

written at that late date, there surely would be some explanation given. In an account of a trip which someone made with a horse and buggy fifty years ago, or let us say in a stagecoach fifty years ago, a mention of a breakdown of some feature of a stagecoach might be stated quite directly without explaining the details of the breakdown. The mere mention of the situation would be obvious to anyone living at the time. It is as if someone today were to speak of an automobile stopping because some dirt got in the carbureter. Everyone would know why dirt in a carbureter would stop an automobile. No one would ~~explain~~ bother to explain in such a story just why it was that the carbureter wouldn't work and what harm it did to get dirt in it. Everyone today would know. There are a great many details about a stagecoach which doubtless would be perfectly clear to anyone who read an account fifty years ago, but which very few people today would understand. Let us suppose the automobile similarly ~~would~~ ^{were to} go out of date, and someone after it had happened were to write an account of a mishap in an automobile. He would in referring to the carbureter explain the reason for the misfortune. He would not have done so had he written at a time when everyone knew about it. This is the situation regarding the teraphim. It is plain enough from the failure to explain the tremendous importance which Laban and Rachel attached to them that it was perfectly well known at the time at which it was written. But at the time at which the critics allege that it was written, there is no reason to think that anyone would have understood it. Had the account been written at that time, ~~it would~~ there would certainly have been an explanatory clause telling us just why it was ~~so important~~ important.

It is only within the last twelve years that the reason has been learned. ^{In} Nuzi in northern Mesopotamia, a region near the section in which Laban lived, and one which had the same culture in the time of Laban -- from a little after the time of Laban, a great many clay tablets have been excavated.