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플라스크 속 작은 난장이 / A Little Man in a Flask

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플라스크 속 작은 난장이

Etan Lee

플라스크 속의 작은 난장이가 한 현자에게 물었다.

“육체를 가진 자의 삶은 어떠하오?”

현자는 난장이를 보지도 않은채 답하였다.

“외롭고, 춥고, 아프며 슬프다네.”

난장이는 이를 이해하지 못한다는듯 현자를 바라보았다.

“플라스크 속의 삶은 어떠한가?”

“답답하며, 불안하고 무섭소.”

그의 대답에 현자는 씨익 웃음을 보였다.

“무엇이 그리 우습소?” 플라스크 속의 난장이가 물었다.

“우습지 아니한가? 자네건 나건, 플라스크의 안이건 밖이건.

두렵고, 아프고, 슬픈건 모든 살아있는것들의 공통된 운명이란것이.”

“그것이 왜 우습소?” 난장이가 답하였다 “나에겐 비극으로만 보이오.”

“잃을것이 많다는것. 그리고 살아있다는 것을 느낄수 있다는 것.

이 즐겁지 아니한가?”

현자는 웃음을 머금은채 다시 그의 책들로 눈을 돌렸다.

“멍청한것.” 플라스크 속의 난장이가 눈을 돌리며 속삭였다.

“아, 나에게도 육체가 있다면.” 현자는 그 소리에 다시 한번 웃음을 머금었다.

A Little Man in a Flask

Translated by Rachel Sewon Bae

A little man in a flask asked the old wise man a question.

“How does the life inside flesh feel?”

The old wise man replied without looking at the little man.

“Full of loneliness, pain, misery and suffering.”

The little man stared at the old wise man, not able to understand him.

“How does the life inside a flask feel?” The old wise man asked.

The little man replied, “Always stifling, fearful and restless.”

The old wise man cracked a smile at his response.

“What’s so funny?” asked the little man in a flask.

“Isn’t it funny? You or me, life inside the flask or outside,

Fear, sadness and suffering are common fates of all things living.”

“How does that humor you?” asked the little man. “It feels like a tragedy to me.”

“To have things to lose and to be able to feel that you are alive. Isn’t that joyful?” The old wise man smiled and returned to his books.

“Foolish.” The little man rolled his eyes.

“Oh, only if I lived in flesh...” he mumbled.

The old wise man heard him speak.

And he cracked another smile that only he could understand.