DAILY NEWSPAPER

№ 31345 SEPTEMBER 25, 2021



FAKE NEWS

When I was six years old, I saw a picture in a book. It was a picture of a snake who was eating a big animal. Here is a copy of the picture.

In the book it said, "Snakes eat the whole animal. Then they are not able to move. And they sleep for six months." I thought about the life in the jungle. Then I made my first picture. This is my picture number one.

I showed my fantastic picture to the adults. And I asked them if my picture scared them. But they answered, "How can I be scared of a hat?" My picture was not a picture of a hat. It was a picture of a big snake who ate an elephant.

The adults advised me to stop drawing snakes, from the inside or the outside. They told me that it was better to study geography, history, maths and grammar. That's why, at the age of six, I left a great career as a painter. I did it because my picture number one and picture number two were not successful when adults saw them. Adults never understand anything alone. And children are not happy when they have to always give them explanations.

So I had to choose another profession. I learnt to fly planes. I flew all over the world. And it's true that geography was very useful to me.

I could see the difference between China and Arizona at first look. It is very useful if you are lost in the night.

During my life, I had a lot of contact with many serious people. I lived a lot among the adults. I could see them from a close distance. This experience did not improve my opinion of them much.

When I met an adult who looked a little normal, I showed him or her my picture number one. I always had this picture with me. I wanted to know if this person really understood life. But the person always said, "It's a hat." Then I never spoke to this person about big snakes or forests or stars.



SHEEP

I went to his or her level and we talked about bridges, golf and politics. And the adult was happy to meet such a reasonable man.

So I lived alone. I didn't know anybody who I could really talk to. But one day it all changed. I had an accident in the Sahara Desert. It was six years ago. Something broke in my engine. And I had neither any mechanic or any passenger in the plane with me. To repair the plane alone was a difficult job. But I had to do it. It was a question of life or death for me. I had only enough drinking water for a week.

The first night I fell asleep on the sand a thousand miles from any land with people. I was more isolated than a sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean. So you can imagine my surprise, when a funny little voice woke me up in the morning. It said, "Please, draw me a sheep!"

"What?"

"Draw me a sheep!"

I jumped to my feet as if I was hit by lightning. I looked around. And I see a very unusual little man who was looking at me very seriously. This is the best picture of him which I later was able to make.

I looked at this little man with my eyes full of surprise. Don't forget that I was a thousand miles from any land with people. It was interesting to see that this little man didn't look tired, hungry, thirsty or scared. He didn't look like a child who was lost in the middle of the desert, a thousand miles from any land with people.

When I finally managed to speak, I said to him, "What are you doing here?"

He repeated very slowly and very seriously, "Please draw me a sheep."

He said. "It doesn't matter. Draw me a sheep."

But I never drew a sheep. So I drew him one of the only two pictures which I was able to draw. It was a big snake from the outside.

And I was shocked to hear the

no, no! I don't want an elephant

big snake is a very dangerous ani

takes a lot of space. Where I live

small. I need a sheep. Draw me

made a picture. He looked at it c

"No. This sheep is already very ill

So I made another picture.

My friend smiled gently at me,

too. This is not a sheep. It's a ra

then I made another picture. But

"This sheep is too old. I want a sh

long time". At that moment, my

because I was in a hurry to start

quickly drew this picture.



And I said. "That's a box. The sheep which you want is inside." I was very surprised when I saw the light in the face of the young man. "This is exactly how I wanted it! Do you think that the sheep will need a lot of grass?" "Why?" "Because where I live, everything is very small."

"I believe that there will be enough grass for it. I gave you a very small sheep." He looked closely at the picture. "It is not very small. Look! It is sleeping now."

And this is how I met the little prince. It took me a long time to understand where he came from.

PLANET

The little prince asked me many questions. I also asked him questions, but he usually didn't seem to hear them. From the speaking I slowly started to understand many things. For example, when he first saw my plane, he asked, "What is this thing?" I will not draw my plane here. It is too complicated for me.

I answered, "This isn't a thing. It flies. It's a plane. It's my plane."

And I was proud when I told him that I could fly. Then he said, "What! You fell from the sky?"

"Yes," I said.

"Oh! It's funny!"

And the little prince started to laugh very loudly. I was angry. My situation was serious. How could somebody think that it was funny?

Then he added. "So you also fell from the sky. What planet do you come from? Where is your home? Where do you want to take your sheep?" He was quiet for a long time. Then he answered, "The good thing about the box is that at night I can use it as a house for the sheep."

"Of course. And if you are good, I'll also give you a rope. Then you can tie the sheep during the day."

But the little prince was shocked by this offer. "Tie the sheep. It is a funny idea!" "But if you don't tie the sheep, it will run away. It will be lost."

My friend started to laugh loudly again. "But where do you think the sheep can go?" "Anywhere. Straight, left, right."

FAKE





ASTEROID

Then the little prince said seriously, "The sheep can go away. It is OK. Where I live, everything is so small." He was a little sad. Then he added, "Where I live, nobody can go very far."

So, this way, I learnt a second very important thing. The planet of the little prince was very small. It was only a little bigger than a house.

But it's true that it wasn't a big surprise. I knew very well that we don't only have planets like Earth, Jupiter, Mars, and Venus, which have names. There are also hundreds of other planets which are sometimes so small that it's difficult to see them through the telescope. When an astronomer discovers one of them, he doesn't give the planet a name, but only a number. He calls it, for example, Asteroid 3251.

I believe that the planet from which the little prince came is Asteroid B-612.

This asteroid was seen only once through the telescope. It was by a Turkish astronomer, in 1909.

He spoke about his discovery at the International Astronomical Congress.

Fortunately for the reputation of Asteroid B-612, a Turkish leader made a law that people had to wear clothes like Europeans. The astronomer spoke about his discovery again in 1920. He was wearing very elegant clothes. And this time everybody accepted his discovery.

I am telling you these details about Asteroid B-612 and I am telling you its number because adults like numbers. When you tell them that you have a new friend, they never ask you questions about important things. They never ask you, "What is the sound of his voice? What games does he like? Does he collect butterflies?"

They ask, "How old is he? How many brothers does he have? How much does he weigh? How much money does his father make?" If they know these numbers, they think that they know this person.

If you say to the adults, "I saw a beautiful red house, with beautiful flowers in the windows and birds on the roof," they can't imagine the house. You have to say to them, "I saw a house that cost one hundred thousand dollars." Then they can say, "It's a pretty house."

So if you say to the adults, "The little prince existed because he was nice, he laughed, and he wanted a sheep. If you want a sheep, it's clear that you exist," this information won't help them.

GooDocs