

**Personal Opinion of the Translator about the book A Visit to Planet Allispossible.**

I was amused and delighted reading the book "A Visit to Planet Allispossible", by Elli Peonides, in Greek. I admired the ease with which the author puts together so many diverse elements, with humor and a vivid imagination, to make her very serious point, in such an entertaining way. She mixes up modern day professors and space traveling, with witches and talking trees, and wise men from ancient Greece, to make her young readers think of the consequences of our daily practices, which we consider 'innocent'.

Thinking that children in the English speaking world should be given the opportunity to read this lovely story, I decided to translate it; and I did so with much pleasure.

## A Visit to Planet Allispossible

### S U M M A R Y

The story begins when two children, Liz and Johnny, who are watching television, suddenly get invited to a rather unusual adventure, by a professor who comes out of their TV set. The children, reluctant at first, but endlessly curious, follow the eccentric professor to his space craft, which takes them to that 'other' planet, where time, as we know it, has practically no meaning, and where everything is possible. There, they each take a different direction in search of interesting stories, and they certainly find them.

No sooner than Liz starts wandering in the jungle, she meets a peculiar little creature with an even more peculiar name, *Ifyufindme*, who is guarding the entrance to the cave with the treasures, following the orders of the witch *Higgledy-Piggledy*. The way to the treasures is paved with gold, precious stones, and pearls, of which *Ifyufindme* doesn't think much. The treasures themselves though, are plain old herbs that we, on Earth, use to make soothing infusions. *Ifyufindme*, of course, can make light appear in the dark cave, or make a meal appear just by clapping his hands.

Soon, the horrid witch appears, too, flying in her swinging arm chair, and *Ifyufindme*, who is in trouble, gets punished by being forced to eat, to Liz's astonishment, large amounts of mouth watering cake.

Johnny, who followed a different direction, meets a young girl, *Gwen'ask* is her name, who befriends him. *Gwen'ask* transports herself by flying quite naturally, and she takes

Johnny for a tour around the planet. Johnny discovers that the cities are built inside hollow mountains, so as to

let the natural environment undisturbed, and not cut down trees. The cities are perfectly quiet, because the only transportation people use to move around, are elevators operating in both, the up and down and the horizontal, directions. Johnny meets another kid, too, called *Cheerful*, who had been 'blessed' by the witch to never cry and always laugh, a blessing proved to be a torment.

He finally encounters the witch, too, who force feeds him a potion making him forget who he is, and work at her service.

Meanwhile, the professor, who is a bit absent minded, follows another path in the jungle. After walking for some time, singing to himself in an attempt to be brave, tired and hungry, he sits by a tree to smoke his pipe. Then, marvelous things begin to happen: Snacks appear upon his wish, a flame lights up his pipe, water springs to extinguish a fire,

and when the professor wishes for paper and pencil- unbelievable as it may sound - the tree starts talking to him! Perplexed and somewhat frightened, he starts arguing with the tree. The more he argues, the more he finds himself accused of crimes against nature. Unable to comprehend, he tries to walk away, but the trees join branches preventing him from doing so; he is informed that the only way out, for him, is the 'Green Trial', which will restore justice.

After that, the events unfold rapidly, and they are comical:

The professor is taken to the Conference of the Wise Men. He has to enter the trunk of a tree, and he ends in a sky blue room, where the seven wise men of ancient Greece are assembled. On the way he is offered a square meal and wine/nectar, which makes him somewhat light headed.

Greetings and opinions are exchanged between them, but the professor's views meet the wise men's disapproval, and the decision for a trial is finalized. Then, incriminating acts from the professor's daily life are presented on a large screen, like in a movie, and the

Green Trial begins.

Witch *Higgledy-Piddledy* comes, too, and so do Liz, *Ifyufindme*, and Johnny, still in the service of the witch. Liz and Johnny are accused alongside the professor. The witch takes her place at the ceiling of the sky blue room, and she proclaims the charges. Then, the voice of the Wise Tree of Knowledge is heard calling the witnesses in, to testify. The victimized members of Earth's vegetation appear in groups of flowers, of vegetables, of shrubs, and of trees, and they all demand punishment. The professor is asked if he accepts the charges, and his defense lawyer, a woman, answering for him, pleads guilty. He protests vehemently: He can not accept to be represented by a woman! Upon this declaration, the witch, who was listening quietly up to this moment, enraged turns the professor into a frog! Now, only a miracle could save the accused. And, indeed, it happens. *Gwen'ask* appears, asking to testify as a defense witness. *Cheerful* is with her, too. *Gwen'ask* refers to the kind offer by the kids from Earth, to help *Cheerful* with his laughter problem, and to some other nice things, too. Her statement is strong enough to

overturn

Liz and Johnny's weighty accusations. Finally, after hilarious exchanges between *Ifyufindme*

and

the witch, which also involved some beautiful sea shells, the pardon of the professor is

achieved,

and he is turned back into a man, again.

At last, the travelers return to Earth happily and enriched. Yet, it is hard for Liz and

Johnny to

decide whether the adventure had happened, for sure, or it was only a dream, that they

had both

dreamt, simultaneously.