

VOICES

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MAGAZINE FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD





САША ШЛУТЕР – УРЕДНИК НА ФЕВРУАРСКОТО ИЗДАНИЕ НА „ВОИСЕС“ SASCHA SCHLÜTER – EDITOR OF FEBRUARY EDITION OF “VOICES”

Even though the weather lately doesn't really seem like it, we're in the middle of winter! These days, the thermometer shows up to 13 degrees but the nights are still long, dark and cold. So what would be better during this season than enjoying the warmth of some nice company. Maybe some good friend(s)? The VOICES team is here to hook you up with our new February edition!

Since Valentine's day is close, it is time to look out for some new friends! But how to find one? Read our lovely and poetic wanted-poster, calling for a new fellow or loved one. But maybe this someone might speak another language or dialect as you. Read about the question - What is a language even? - and hopefully you can build up a new friendship over language barriers and have nice talks. For example over a glass of wine, as the 14th of February, in the Balkans, is a day of vinery, proving that winter is going to end soon. And when the warm season finally starts, what is nicer than walking together in a forest, when spring is kicking in and the air is full of different scents from the blooming plants? Forests, indeed, are a fascinating and stunning symbiotic system. Read about its language and its oddest "inhabitants" - the mushrooms - which play an important role in this biosphere! While we will be able to enjoy our local woodlands soon again, sadly, on the other side of the earth, a tragedy has occurred and devastated vast lands. Read also about Australia's 2019 bushfires.

But let's not give up and stay positive! It's up to everyone, to make the world a bit better - step by step. Fortunately, 2020 offers us one extra day: so why not use this and get started? Getting started for example to share a smile every day, to think wider or to open up for new faces and adventures.

Иако временските прилики не ни го потврдуваат тоа, ние сме на средина од зимата. Деновите, термометарот се искачува и до 13 целзиусов степен, но ноќите се уште се долги, темни и студени. Тогаш, што би било подобро од уживање во убаво друштво и добар пријател? Тимот на „Воисес“ е тука со вас да го сподели новото февруарско издание!

Имајќи предвид дека се приближува „Св. Валентин“, време е да пронајдеме нов(и) пријател(и). Но, како да ги најдеме? Прочитајте го нашиот прекрасен и поетички постер, повикот за нов другар или љубовник. Кој знае, можеби ќе пронајдете некогаш што не зборува на ист јазик или дијалект како вас. Прочитајте што значи јазикот и ќе можете да изградите ново пријателство и покрај јазичните бариери. На пример со чаша вино, затоа што Денот на вљубените – 14 февруари, на Балканот се доживува и како Ден на виното како уште еден доказ дека зимата си заминува. А штом топлото време ќе пристигне, нема побаво од прошетка низ шума, пролетта се буди, а воздухот е полн со различни мириси. Шумите, навистина, се фасцинантен симбиотичен систем. Прочитајте за шумите и за нејзините „жители“ – печурките, кои играат значителна улога во биосферата! Додека ние ќе можеме наскоро да уживаме во шумите, на другиот крај од планетата се случи трагедија што ја уништи земјата. Прочитајте за пожарите во Австралија.

Но, ајде да останеме позитивни! Секој од нас може да го направи светот подобар. Чекор по чекор. За среќа, 2020 година нуди уште еден ден повеќе, па зошто да не го искористиме тоа како шанса за нов почеток? Доволно ќе биде да се смееме секојдневно, да размислуваме помудро и да ги отвориме срцата за нови лица и доживувања.



Erasmus+

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A Friend is wanted



I don't like to define - especially when it comes to people, people I don't even know but I want in my life. To define is necessarily to limit. Sometimes, we can blind ourselves to wonderful people and shield ourselves from beautiful experiences because those we meet simply do not fit the characteristics that we previously established as essential. Thus, we do not even allow them to enter our life, because at first sight they don't match out wish list.

Defining is necessarily synonymous with limiting. However, it is positively necessary to define some elements to have parameters, criteria. After all, without a minimum clarity about your search, you won't know when you find exactly what you're looking for. So, here's a recipe, with the basic requirements I look for in a friend.

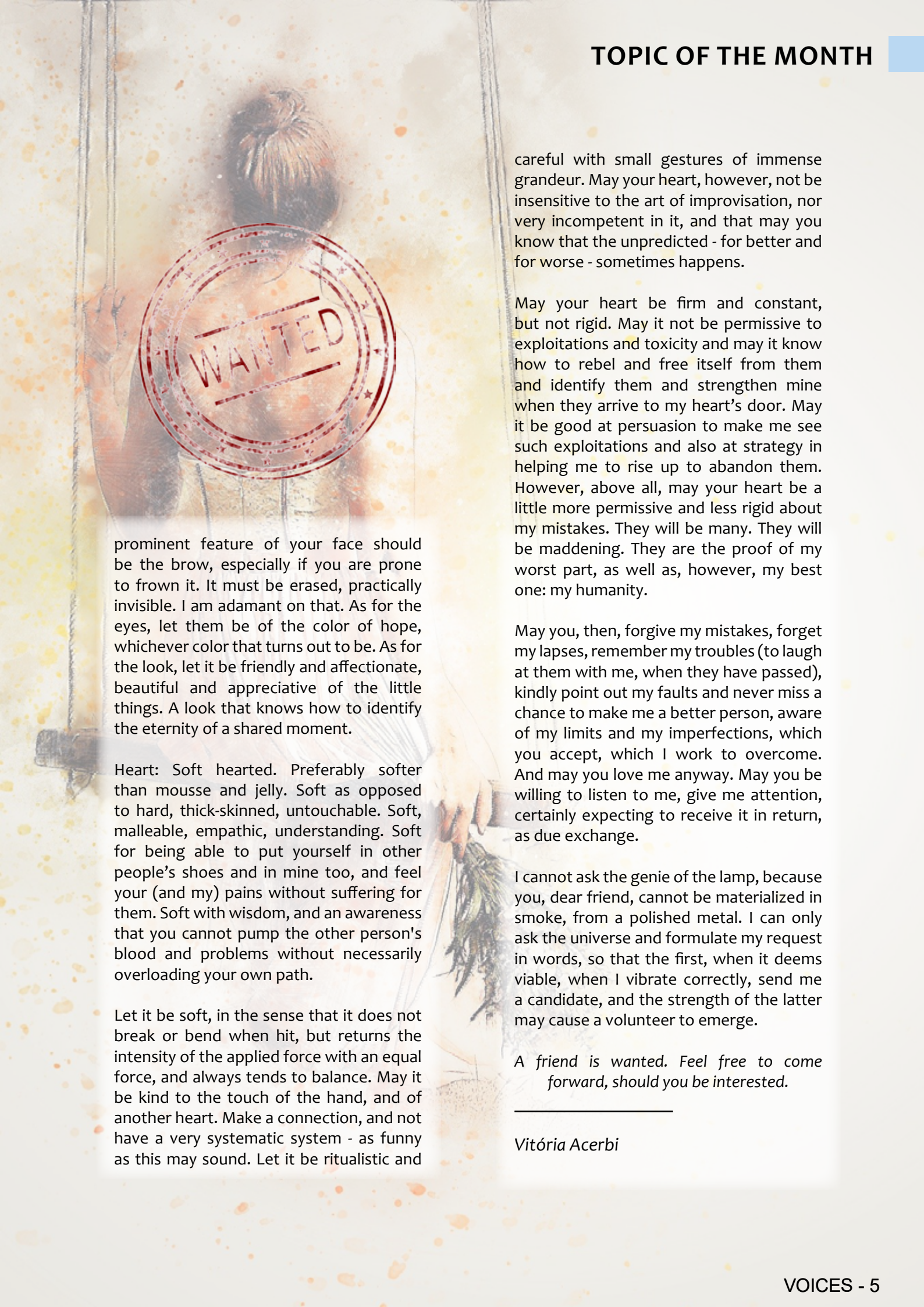
A friend is wanted. Desired characteristics:

General: it doesn't matter the color, the height, the width, the ancestry. Religion, belief. Preferably, you will be a watercolor, made of several shades of various colors, the more colorful the better. A large or small watercolor, dwarf or giant, thin or wide. Human. With a creative shape, made of a unique design that life, experience and shapes shaped with time. The only size I do not allow for variation is the arms, which make the room for embrace. This one must be huge. Vast, very long, very intense. At the same time very broad and very narrow. Bear hug - without hibernating - ready for any time, to support me when I cry, exchange laughter when I rejoice, share enchanted silence, in a quiet and comforting grip. May your embrace be as big as your person, so as to fit mine and my many moments.

May you be European, Asian, African, from the Americas, or permanent nomad, eternal wanderer, but always open and tolerant. May you know how to speak the language of various moods and situations, suit the customs and dialects of my ages and stages, as I will certainly try to do in return.

May you believe in as many gods as you desire, in Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, Buddha or Shiva. Or in no god at all. May you believe in the written, set destination from above/ from before or the destination that we write ourselves, gradually, as we go. May you believe in the verse or in the universe. May you, however, absolutely believe in me, and never doubt me. May my plans never be teased, my pains never satirized, my fears never turned into a story of terror or laughter for other's amusement. May you have faith in me, in my existence, in my ability to evolve and become better. May you believe in the tie that we can tie, that can tie us in a way that nobody - but ourselves - unties.

Face: the most prominent feature of your face should be your smile. A lasting smile, no matter the season or circumstance. A warm and luminous smile. The least



prominent feature of your face should be the brow, especially if you are prone to frown it. It must be erased, practically invisible. I am adamant on that. As for the eyes, let them be of the color of hope, whichever color that turns out to be. As for the look, let it be friendly and affectionate, beautiful and appreciative of the little things. A look that knows how to identify the eternity of a shared moment.

Heart: Soft hearted. Preferably softer than mousse and jelly. Soft as opposed to hard, thick-skinned, untouchable. Soft, malleable, empathic, understanding. Soft for being able to put yourself in other people's shoes and in mine too, and feel your (and my) pains without suffering for them. Soft with wisdom, and an awareness that you cannot pump the other person's blood and problems without necessarily overloading your own path.

Let it be soft, in the sense that it does not break or bend when hit, but returns the intensity of the applied force with an equal force, and always tends to balance. May it be kind to the touch of the hand, and of another heart. Make a connection, and not have a very systematic system - as funny as this may sound. Let it be ritualistic and

careful with small gestures of immense grandeur. May your heart, however, not be insensitive to the art of improvisation, nor very incompetent in it, and that may you know that the unpredicted - for better and for worse - sometimes happens.

May your heart be firm and constant, but not rigid. May it not be permissive to exploitations and toxicity and may it know how to rebel and free itself from them and identify them and strengthen mine when they arrive to my heart's door. May it be good at persuasion to make me see such exploitations and also at strategy in helping me to rise up to abandon them. However, above all, may your heart be a little more permissive and less rigid about my mistakes. They will be many. They will be maddening. They are the proof of my worst part, as well as, however, my best one: my humanity.

May you, then, forgive my mistakes, forget my lapses, remember my troubles (to laugh at them with me, when they have passed), kindly point out my faults and never miss a chance to make me a better person, aware of my limits and my imperfections, which you accept, which I work to overcome. And may you love me anyway. May you be willing to listen to me, give me attention, certainly expecting to receive it in return, as due exchange.

I cannot ask the genie of the lamp, because you, dear friend, cannot be materialized in smoke, from a polished metal. I can only ask the universe and formulate my request in words, so that the first, when it deems viable, when I vibrate correctly, send me a candidate, and the strength of the latter may cause a volunteer to emerge.

A friend is wanted. Feel free to come forward, should you be interested.

Vitória Acerbi



*The
odd
world
of
Giuseppe
Arcimboldo*

The Four Seasons pictured as faces built of fruits and vegetables, mushrooms, flowers and trees. The embodiment of the Earth, composed of animals, mixed together and existing in parallel herbivores and carnivores. The portrait of Water made of sea creatures, plants and shells, decorated with a pearl necklace. Those are barely few of many quirky compositions of the great artist of 16th century, Giuseppe Arcimboldo.

Have you ever heard about this weird yet genius Italian painter? He was born and he died in Milano. In the times of his active creation he was considered as an eccentric. Yet he was favourite of the Habsburg family and he served as the court painter, first in Vienna and later in Prague. He painted portraits of Ferdinand I and Maximilian II and his son Rudolph II. Especially the portrait of the last mentioned is widely known. Arcimboldo depicted Rudolph as Vertumnus, the God of Four Seasons.

What was so special in Arcimboldo's style? He was a mannerist painter, known for his extraordinary portraits of people. When I first saw his paintings, years ago at the museum in Vienna, from the first look I saw just a bunch of fruits and vegetables put randomly. But when you start to study Arcimboldo's paintings carefully, you suddenly understand that the composition of the fruits or vegetables is not random and you discover a face created of all the elements. You see a pear as a nose and beans as the eyes. Some of the people have hair made of fire or blossoming with all the flowers you can imagine. His portraits were a riddle to be solved, playing with the imagination of the person watching it. Using inanimate objects to compose faces from them was his own unique style.

Arcimboldo tended to paint his works in cycles. I already mentioned about the Four Seasons – every season has its separate portrait. He created the Four Elements such as Earth, Air, Fire and Water. He also

focused on picturing people, composing the portraits from the objects connected with the specific profession. So now we can admire The Librarian composed of books, The Waiter built of barrels, bottles and plates or The Gardener, which is a bowl of plants and vegetables, but put upside down the gardener's face emerges and the bowl turns into a hat.

Upside down. This is the key to read some of the Arcimboldo's creations. He was playing with „reversibles”. You can see an ordinary still life painting, but when you flip it, still life comes alive, shaping into a face.

It was almost five centuries ago when Arcimboldo was playing with his first audience and charming the viewers. From the most adored by the Habsburgs, for whom he worked over 25 years, he became long-time forgotten after his death. Centuries after, he was re-discovered by future surrealists. In the 20th century he became an inspiration for the artists creating in this trend, especially admired by Salvador Dali. Arcimboldo has even been called the Godfather of Surrealism.

Ewelina Chańska

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What is that?

I can't speak Dialects

Why Dutch is just weird German and everybody in the Balkans speaks five languages. But really it is about language and how, and if, it is different from a dialect.

That's easy, isn't it? It is what people use to communicate with each other. And different nations have different languages, easy! Well, but consider Bosnian and Serbian or Swedish and Norwegian, they can understand each other perfectly, yet they speak different languages? Or consider Arabic, a speaker from Syria will have a hard time understanding someone born and raised in Morocco, yet it's the same language? And have you ever heard a Swiss speaking German...?

Let's ask a linguist, shall we? Surely they will know what that is, a language. The funny thing is, linguistics, the study of language, does not really have a clear cut definition of „language“. Well, they do, in some way. But the whole story is a little more complicated. Linguists prefer to talk about dialects or about speech varieties. Dialects are not understood as being different from a standard language but as different from each other. Everything is a dialect. Standard German as much as Bavarian German or Saxonian German. And here it starts to become interesting. German dialects close to the Dutch border are pretty close to their Dutch dialects on the other side. Closer to them than to standard German in fact. So, why is the one German and the other Dutch, and isn't Dutch just a dialect of German (or vice-versa if you ask them)?

“A language is a dialect with an army and a navy.”

(Usually attributed to the linguist Max Weinreich)

This quote shows that language is, after all, a political and societal category. It is, somewhat arbitrarily, defined by politics, religion or society. Arabic is Arabic and not many different languages because it is considered a holy language. Chinese is only Chinese with several dialects due to a strive for national unity.

Norwegian and Danish are different languages from Swedish, because they don't like the Swedes (even though they secretly do). And Bosnian, Serbian, Montenegrin and Croatian are all different for the sake of nationalism and so that every Balkan Person can say they speak four or five languages.

Even though the boundaries between closely related languages are arbitrary, the standardisation and definition of one dialect as a language does lead to stricter boundaries between them. Over time in many countries more and more people tend to lose their specific dialects and use the standardised one. So over time the difference between German spoken one side and Dutch on the other side of the border will become much more stark. And our arbitrary national borders will be reflected in a real difference between the languages on either side.

Understanding ‚a language‘ as just another dialect that has been chosen to be the standard also goes to show that there is no point in judging people that speak differently from that chosen standard. If that's just arbitrary, the other dialects are just as fine, just as sophisticated in their range of expression. And people who speak a different dialect are not dumb, just have another way of using the language they are part of.

Like with most things, there is no clear cut and easy answer to what exactly is and isn't a language, but I hope that this article has shed some light on the issue and maybe struck you with curiosity to learn more about linguistics or to delve into the universe of another ‚language‘ with all the richness of its dialects, its slang and idioms, it's naughty and nice words, it's literature, music, culture and traditions.

Mathis Gilsbach

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The WOOD WIDE WEB

...how trees communicate

A forest is a highly complex symbiotic community made up from plants, animals, bacteria and fungi that is yet hardly understood by humans. Did you know that trees are, just like humans, very social beings? And did you know, that trees actually talk to each other? Well - they don't really talk, like the walking trees in J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" speaking Entish. But what "language" do they speak then?

The small town where I grew up is known as "The town between the forests", since it is surrounded on three sides by vast forest lands (to the north we even have the largest contiguous linden forest in Europe). Therefore it's not surprising that I spent a lot of time in the woods during my childhood - and I still love to go there for a walk or hiking - and ever since, I was fascinated by this habitat and its inhabitants (we Germans, for some reason, have a really serious, deep and emotional connection to our forests... we actually go crazy about it sometimes).



When you enter a forest, one of the first things you might notice, is this mix of different smells and scents - for some reason the air seems to be very different in a forest. As scientists discovered, trees (as also other plants) have various ways of communicating with each other and the smell is one of them. For example: when under attack (by pests eating their leaves for instance), most trees release volatile molecules and chemicals, that can warn other trees or plants nearby and make them prepare and "take measures" like producing toxins to keep off insects for example. However, it is not yet been finally clarified, if trees release these scents with the intend to warn their neighbors or if it's a normal stress-reaction, that the fellow trees in the surrounding area are coincidentally benefiting from. Anyway, this is just the most perceptible but by far not the most important connection that the trees have!

The role of the fungi networks

A much more crucial and far-reaching role is being played by mushrooms! Hereby it's essential to understand that, what we see as "a mushroom" is just the fruit (or fruiting body) of the living thing that - more precisely speaking - is a fungus; and fungi, for the most part, live underground. There are three different types of living creatures: plants, animals and fungi. Until the late 1960s the fungi were seen as a special type of plants, until science eventually realized that their characteristics and attributes are too different from both: animals and plants, and that they form their own category, or more poetically speaking: "branch on the tree of life".

Fungi play an essential role in the community of the forest. Their “roots” - or accurate: mycorrhizae (the actual fungi that lives in the soil) - form a huge subterranean network. One individual fungus can penetrate several hectares of forest soil. In that way, they set up a close symbiotic connection with the micro-fauna of the soil (bacteria and small insects) and the roots of the trees and other plants. That’s why some scientists call it the “internet of the forest” or the “Wood Wide Web”.

There are two different types of these mycorrhizal fungi networks: the first ones are called arbuscular (or endomycorrhizal) networks, that penetrate the roots of the plants, they live on. They are mostly to be found in tropical regions with a hot and wet climate. The second type is called ectomycorrhizal network. It surrounds the plant’s roots without penetrating them; this type occurs mainly in the high latitude regions in the northern and southern hemisphere with a rather cool and dry climate. The different fungi “prefer” different types of trees to enter into a bond with and the other way around.

While trees, when they grow their roots, usually bypass their neighboring tree’s roots, to not “get into conflict” with them, the mycorrhizal networks of the fungi enclose the roots of the trees. In this way they are able to exchange information via chemical signals as well as nutrients and minerals like water, carbon, nitrogen or sugars from tree to tree, from tree to fungus and vice versa. The trees also seem to support weaker individuals with nutrients over this network - and older trees even “feed” their seedlings that otherwise wouldn’t stand a chance to grow in the shadow of the forest ground. Furthermore it was found that dying trees



release their resources into this network to provide other trees and plants in their proximity. But this network also has its “hackers”, in a sense that some genera of fungi are selfishly enriching themselves with the nutrients of the trees and some tree species in turn send toxins via this network to eliminate or impair the nearby competition, like for example the walnut tree.

Yet, science has not fully understood the whole complexity of this fascinating system, but apparently fungi and their subterranean networks played a crucial role for the spread of the forests on our planet. Therefore it is all the more important, in the face of climate change and increasing environmental pollution, to understand and maintain the functioning of these ancient and complex symbiotic systems that traverse a large part of the earth’s surface.

Sascha Schlüter

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THE FUTURE OF GENE EDITING

We all well know that us humans have been kind of doing gene editing for decades already. Or purposeful breeding if being more accurate. We have managed to create different dog breads by selective breeding for different purposes, some of them are really useful for helping us in various tasks and others, well... they are cute. And not forgetting GMO – vegetables that have been on the markets for years. Now scientists are taking the gene editing to a whole new level. A couple of years ago, a new groundbreaking tool called “CRISPR” was found, which will probably allow versatile gene editing opportunities in the future.

Firstly, what is this CRISPR?

The term “CRISPR” stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats of genetic information, that some bacterial species use as part of an antiviral system. So, more clearly it means that we have bacteria in our bodies and bacteria has its own ways to protect itself from viruses. Scientist were able to find out this method and modify it to help us in the field of gene editing. Gene editing with the CRISPR system relies on an association of two molecules. The other one is called Cas9, it's a protein and its mission is to “cut” the DNA. The other molecule is a short RNA molecule whose job it is to work as a “guide” that brings Cas9 to the position where it's supposed to cut.

With the great power of gene editing comes great consequences, but are they good or bad?

This new tool to edit human DNA will bring a lot of opportunities along its way. If you think about it from a medical perspective, it's a game changer. It might offer an opportunity to cure genetic diseases, which has been impossible until now. It could help with the endless struggle with finding a cure to cancer. Or maybe it can solve the problem of aging, perhaps it can make humans younger - who knows what will be possible with a tool like this?

One possibility is that, in the future, people could start to use CRISPR for designing human embryos, and that could go really wrong... Imagine, if one could choose what genes to have for unborn children, only imagination

and prosperity being the limit. If it would be possible to choose any quality like high IQ, certain type of appearance, maybe silver colored skin, excellent physical strength or even increase some craft skills. Stuff that you would imagine reading from a science-fiction book.

But luckily at least the last scenario is not going to happen any day soon. You remember a bit over a year ago the news telling about the Chinese scientist who had performed an experiment using CRISPR as a tool to fix embryo's DNA to be resistant for HIV? They were the first gene-edited embryos that were born to this world. And the experiment was widely criticized because of its unethical and irresponsible features. It's forbidden to do this kind of experiments anywhere because we don't know the consequences it may cause. Recently a study was published about new research results about how these babies are doing now. And it seems that the experiment has failed: results show that there has happened a mosaic effect, which means that the children have now a mixture of edited and unedited cells. So clearly we aren't yet ready to do that.

The thing with gene editing is that we don't really know yet what we are doing and how it will affect in practice. We don't want to create any super-humans whose genes will morph in the future. Now we have realized this tool and in theory we know how to use it. But for now, it's almost impossible to do experiments on humans because of the ethical questions the subject has. Only the time will show how useful this invention will be for humankind.

Kirsi Suomi

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CANDLES

The ultimate Portugal story



Airports... Those with mirroring glass,
As my reflection ghostly pass
Quickly through the moving stairs...
Ready to go, all the way,
In that sunny ocean state,
All over again
To celebrate my day!
CANDLES... Not numbers,
Set on my cake instead...
CANDLES make me happy
While burning flames
Create a dance on the walls.
New friendly faces – the same magic place
And the pair of her crystal eyes,
Lips of wine, hugs, endless smiles...
CANDLES – you handle with care
Or can burn out quickly apart.
But not my CANDLE,
It burns, SHE steady holds the flames
In my heart forever it stays.
And yet, just a day after
I know, some people might wonder
What happened, what's next and after?
When you share the best
With people coming and going
Some questions are still to be answered
But not me, never liked Goodbyes,
Until next time, we keep up-to-date...
Who knows, we create our fate,
Here and after...
CANDLES... And her pair of crystal eyes..!

.....

Goran Galaboff



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MADELINE LINDIG: [INSTAGRAM.COM/MADELEUNE](https://www.instagram.com/madeleune)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY

Madeline Lindig

My name is Madeline, I'm 30 years old, I'm from Thuringia - the "Green Heart of Germany" - and currently living in Magdeburg. Who goes on a hiking trip through my Thuringian home to explore its nature, will probably understand my passion for nature-photography and I like to share this piece of earth with others.

In the beginning, I only took pictures with my phone until, 6 years ago, I started my Industrial Design studies and got myself my first camera. Mainly for documenting my products and the work progress. Then, the possibilities that the camera offers, dragged me back out into the nature, where I am mesmerized by the play of light and shadow and different angles. A picture, for me, is successful if it takes me back to the place of taking it. One of the best measures against homesickness as well as wanderlust.

Madeline Lindig

PHOTOGRAPHY





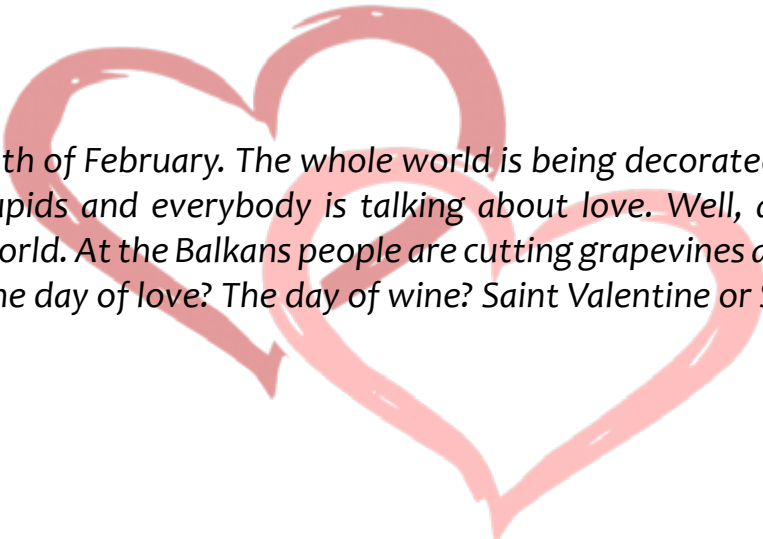
Love me

or

pour me

a wine





14th of February. The whole world is being decorated with hearts and cupids and everybody is talking about love. Well, almost the whole world. At the Balkans people are cutting grapevines and drinking wine. The day of love? The day of wine? Saint Valentine or Saint Tryphon?

Both of them, Saint Valentine and Saint Tryphon, were living in the 3rd century and both were martyrs. Celebrating their day at 14th of February has long traditions which have been changing during centuries, being globalized and commercialized. Nowadays, Saint Valentine's day is winning this race of popularity all over the globe, having an honest bunch of lovers of this holiday. And the word "lovers" is not random here at all, since Saint Valentine is a patron of love.

But can the world really answer the question, how did Saint Valentine become a patron of love? There must be a story behind. According to one legend, Saint Valentine was secretly performing weddings for young couples in love, supporting soldiers who were forbidden to marry. He opposed the emperor's edict forbidding marriage, as married men were more likely to stay at home instead of willingly participating in wars and bravely fighting for Rome. Saint Valentine was thrown into prison and executed for not obeying the edict.

And what's love got to do with Saint Tryphon? Saint Tryphon is a patron of wine, farmlands and marital love. So, we still stay at the topic of love. Indeed, love for vineyards is strong and the winegrowers and wine lovers celebrate this special day. In Balkan countries, such as Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro, 14th of February is also considered as the end of winter and the beginning of spring. It is for

winegrowers the first time of the year to cut grapevine to ensure its proper growth and symbolically sprinkle it with wine. The day continues with feasts and it is a tradition to share some wine with family and friends.

The roots of the day as it is celebrated now in the Balkans can go back to the ancient cult of Dionysus, the god of grape-harvest and wine. Back then, the Dionysia were organized in ancient Athens. But still, it is celebrated under the name of Saint Tryphon Day. According to historical sources, Saint Tryphon comes from the Lesser Asia, province of Phrygia (which is a part of today's Turkey). This area is considered as one of the ancestry regions of vineyard and wine. Saint Tryphon himself was a boy who took care of geese and was known from healing people by a miracle. Just as Saint Valentine he was persecuted for the power of his faith.

Today, two different traditions remained and two different saints are being mentioned, depending on the region and belief. Love should be celebrated always, though, doesn't matter of the day. Wine is being poured any day and anywhere in the world. And people like to have lots of opportunities to just celebrate. 14th of February... Wine or love? Anyway, wine and love make a nice couple, don't they?

Ewelina Chańska

AUSTRALIA IS BURNING!

It's not possible to pass by it in this beginning of new decade. Impossible, no, because it's so big. Either by the size, by the intensity, by the duration. We are speaking here about the bush fires which are ravaging Australia.

At least 25 dead, more than one billion dead animals, 100 000 people who had to escape from their homes, 8,4 million hectares burnt (07.01.2020). What terrifying figures! To have an element to compare, the area burnt in Australia is already 6 times bigger than in Amazonia during the forest fires in the summer 2019.

When nature loses the control of its forests

Bush fires are a normal process. Every year, since millions of years, in many forests in the world, fires break out thanks to nature (storm, drought...). It plays a role of self-regulation of the forests, for flora and fauna for example. So, why do people speak so much about the fires in Australia? Because there is no notion of self-regulation anymore. Indeed, since many years, we can observe a scary drawing on graphics of temperature.

The consequences of the presence of human being for the climate are more and more obvious, and they're the only reason which makes sense to explain this phenomenon. From records to records, from 42 to almost 50 °C, the drought is now deeply installed, and it has made the forest extremely dry, which means highly inflammable.

These phenomena, combined with strong winds, allow us to understand what is happening there (at least for one part).

Pyrocumulus: vicious circle

Such big fires don't generate only classical smokes, but they create really time bombs named Pyrocumulus cloud. These clouds are highly charged with particles from the alive burning. The outcome is a really thick cloud, extremely dense. This storm cloud, by moving, will set off new fires which will, afterwards, start again new fires that will perpetuate this murderous circle. At the time of writing of the present article, all the eyes are looking at the sky, where only a heavy and long rain could stop this disaster.

An announced disaster

This disaster, infinitely unfortunate, was announced since many years. First, as said previously, the global warming increases the frequency and the intensity of these exceptional phenomena (which are becoming less and less exceptional). We can also quote the 4th report from IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) from 2007, where we can read, already: 'In south-east Australia, the frequency of very-high and extreme fire danger days is likely to rise 4-25% by 2020 and 15-70% by 2050'. Also, according to Jamie Hanson (Deputy Program Director & Head of Campaigns at Greenpeace Australia Pacific), the Australian energetic policy is questionable, both by the important part of using fossil fuels, and by the wish of the country to take the "lowest commitments in terms of reducing emissions" at the world scale.

Yet another alarm signal to listen

It's been many years now that we can hear on the radio or everywhere on Internet that there is more and more "exceptional events". In fact, nowadays, it's the normal events which are becoming rare. We are at dawn of a turning in the history of humankind and earth. If this trend continues, the future of the human being doesn't look so different from the one of the forests in Australia. Only an awareness as global as the climate change could allow us to continue the amazing odyssey of the weird species called Homo Sapiens.

Tanguy Payet

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Picture: Vladimir Jovanovski

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EARTH

As every January starts the human beings are hoping for more of literally everything. One of the most often I have heard is the beings requesting more time (for themselves, for holidays, for watching more Netflix, etc.) and most seldom to be the requests for a greener and cleaner world. So, here we are folks, the new 2020 year granting your most asked request with one extra day, February the 29th. But, let's see what we can do with the second one which is not that naive so that receives such low importance and let's use that one spare day we were given this year.

Since the start of the 21st century, we are not able to say that we live in a peaceful and stable time. Numerous crises happened in a range from economic faults (2008) to refugees exodus to ecological cataclysms. While the first two can be solved with huge political will and compromises on the round table, the third one to me seems more of a complex problem. The year 2019 proved that we reached so far away in destroying our environment that I am afraid I would not experience the positive changes even if the solutions start to be implemented now. We were witnessing great fires last year (Amazon, Siberia, Australia), fires that obliterated natural development, order, and continuation that have evolved over eons; and gave us our most valuable products, water and food. Thus, are we aware of where we did wrong and are we starting to point out that mistake?

The industrial revolution was definitely a great breakthrough for the humanity, with a single deadly touch. It touches nature dead. The people of that time discovered that if the production is massive the growth is better and bigger for the price of the fertile soil and fresh drinking water. But, until when this growth is scheduled to go? Does capitalism is able to answer this question? As far as I know, it asks only for money and high productivity, for factories that will flood the markets with a tremendous amount of goods without any plan for taking care where the surplus going to end. That's the reason why we are seeing rivers in Indochina lifeless, mostly done by the tanneries. Yes, jeans that we are wearing, and all that very well explained in the documentary movie 'RiverBlue' by conservationist Marko Angelo; make sure to watch it.

But, at the very beginning of this century, a positive sign appeared. It was in the form of a new understanding of social principles, guidelines, legislation, and activities that affect the living conditions conducive to human welfare, such as a person's quality of life. This such movement has been presented by Michael Löwy and Joel Kovel. In Paris, September 2001, they announced 'The Eco-socialist Manifesto', calling it as the project of a new civilization, a new way of life, and at the same time a strategy to change the present order of things, the profit-oriented and productivist system.

Eco-socialism contains in itself the emancipatory goals and rejects both the attenuated, reformist aims of social democracy and the productivist structures of the bureaucratic variations of socialism. It insists, rather, upon redefining both the path and the goal of socialist production in an ecological framework. It does so specifically in respect to the 'limits on growth' essential for the sustainability of society. These are embraced, not, however, in the sense of imposing scarcity, hardship, and repression. The goal, rather, is a transformation of needs, and a profound shift toward the qualitative dimension and away from the quantitative. Personally, I would rather buy one very well crafted and locally produced product than buying the same one from a mass-production facility. Speaking of needs, we need to think twice when watching all those commercials trying to convince us that we need to possess everything popping up on the market as well as to decrease consumerism as much as possible.

Having in mind of all these problems coming up recently, I cannot stop thinking that if we continue the way we do it now, we for sure will be the struggling more and more, we for sure are digging our own holes, and inevitably in my mind are coming the lyrics of Pink Floyd's song 'Breathe':

*Run, rabbit run
Dig that hole, forget the sun
And when at last the work is done
Don't sit down, it's time to dig another one*

Back in the summer of 2017, I was doing my 2 months EVS in Ankara, Turkey. While visiting one lovely town westwards of Ankara called Eskişehir (meaning Oldtown, but actually quite new in appearance), I was convinced that yes, we actually can do better and treat our environment as a part of our closest family. The transformation of the city after the post-industrial decline and a natural disaster was nothing less but a painstaking process, however 'Rome wasn't built in a day'. In 20 year time, the town reached to be one of the finalists for the WRI Ross Prize for cities (global award celebrating and spotlighting urban transformation) and to be called the Venice of Turkey; its plan and integration I am sharing it with you here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIhAGowJXuY>

So, needless to say more let's consider this upcoming movement as a way to protect the future devastation of our colorful world. Let's focus on using the already available ways to make our homes and needs more sustainable through investments in technologies that would use natural power and give us clean energy. We for sure have learned from our past that going against nature means that we go against ourselves.

Some countries that have adopted and enacted socialist ideas and policies, and have seen success in improving their societies by doing so, are Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Great Britain, Canada, the Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, Australia, Japan, and New Zealand.

Shall we follow them suit?

Vladimir Jovanovski

BECAUSE OF FUNGI

Molds, yeasts, rusts, smuts, bunts, toadstools, puffballs, stinkhorns, polypores... They can be venomous and even deadly. Or delicious and unbelievable healthy. But what do we really know about these extraordinary creatures and their business on this planet? Let's spend a moment imagining that.

If you think about fungi, probably the first thing that pops into your head is an eatable mushroom with a cap and a stem. The kind you can find growing in forests or buy from a market. But, as a matter of fact, fungi don't belong to the group of plants nor to the realm of animals. They can't be compared to other eukaryotic life forms, thus they create their own group. And surprisingly, that group is much closer to animals than to plants. And when you take a closer look you may notice that fungi have been living in this planet way longer than humans, and they are basically everywhere. Quietly shaping the planet earth to be as we experience it today. You could say that they are the masters of surviving on our planet, because that's what they've been doing for millions of years. Solving every problem that comes on their way, finding solutions to survive and thrive.

They've been playing an important role in the evolution of land shaping by turning rocks into soil and creating symbiotic relationships with the earliest plants. Without fungi, we would have to wade our ways through needles and leaves fallen from the trees because nothing would be here decomposing it. We wouldn't even know about bread, beer, wine or cheese. Because without fungi, we would have never been able to produce them.

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The ancient civilizations have been using psychoactive mushrooms in their lives usually in ceremonial meanings for thousands of years, to connect with the gods or achieve spiritual consciousness. Nowadays, psychoactive mushrooms are classified as illegal in most places because of their intoxicating affects but researchers are finding out new positive sides from their affects in the human behavior year after another. There are studies that show great results from using psychoactive mushrooms as a treatment for different mental disorders such as depression for example. Longer lasting than what have been achieved by using current medications, so maybe, someday in the future fungi can help us with this also.



And the fantastic part, I believe all of us know, is the amazing food we can prepare from fungi or more commonly: mushrooms. At the same time you can enjoy their wonderful taste, they're also full of healthy nutrition, good for everyone. I love it when the autumn comes in Finland and our forests start to fill up from yellowfoots. It's one of the best things you can imagine yourself doing, when you can take your wellies and go into the forest to hunt mushrooms. After couple of hours spent in the woods discovering these delicious treasures you get to prepare a tasty dish out of them, after surviving from the vicious deerflies that you've collected on your way.

Not to forget about the mind-blowing medicines humans have discovered by studying different qualities of fungi. Probably the most well-known being penicillin, discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928. Even today scientists are continually learning new useful qualities while investigating new species. And there is yet a lot to explore, considering how little we still know from these interesting creatures and their working mechanisms. It's estimated that there might be millions of undiscovered species hiding in the nature from which we have discovered only a fraction until now.

Kirsi Suomi



Се бара пријател



Не сакам да судам, особено кога станува збор за луѓе кои не ги ни познавам, а ги сакам во мојот живот. Да осудуваш е ограничување. Понекогаш, можеме да бидеме слепи за прекрасни луѓе и да си ускратиме неверојатни искуства со нив затоа што не ги исполниле карактеристиките што претходно сме ги утврдиле како суштински. На тој начин, ние дури и не им дозволуваме да влезат во нашиот живот, бидејќи на прв поглед не се совпаѓаат со списоците со желби што ги имаме.

Судењето е синоним за ограничување. Сепак, неопходно е да се дефинираат некои елементи за да има параметри и критериуми. На крајот на краиштата, без минимална прецизност во врска со вашата потрага, нема да знаете кога ќе го пронајдете она што го барате. Па, еве еден рецепт, со основните барања што ги барам кај еден пријател.

Се бара пријател. Посакувани карактеристики:

Општо: воопшто не е важна бојата, висината, потеклото. Религија, вера. Можеш да бидеш од акварел, изработен со нијанси на разни бои. Всушност, колку повеќе шарени, толку подобро. Голем или мал акварел, цуџе или гигант. Човечки. Со креативна форма, изработена од уникатен дизајн кого животот и искуството го обликувале со времето. Единствената големина за која што не дозволувам варијации е просторот за преградка. Мора да биде огромен. А преградката да биде многу интензивна. Подготвена во секое време да биде тука за мене, да ме поддржува кога плачам, да се смееме кога ќе се радувам, да споделуваме маѓепсана тишина. Твојата преградка да биде голема колку и твојата личност за да одговара на мојата. И да е способна да споделува многу моменти.

Може да бидеш Европеец, Азиец, Африканец, од Америка... или постојан номад, „вечен скитник“, но секогаш отворен и толерантен. Да знаеш да зборуваш на јазик соодветен на различни ситуации и расположенија, да облечеш костум соодветен на мојата возраст и обичаи како што јас ќе го направам тоа за возврат.

Може да веруваш во бог или во повеќе од нив, во Мојсеј, Исус, Мухамед, Буда или Шива. Или во ниту еден од нив. Може да веруваш во напишано сценарио од „горе“, да веруваш во универзумот, но можеби ќе дознаеш и дека непредвидени работи (лоши или добри), сепак, се случуваат. Меѓутоа, апсолутно верувај во мене и никогаш не се сомневај во мене. Нека моите планови никогаш не се исполнат, моите болки никогаш не се сатиризираат, моите стравови никогаш не се претворат во страшна приказна или смеа за некои други. Имај верба во мене, во моето постоење, во мојата способност да се развивам и да станам подобра личност.

Лице: најистакнатата карактеристика на лицето треба да ти биде насмевката. Трајна насмевка, без оглед на сезоната или околностите. Топла и светлечка насмевка. Најмалку истакнатата



карактеристика на твоето лице треба да биде веѓата, особено ако си склон да се намуртиш. Тоа ме вознемирува. Што се однесува до очите, нека бидат од бојата на надежта. Изгледот нека биде пријателски и привлечен, позитивен кон малите работи. Поглед кој знае како да ја идентификува вечноста на споделениот момент.

Срце: меко. По можност помeko од чоколадо или желе. Меко наспроти тврдо, дебелокожно, недопирливо. Податливо, емпатично, полно со разбирање. Толку меко за да може да се стави во чевлите на другите луѓе, па и на моите, за да ја почувствува нивната болка без да страда. Меко со мудрост и свесност дека не може да ја испумпа крвта и проблемите на другата личност без нужно да го преоптоварува сопствениот пат.

Нека биде меко, во смисла дека не се крши кога е удено, туку го враќа интензитетот со еднаква тежина и секогаш има тенденција да се балансира. Нека биде љубезно со допирот на раката. И кон друго срце. Да воспостави врска да нема многу систематски систем – толку смешно колку што и звучи. Нека биде внимателно кон малите гестови што се од огромно значење. Меѓутоа, твоето

срце нека не биде нечувствително на уметноста на импровизацијата, ниту многу некомпетентно во тоа. Можеби ќе знаеш дека непредвидените работи (на подобро и на полошо) понекогаш се случуваат.

Нека твоето срце биде цврсто и постојано, но не и непробојно. Срцето мора да знае да ја препознае токсичноста и да се ослободи од неа. Да го идентификува моето присуство и да биде силно кога ќе дојде на до вратата на моето срце. Сепак, твоето срце мора да биде малку поопуштено и помалку ригидно во врска со моите грешки. Тие ќе бидат многу. Ќе излудуваат. Тие се доказ за мојот најлош дел, како и, сепак, мојот најдобар: мојата хуманост.

Прости ги моите грешки, заборави ги моите пропусти, запомни ги моите неволји, смеј се кога ќе поминат, љубезно посочи ги моите грешки и никогаш не пропуштај шанса да ме направиш подобра личност, свесна за моите граници и моите несовершености што ги прифаќаш, а на кои работам за да ги надминам. И умеј да ме сакаш. Биди подготвен да ме слушаш, да ми посветиш внимание, јас ќе ти возвратам.

Не можам да го прашам духот од ламбата, затоа што ти, драг пријателе, не можеш да се материјализираш во чад и од полиран метал. Можам само да го прашам универзумот и да го формулирам моето барање со зборови, така што кога ќе смета дека е остварливо и кога вибрирам правилно, да ми испрати кандидат, а потоа можеби ќе треба волонтер за итна помош.

Се бара пријател. Слободно истапи напред, доколку си заинтересиран.

Виторија Аџерби

Превод: Горан Адамовски

A Tree without roots

How does it feel to be a tree without
roots?

Freed from the iron grip of the soil
Ready to go wherever it calls you
To grow wherever you want.

But without soil a tree is rootless and
aimless,

Where to grow to, where to go,
with the roots in the air?

No direction without an origin.

.....

Mathis Gilsbach



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A FRIEND IS WANTED



Photo by Kevin Gent on Unsplash

СЕ БАРА ПРИЈАТЕЛ