

The Little Prince

小王子奇幻旅行札記

Cosmos Notebook



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Once when I was six years old I saw a magnificent picture in a book about the primeval forest. It was a picture of a boa constrictor in the act of swallowing an animal.

我六歲時看過一本故事書，內容是描述有關原始森林的生態，裡面有一幅非常壯觀的圖畫。那是一條大蟒蛇，正在絞殺吞食獵物的情景。

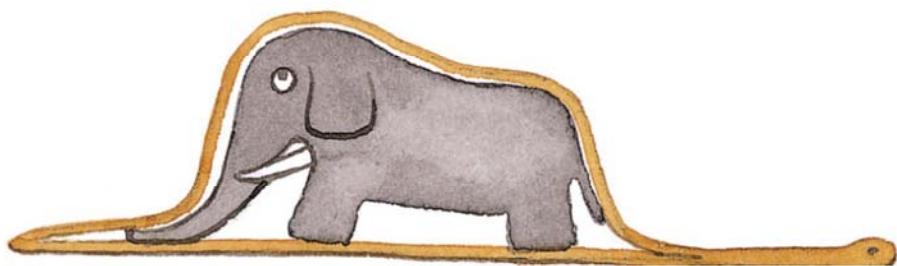


I showed my masterpiece to the grown-ups, and asked them whether the drawing frightened them.

But they answered: "Frighten? Why should anyone be frightened by a hat?"

我把我的傑作拿給大人們看，並問他們害不害怕。

沒想到他們卻回答：「害怕？一頂帽子有什麼好怕的呢？」



I drew the inside of the boa constrictor, so that the grown-ups could see it clearly.

They always need to have things explained.

我把大蟒蛇內部的樣子畫出來，好讓大人可以看清楚。

他們習慣每件事情都被解釋得清清楚楚。



Here you may see the best portrait that, later, I was able to make of him. But my drawing is certainly very much less charming than its model.

稍晚，你可以看到他的肖像畫，那是事後我為他畫的最好的一幅。不過，圖畫看起來當然沒有他本人來得吸引人。

“What I need is a sheep. Draw me a sheep.”

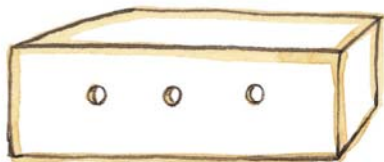
“No. This sheep is already very sickly.

Make me another”

「我要的是一隻綿羊，幫我畫一隻綿羊。」

「不行啦！這隻羊看起來病恹恹的，幫我再畫一張。」





“This is only his box. The sheep you asked is inside.”

“That is exactly the way I wanted it! Do you think that this sheep will have to have a great deal of grass?”

「這是裝著他的箱子，你要的綿羊就在裡面。」

「這正是我想要的！你想，他需要吃很多的草嗎？」



“So you, too, come from the sky! Which is your planet?”

At that moment I caught a gleam of light in the impenetrable mystery of his presence; and I demanded, abruptly:

“Do you come from another planet?”

