

## Mali princ – Antoan de Sent-Egziperi

On se nalazio u predelu asteroida 325, 326, 327, 328, 329 i 330. Počeo je dakle da ih obilazi da bi tamo pronašao neko zanimanje i upotpunio svoje znanje.

Na prvom je živeo neki kralj. Sedeo je, odeven u *purpur* i *hermelin*, na jednom, vrlo jednostavnom pa ipak veličanstvenom prestolu.

- Ah! Evo jednog *podanika*, uzviknu kralj kada je primetio malog princa.

A mali princ se upita:

„Kako me je mogao prepoznati kada me nikada ranije nije video?“

Nije znao da je za kraljeve svet vrlo pojednostavljen. Svi ljudi su za njih podanici.

- Približi se da te bolje vidim, reče mu kralj koji je bio vrlo ponosan da je bar nekome kralj.

Mali princ potraži očima gde bi seo, ali je cela planeta bila zakrčen veličanstvenim plaštom od hermelina. Ostao je, dakle, stojeći, i kako je bio umoran, zevnuo je:

- Zevati u prisustvu kralja protivi se dvorskim propisima, reče mu vladar. Zabranjujem ti da zevaš.

- Ne mogu da se uzdržim, odgovori mali princ sav zbunjen. Dugo sam putovao i nisam spavao...

- U tom slučaju, reče mu kralj, zapovedam ti da zevaš. Godinama već nisam video nekoga da zeva. Zevanje je za mene retkost. Hajde! Zevaj još. To je naređenje.

- Sad sam se uplašio i ne mogu više... reče mali princ *pocrveneši*.

- Hm! Hm! odgovori kralj. Onda ti... naređujem da čas zevaš a čas...

Mrmljao je nešto i izgledao je ljut.

Kralj je, pre svega, mnogo držao do toga da njegov ugled bude poštovan. Nije trpeo neposlušnost. Bio je to apsolutni vladar. Ali, kako je bio dobar čovek, davao je razumne naredbe.

„Kad bih naredio, govorio je obično, kad bih nekom generalu naredio da se pretvori u morskou pticu, i kad general ne bi poslušao, to ne bi bila njegova greška. Bila bi moja greška.“

- Smem li da sednem? raspitivao se *bojažljivo* mali princ.

- Naređujem ti da sedneš, odvrati mu kralj, koji dostojanstveno privuče *skut* svog hermelinskog plašta.

Mali princ se iznenadi. Planeta je bila sićušna. *Nad kim je kralj vladao?*

- Gospodaru, reče mu on... Molim vas, oprostite što ću nešto da vas pitam...

- Naređujem ti da me pitaš, požuri da kaže kralj.

- Gospodaru, nad kim vi vladate?

- Nad svim, odgovori kralj sa najvećom jednostavnošću.

- Nad svim?

Uzdržanim pokretom kralj pokaza na svoju planetu, na druge planete i zvezde.

- Nad svim tim? upita mali princ.

- Nad svim tim, odgovori kralj.

Jer to ne samo da je bio apsolutni vladar, već i sveopšti vladar.

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podanik – subject

purpur - purple

hermelin – ermine

bojažljiv – timid

skut – fold

(417 words)

## The Little Prince – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

He found himself in the area of asteroids 325, 326, 327, 328, 329 and 330. So he began to visit them to find something to do and to learn something new.

On the first, lived a king. He was sitting, dressed in purple and ermine, on a very simple, yet magnificent throne.

“Aha! Here comes a subject”, exclaimed the king when he noticed the little prince.

“How could he have recognised me when he has never seen me before?” the little prince asked himself.

He didn't realise that, for kings, the world is very simple: all people to them are subjects.

“Come closer so that I can see you better”, said the king, who was proud to be at least someone's king.

The little prince looked around for somewhere to sit, but the whole planet was taken up by a magnificent robe of ermine. So, he remained standing and, because he was tired, he yawned.

“It is against court rules to yawn in the presence of the king”, said the monarch. “I forbid you to yawn.”

“I can't help myself”, replied the little prince totally confused. “I have been travelling a long time and haven't slept...<sup>1</sup>”

“In that case”, said the king, “I order you to yawn. I haven't seen anyone yawn for years<sup>2</sup>. Yawning for me is something of a rarity. Come on! Yawn again. That's an order!”

“Now you've made me scared and I can't do it any more”, said the little prince turning red.

“Hmm hmm!” replied the king. “Then I – I order you sometimes to yawn and other times...”

He muttered something and looked angry.

The king, above all, insisted that his authority be respected. He could not stand disobedience. He was an absolute ruler. But, because he was a kind man, he gave reasonable orders.

“If I ordered<sup>3</sup>”, he would usually say, “if I ordered a general to turn into a sea-bird, and if that general did not obey, it would not be his fault. It would be mine.”

“May I sit?” asked the little prince timidly.

“I order you to sit”, replied the king majestically drawing in a fold of his ermine robe.

The little prince was astonished. The planet was tiny. Over whom did the king rule<sup>4</sup>?

“Sire”, he asked, “please forgive me for asking a question...”

“I order you to ask me”, the king replied hurriedly.

“Sire, over whom do you rule?”

“Over everything”, the king replied with the greatest simplicity.

“Over everything?”

With a restrained movement, the king indicated his planet, the other planets and the stars.

“Over all that?” asked the little prince.

“Over all that”, replied the king.

For not only was he an absolute ruler. He was also a universal ruler.

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<sup>1</sup> 'I have been travelling for a long time' or 'I have travelled a long way'. This requires a present perfect (progressive) because it is something that has been happening up until a very short time ago and has clear consequences in the present.

<sup>2</sup> Or: it is years since I saw anyone yawn(ing)

<sup>3</sup> The conditional here can be indicated either by a simple past 'if I ordered... and the general did not obey...' or 'if I should order... and should the general not obey' or 'were I to order... and were the general not to obey...' Avoid using 'would' immediately after the word 'if'. Of course, you should use 'would' in the second part 'it would not be his fault'.

<sup>4</sup> Or 'who did the king rule over'.