder is. It is the lack of order. We are told to put our room in order—”Please straighten up your room!” Believe it or not, things naturally become more disordered with the passing of time.
Your room would eventually get messy even if you didn’t live in it. This printed page will someday be random marks. Your favorite tape or CD-ROM will eventually be nothing but noise. This first arrow of time refers to entropy (en-tro-pee). An isolated system will always head towards its most likely or random state. This idea is also known as the Second Law of Thermodynamics (ther-mo-dy-nam-ics), and has a vivid parallel in William Butler Yeats’s poem *The Second Coming*.

Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.