MORE ETYMOLOGICAL CURiosITIES

ANIL
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• SEXTUPLE WEIRD
whetstone  Wets t’ hone.
This ³homophonic ²anagram ³definition is already highly unusual but goes on to become a perhaps unique curiosity in its ⁴etymology, a ⁵paradox. Neither stone nor whet is related to hone, yet hone as a noun means whetstone and comes from a word that means stone (OE han) and from an earlier word that means whetstone (Skt. sana)! Stone instead traces back to I-E stai-, sti-, whet is from OE/Germanic words meaning sharp(en), and wet has the same origin as water, but here it usually means wet with oil. ⁶In addition, the anagram is a near charade, simply moving one letter (h).

• SAME BUT DIFFERENT
Defer and deter are unrelated yet have the same definition, put off, in two different senses.

• QUADRUPLE PUN?
Websters weave webs, weft/woof interwoven.
This nearly tautological definition of webster is composed only of related words, not surprisingly. What’s surprising is the quadruple pun. Webster is an old word for weaver, interpretable as: 1) human weaver; 2) spider; 3) surfer, web surfer, webmaster; 4) Noah Webster’s alphabetical web.

• QUADRUPLE COINCIDENTAL SIMILARITIES
The word bound has four similar meanings from four unrelated origins.
1) obliged, fastened <past tense of bind <band (fasten).
2) boundary <OF bonde, borne, bone.
3) intending, toward <Old Oc bûnn, bun (get ready, dwell).
4) leap <F. bondir, rebound, spring, make a resounding noise; related to bomb.
The meanings overlap heavily, all implying limitation, edge or aim/move toward. 1-2 are actually opposites of 3-4, stationary vs. moving. Compare rack in the Aug.’18 Mean Sidewalks.

• 2 TRIPLE COINCIDENTAL SIMILARITIES
1) three unrelated but related-looking word groups all meaning divide/divided/division:
separate <pare.
sept 1, septate, septum <L. saeptus, enclose.
sept 2 (tribe division) <section.
2) found is 3 homographic cognates, all ≈ bring into being or awareness.)
a) find, past tense <OE finden, come upon.
b) base, establish <bottom, lay foundation.
c) mold, cast (metal, in a foundry) <mix, melt together.
• MORE SINGLE COINCIDENTAL (etymologically unrelated) SELF-SIMILARITIES

**briar** plants: 1) thorny bush; 2) also **brier**, heath plant > brier pipe.

**keel** marine vessels: 1) spine of a ship, a ship (poetic); 2) a type of boat, a barge.

**meal** food: 1) ground grain; 2) a repast <measure.

**muse** thought-producers: n.) goddess, poetic inspiration; vb) ponder, entertain (an idea), amuse.

**policy** plans, practices: 1) government program, plan of action; 2) insurance contract

**tarry** delay(ers): 1) delay; 2) like tar (a layerer).

And a coincidental self antonym:

**yard** size opposites: 1) something large (lawn or garden) vs. 2) something small (3 ft. length).
(Yard 2 once meant penis! What?? Of an elephant or whale?!)  

• EVIL METALS  
Tho not related, **cobalt** and **nickel** were both named after demons by superstitious miners. Nickel first meant demon or the Devil, Old **Nick**. Cobalt is from **kobold**, a goblin or demon.