

The Existential Adventures of Crazy Man and the Dog, Sidestepper



Episode 30: Crazy Man and the Dog, Sidestepper, consider the why of beingness

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“Do you ever wonder why we’re here?” said the dog, Sidestepper, as he and Crazy Man journeyed down the path of adventure and new meanings. Bubbles of bright white cloud spotted the blue sky and the deep dark scary woods on both sides of the path seemed less threatening today. The eyes watching from the bushes and leaves had packed away their malevolence in favor of an afternoon nap.

“I know why I’m here,” said Crazy Man, and he smiled reassuringly.

After a quantum period of time had passed and Crazy Man had not elaborated on his answer, the dog, Sidestepper, said, “So...why are you here?”

“I’m here to see what it’s all about...” said Crazy Man, “...this outside thing.” His brows tightened as he thought deeply and then his eyes brightened as a thought bubbled to the surface. “And maybe find some food. Why are you here?”

The dog, Sidestepper, (who was already facing Crazy Man while walking sideways) said, “I’m here to find my mother and, when I do, my legs will shrink to normal and my body will grow and

I'll be able to walk straight." A toothy canine smile creased his face from ear to canine ear. Crazy Man had to look away.

"And what will you be here for after that?" said Crazy Man.

A cloud of pure angst floated across the surface of the dog, Sidestepper's, eyes. His tiny tail curled down, as did his ears. "I guess I'll find out then."

Crazy Man sensed the existential crisis rushing through his travel mate's head so he diverted their attention to a bee pollinating a lupin. "Hello bee," he said.

The bee, whose head was buried in the lupin, looked up and said, "No time to talk. I've got to find it. It's around here somewhere." And he buried his head back under the lupin petals.

"What are you looking for," said Crazy Man. "Maybe we can help."

The bee pulled its head out of the petals and looked the pair up and down. "I don't think so."

Crazy Man and the dog, Sidestepper, frowned in unison. They'd seen that look before.

"I might have a kitchen," said Crazy Man. "And a pizza pan. And a garage with a car in it."

"So where are they?" said the bee, its voice muffled by petals and pollen.

"I don't remember," said Crazy Man, "but I might have them."

"And what does that have to do with anything?" said the bee. "Now go away and stop bothering me."

Crazy Man was not to be rebuffed. He'd had enough of the horrors and pleasantries of this outside thing and he wasn't taking guff from a bee. "We were talking about why we're here," he said, "but we don't have much to be here for. Then, I saw you and your obvious purpose in being here...to pollinate!"

Crazy Man and the dog, Sidestepper, jumped up and down in pure revelation-enhanced joy for gawd knows how long as the bee ignored them with its head in the petals. When the two finally calmed down enough to stop jumping, the bee pulled its head out of the plant and yelled, "I'm *not* pollinating!"

"Yes, you are," said the lupin.

"You stay out of this!"

The lupin remained silent.

"I'm looking for something," said the bee. "Why do you think I'm searching around in this dumb plant?"

The lupin remained silent.

"But," said the dog, Sidestepper, "when you search from plant to plant, you pollinate them."

"I don't give a damn about pollinating plants," said the bee. "Like all of my kind, I'm searching for the one thing that every bee needs."

"What's that?" said Crazy Man. His head spun a few times with excitement.

The bee mucked about in the lupin before answering. "It goes back ages and ages, possibly to the first queen bee to break off a piece of her wing to create the first worker bee."

"So what is it?" said the dog, Sidestepper.

The bee pulled its head out of the lupin petals, spit out a glob of pollen, focused one eye on Crazy Man and the other on the dog, Sidestepper, and said, "Oh, wouldn't you just love to know that."

"Yes, we sure would," said Crazy Man and the dog, Sidestepper, in unison. "Please tell us."

"I forget," said the bee.

The lupin remained silent.

Crazy Man and the dog, Sidestepper, stared at the bee as its words did a slow slide into their ears. They looked at each other and shrugged. They looked back at the bee and the bee shrugged. "It's true. None of us remember what we're looking for. So now...we search. We search until we find it."

"But," said the dog, Sidestepper, "if you don't know what you're looking for, how will you know when you find it?"

"We'll know," said the bee.

The lupin chuckled.

"Stop that," said the bee.

The lupin stopped chuckling.

"So," said Crazy Man, "how long have you been searching?"

"Like I said...probably since the first queen bee. It's been a long haul."

"But how do you know that it's buried somewhere in plants?" said the dog, Sidestepper. "Would the plants have passed it down from generation to generation? Maybe they don't have it anymore."

"Blasphemy!" yelled the bee...and it buzzed off the lupin and shot straight at the dog, Sidestepper, with its stinger in stinging position and stung him square in the center of his nose.

"Ouch!" said the dog, Sidestepper.

"Spoiler," said the bee as it hovered between the dog, Sidestepper's, eyes before buzzing away.

"They walk all over us," said the lupin.

Crazy Man ignored the lupin and looked closely at the dog, Sidestepper's, nose. "It doesn't look too bad," he said.

"Well," said the dog, Sidestepper, "I'm glad that bee isn't my mother."

"Yeah," said Crazy Man, "we should have eaten it."

"I wish I was one of those insect eating plants," said the lupin.

"What do you think they're looking for?" said Crazy Man.

"I think they're looking for meaning in the search," said the lupin. "And in the search, they find it but they never know it."

Crazy Man and the dog, Sidestepper, thought about this until the thinking hurt and they still didn't have a clue what the lupin was talking about.

"OK," said Crazy Man. "We have to go now and...happy pollinating and all that stuff."

Before the lupin could say anything more to hurt their heads, they hurried up the path and put as much distance as they could between them and the lupin.

When they felt they were a safe distance away, the dog, Sidestepper, said, "Do you ever wonder when time began?"

"Nope," said Crazy Man, and that was the end of that.

To be continued...

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