

Allusion – writing on the wall

According to the Book of Daniel, Belshazzar, the King of Babylon, gave a great banquet, at which the guests praised the gods of silver, gold, iron, etc. Suddenly, a human hand appeared and wrote mysterious words on the wall. Daniel was called to translate the writing, saying it prophesied that Belshazzar's reign was over. That night, the king was killed.



Examples

I took my boss's suggestion that I might want to start updating my resume to be the handwriting on the wall; I knew it wouldn't be long until my job, like many others in our company, would be cut.

I was completely shocked when my boyfriend broke up with me, but my friends said I should have seen the handwriting on the wall when he kept "forgetting" to call me and began to spend all his free time with his buddies.