

THE TAMING OF THE FOX

from THE LITTLE PRINCE
by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

"Good Morning," said the fox.
"Good Morning," the little Prince responded politely, although when he looked around he saw nothing.

"I am right here," the voice said, "under the apple tree."

"Who are you?" asked the little Prince and then added, "You are very pretty to look at."

"I am a fox," the fox said.

"Come and play with me," proposed the little prince. "I am so unhappy."

"I cannot play with you," the fox said, "I am not tamed."

"Ah! Please excuse me," said the little Prince, but after some thought, he added,

"What does that mean - tame?"

"It is an act too often neglected," said the fox. "it means to establish ties."

"To establish ties?"

"Just that," said the fox. "To me you are still nothing more than a little boy who is just like a hundred thousand other little boys. And I have no need for you. You, on your part, have no need of me. To you, I am nothing more than a fox like a hundred other foxes. But if you tame me then we shall need each other. To me, you will be unique in all the world. To you, I shall be unique in all the world"

The fox gazed at the little prince for a time.

"Please, tame me!" he said.

"What must I do to tame you?" asked little Prince.

"You must be very patient," replied the fox.

"First you will sit down at a little distance from me - like that - in the grass. I shall look at you out of the corner of my eye, and you will say nothing. Words are the source of misunderstandings. But you will sit a little closer to me every day...."

So the little prince tamed the fox.....

As the hour of his departure drew near -

"Ah," said the fox. "I shall cry."

"It is your own fault," said the little Prince,

"You wanted me to tame you."

"Yes, that is so," said the fox.

"But now you are going to cry!" said the little Prince. "It has done you no good at all."

"It has done me good," said the fox ... and he added: "Go and look again at the roses. You will understand now that your rose is unique in all the world."

The little Prince went away, to look at the roses.

"You are not at all like my rose," he said, "As yet you are nothing. No one has tamed you, and you have tamed no one. You are like my fox when I first knew him. He was only a fox like a hundred thousand other foxes. But I have made him my friend and now he is unique in all the world."

And he went back to meet the fox.

"Good-bye," he said.

"Good-bye," said the fox, "and now here is my secret, a very simple secret: it is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

"What is essential is invisible to the eye," the little Prince repeated so that he would be sure to remember.

"It is the time you have wasted for your rose that makes your rose so important."

"It is the time I have wasted for my rose," said the little Prince so that he would be sure to remember.

"You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed. You are responsible for your rose."

"I am responsible for my rose," the little Prince repeated, so that he would be sure to remember.

Six billion of us
living, breathing,
giving, receiving,
waking, sleeping, dreaming,
fighting, loving, reading, learning, holding,
writing, waiting, hurting, healing, praying,
carrying, driving, walking, riding, drinking,
grinning, eating, birthing, laughing, crying,
shouting, whispering, cheering, encouraging,
urging, painting, sculpting, singing, groaning,
quizzing, washing, rowing, fishing, swimming,
running, playing, arguing, growing, protecting,
teaching, caring, hunting, cleaning, cooking,
picking, harvesting, milking, killing, planting,
reaping, sowing, watering, drilling, gardening,
puzzling, building, repairing, watching, idling,
sneezing, hiding, proclaiming, preaching, attending,
feeding, mending, making, knitting, sewing,
talking, listening, tending, guarding, guiding,
seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, smelling,
directing, remembering, showing, discussing, disagreeing,
freeing, performing, clapping, hugging, kissing,
caressing, soothing, parenting, coping, husbanding,
managing, organising, wandering, day dreaming, reminding,
dawdling, dozing, asking, calling, pleading,
begging, responding, telling, shopping, selling,
bartering, digging, doodling, marketing, promoting,
ignoring, daring, diving, farming, travelling,
leaving, arriving, flying, climbing, sailing,
creating, baking, dancing,
listing, hoping, dying,
wondering
journeying,
turning,
Amazing.
And one God creating us,
One God believing in us,
One God loving us.

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