

The clever man at the fork in the road who was only concerned about his own advantage.

Nothing happened in this story, because it describes a single significant moment.

Unfortunately, we did not learn how the story ended. But perhaps we will have some idea of how it might have ended when we have heard the whole story.

This story simply describes the moment when the advantage-seeking man in question stood at a fork in the road. He had to make a decision as to where his path should lead, and he had two options to choose from in this story.

As said before, the man was smart and he knew a few things. More specifically, he knew exactly the things that we are telling you in this story. So he knew all the things that you know when you finish listening to the story.

This man was not actually evil of heart. He just didn't feel his heart anymore. He did not feel for other people or living beings and thus it was not so important to him until now if others had to suffer for it that it should go well for him or should go in such a way as he thought it was good for him. The man knew desires, needs, some feelings - but he did not know love or he had never known it. He had not yet made any heartfelt connection with other living beings or human beings. He knew no conscience, no loyalty.

This man had left his previous home. And on his way through the world we are talking about here, this man had arrived at this fork in the road. In this world, there were some cities, many villages and lands.

Our advantage-seeking man was now at a fork in the road.

One of the two paths led to a city called "Advantage City," a large city with lands where life was much the same as in his previous home.

The other path led to a small country called "Common Land," a country where everyone cared that all people and living things were doing well. In this land there was no wealth in that sense. There were no cities, only villages and settlements.

Advantage city

But first, let's tell a little more about Advantage City:

There were several cities in this world that we are talking about that were like Advantage City, and our man's previous home was also a very similar place. There, where he was at home until the end, somehow everybody was like in Advantage City. Everybody thought of his supposed advantage and was heartless to all other people and living beings. There were many people in this city who worked hard. Actually, all people or almost all people worked hard. But there were a few who could command more people and who could get some more recognition, influence and wealth this way. These few then had something like wealth and they apparently had to work a little less. But these few people were also slaves, because they had the task to keep the many less rich people to work. The many less rich should secure the alleged wealth of the very very few. Whether there was a human at the top of this pyramid of exploitation, we do not know.

Neither did the people from that city know. No one knew that. There were rumors that there were people or beings at the top. However, these people or beings had not been inhabitants of this city. This would have been logical, because this city was not the most beautiful place in the world.

But exactly nobody had known that.

The few humans, who were somewhat richer, had however finally also some responsibility for the fact that it did not go to the many less rich completely so well.

That this man belonged to the few advantaged people, that had several reasons, but it was also because he was clever and busy and that he strived for his own supposed advantage as already said. He had understood the system quite well and he had learned to use other people and living

beings to his advantage in such a way that he would never lack anything vital in such a city. He had learned to impress other people, to arouse their interest, and to enlist them in his interests, believing that they would also have an advantage if they served him. He had learned to make nice with people who were more powerful than he was. He knew how to avoid trouble with them and how to carry out or fulfill, with the least possible effort, their orders or the wishes they had expressed to him in such a way as to please them. However, in order to fulfill the wishes of the more powerful, he also had to exploit other people and living beings for their benefit. He, in turn, had to instruct other people to make even more people and living beings work for him - for himself, for the people who commanded other people and for the even more powerful people who also gave him instructions.

In this world there were laws and an order, which actually all had to respect. This order also consolidated the system of the pyramid with power from a top down through many levels to the broad base of the many ordinary workers. However, in addition to the written and known laws, there were also a number of unwritten laws and behaviors, some of which even violated the law in force. It was part of the skill of the somewhat more powerful and richer people to know these unwritten laws and behaviors and to use them to their advantage. And as a result, secret gangs developed, within which people joined together to secure advantages for each other. One had to be a member of these secret gangs to rise a little. People who followed only the written law and who did not join said secret gangs, as a rule, belonged to the common workers. Only those who were very talented, who had special skills and who were therefore indispensable, could otherwise achieve modest prosperity without the favor of the gangs, as long as they were loyal to the more powerful people.

Of course, people who joined the secret gangs also had to make commitments, sign contracts. These contracts obligated them to serve the more powerful people in the gangs and they committed themselves to secrecy. Because, as I said, the people in the secret gangs were not so careful with the known laws and if the members of the secret gangs did not keep it tight, then the system of favoritism would not have worked.

But also the gangs were part of the whole system of power and in reality the people who were highest in the pyramid also had control over the gangs. Over all the gangs.

In this city there were highly advanced technologies, machines, factories, transportation, computers and many things like we know from our world. If anything, they were a little more advanced than we know. Because of this, even the simpler people had many supports and things that made life easier.

Those who had accumulated more wealth, who had more technical devices, bigger homes and so on, also received more recognition from other people, they could make more and above all more powerful and richer friends. However, this also meant that a large part of the total labor force of people was spent on things that were not necessary for life, that did not make a person happy, but that were simply impressive. Therefore, in the pursuit of the respective advantage, a large part of the efforts of all people were also directed to accumulate wealth and to bring impressive things into their own possession.

As I said - our advantage-seeking man had found his way well in this system. He had found his small circle of friends and a beautiful wife who was grateful for the fact that she was allowed to live with him in the modest prosperity and that, in addition, she did not have to work hard.

There was no real human trust in this town. There was only the knowledge of how to get along well and an inkling of under what circumstances one could expect good cooperation from other people and what one had to avoid so that one's allies would not betray or drop one.

And the relationships within friendships were not really different. Friendships somehow satisfied the need for community and for recognition. And that in this city there was only very very rarely something like love, truth, and that a conscience was rather a hindrance in order to achieve recognition and wealth, that does not need to be explained further.

We have now been talking all the time about how our husband fared in his previous home. But as I said, that is also pretty much the description of what we know about Advantage City. And with that, we'll leave it at this point with the description of Advantage City and turn to Common Land.

Common Land

The people of Gemeinland lived, as already described, in small villages, which were only so large that everyone knew each inhabitant of his village more or less well. The people were affectionately connected among themselves and respected each other. It did not matter to them whether someone was rich or poor, because in Common Land there was no money at all and because they lived in the feeling that there was more than enough of everything that people needed to feed themselves and to lead a happy and contented life, because there was more than enough of all that. Therefore, everyone could take as much as they wanted. But because they had a loving attachment not only to each person, but also to the plants and animals, and because they also valued the treasures of the earth, therefore no one took more than he needed without need. Moreover, the inhabitants of Common Land vehemently refused to serve anyone or to be dominated. If someone had a nice idea, then a few people got together to implement this idea together for the joy of creating, to build something together and so on, and then everyone did this on their own impulse.

And if a resident needed a house, then usually a few people with the needed skills found each other to help him build it.

Common Land residents were strong and healthy people full of energy and drive. This was not because they were somehow different people than we are, but it was because they had not been coerced or forced into anything by anyone, and because by nature every healthy person has so much drive in them.

They developed their own skills on the way of growing up and found their respective destinies. And because they enjoyed creating and because there was enough of everything afterwards, therefore they distributed the things they had created liberally. There was no money, there was also no exchange system. Therefore, there was no accounting of how much one had given to the other and how much he had received in return. As I said, the people of Gemeinland lived in the feeling that there was enough of everything. Giving was a joy to them.

In fact, even in Common Land there were some people who lived lazily, who did not feel like doing anything for the others. And sometimes there were also people who tried to use other people for their ideas or to spin intrigues. And even these people, who were very few, were given all the things they needed to live by the strong and joyful other fellow human beings who outnumbered them. Maybe they did not get the most beautiful wardrobe carpentered and the most beautiful house built, maybe they received something less, if once a person had created something special, which was then actually not available in such large quantities. It was important that the inhabitants of Common Land were also very vigilant and watched very closely and sensed when someone tried to influence them, to intrigue, to gain power and influence and so on. And they reacted grumpily to that. They confronted such people and if that didn't lead to anything, then they just kept a little bit more distance to these very very few people who tried something like that. This vigilance of the inhabitants of Common Land was one of the main reasons why it was possible for them to resist any control by a foreign power and they put a lot of effort into being vigilant.

Since each inhabitant took care of his own things and since he could inspire other people only for common undertakings which were of general benefit and which pleased the other people, therefore it was also difficult to accumulate wealth. For example, what would an busy inhabitant of Common Land have gained from owning a particularly large house or a particularly large

amount of land if he had not found someone who was in need to take care of his house and work his land to provide him with a roof and something to eat?

There was something like a community hall in the villages of Common Land, a house where people met to settle the common things of the village. There was a community council formed by a few people who came together on their own to talk about and settle the common things. This council was not elected, but this was done by the people who wanted to do this.

There were no schools in this sense. Children also often met in the community hall. They connected with people who had special knowledge to learn from them. They teamed up to accomplish common projects, learning as needed with adult support. People spent most of their time learning well into their adulthood.

Because people lived healthy lives without outside poisoning, they lived to be much older than we are today. There were virtually no diseases as we know them. When people reached their time, they became weaker and weaker and eventually fell asleep peacefully. But until then, they nursed each other back to health with their healing knowledge. This healing knowledge included not only natural remedies and herbs, but also the spiritual abilities to heal.

In general, people nurtured their spiritual abilities, avoiding any contact with spirit beings. They worked from their own hearts and brains. But they rejected any religions, any gurus, temples, rituals, symbols and so on. All spiritual work happened out of love, out of the heart and exclusively out of their own human power. The connection to our loving Creator lived in these people by nature, without them making any fuss about it, without any "belief", worship or anything else religious like that.

It is important to mention that in Common Land there were no cars, no airplanes, no big roads, no cities and no so-called "high technology" and factories at all. There were a few places they called workshops, where things were made that could be made better together. It was important to the people that these things were created in the workshops with joy and love.

Because of the fact that in Gemeinland all these things did not exist, as we know them from so-called civilizations, it was hardly possible for people to gain power, to exercise power over others.

In Common Land there were no governments, no police, no taxes, no identity cards, and so on. However, the inhabitants of Common Land rejected the term "anarchy" for their way of life, in case anyone ever heard this word. This is because this term comes from our world and was formed by people who have other intentions and who think that life without domination is possible in a world with high technology, cities, civilization and money. We will not explain this further, but it was important for the inhabitants of Common Land to say this.

From their point of view, a life without domination of people by other people was possible only if one lived without civilization, that is, rather simply and in love connected with all dear life.

The decision

Which way will our advantage-seeking man have gone without the experience of love?

He was very familiar with the life in Advantage City and he could count on the fact that in Advantage City he could have quickly caught up with the somewhat richer people of a small higher-ranking group. He could have lived there in modest wealth that he could not have experienced in any case in Common Land. He could have found admirers, won over beautiful women, and so on.

The man had come to this fork in the road in a beautiful car. He had been driving a well paved road and he could have, in order to get to Advantage City, just kept driving straight on this good road. It wasn't really a fork in the road at all, but the road to Gemeinland was a small nondescript

gravel road that branched off from this paved road. The knowledge of this fork had somehow come to him some time ago.

He also didn't know what he should have done with the car if he had wanted to turn off to Common Land now. Would he have been able to drive his car that way at all, or would he have been better off leaving it there? Would the people in Gemeinland even let the car into their country, or should he rather give away his car and some of his belongings to other people outside Gemeinland right away?

He knew that he would have been rejected in Gemeinland for his special skills and knowledge of Advantage City. He knew that no one would have admired him if he had possessed something more or if he had had skill in winning other people over - better said, he would not have had this skill in Gemeinland, because the people from Gemeinland would have been so alert to see through him with this request. He knew that now he himself would have had to do something for his life, that he would also have had to work for the welfare of the others, in order to be really accepted as a lovable person on a par with the other inhabitants.

He had even had an awareness that he had lacked the capacity for love, which, however, was one of the most important and sought-after qualities in Common Land. He knew, however, that in principle everyone has this ability within him and that the people of Common Land would have given him assistance in rediscovering and strengthening these abilities within himself.

This man also knew that for all the rotten things he had done to other weaker people and living beings so far, that all this knowledge about his actions was stored in his environment. It enveloped him like a bad-smelling cloud.

The man further knew that his dark cloud would have surrounded him as well if he had gone to Vorteilsstadt. Only there, no one would have noticed this cloud, or rather, everyone there would have been used to these gloomy clouds. Probably he would have had to do even more rotten things in Advantage City to be able to maintain his prosperity and he would have increased the darkness of the cloud surrounding him even more.

He knew that people in Common Land would have noticed this smell of this dark cloud and would have taken him to task. He knew that in order to be truly accepted by these people, he would have had to ask forgiveness in his mind and heart from all the people and living beings he had harmed. Only in this way could this dark cloud around him have been dissolved and the people from Common Land would have met him without reservations.

But he knew that also here the people from Common Land would have offered support, because for them it does not count primarily what a person has done in the past, but how he intends to act in the future and whether he faces his responsibility for all living beings with whom he would connect and whether he would be faithful to all these living beings. And the sincere request for forgiveness can show this faithfulness and connection.

Only when he would have gone in forgiveness, he would have been able to look even the people who lived in loving connection straight into the eyes and to take up a loving connection from himself.

So it was clear that all his knowledge and abilities would have been useful to him in the Advantage City, whereas in the Common Land he would have been received rather like a poor beggar and all the treasures he brought with him would have been underestimated.

What do you think, which way our man, who was anxious for his advantage, took?
Remember: We know that he was clever and he was anxious for his advantage!
And what would be advantageous for him, that he had thought through very exactly.

What do you think?

Addendum

This story is told by Jens Gordon Gerbracht (Jegoo) and Uli Sommer.

It should be noted that much, if not most, of what we heard in the description of "Gemeinland" is simply "borrowed" from a conversation between Christa Jasinski and Michael Vogt.

We may not share Mrs. Jasinski's spiritual views, and we do not know, nor do we attach any importance to, whether what Mrs. Jasinski reports has actually been as true as it was also conveyed to her by her late husband Alf Jasinski. Christa Jasinski describes namely in her reports the life of "Neanderthals" who would live in an "inner earth".

We consider it necessary and appropriate to name the origin of these thoughts.

Alone the description of the life of said people from the interview is for us a unique description of an idea how we could live together and that is what counts for us. No matter how the reports came about and how true they are - we consider these reports to be enormously significant, for said reason. And for this reason we are very grateful to Christa Jasinski, her late husband Alf Jasinski and Michael Vogt for these reports.

We think it is conceivable that people could live as described in the conversation. It is not said that the way from our present world to such a world would be easy. That is a story of its own. But without the idea of wanting to live like that, you are guaranteed not to reach that goal, and that is why we are tracing this picture in our own way.