

The Tree Root

Once there was a young man who never fell or even stumbled and took a lot of pride in it. He explained this (and did it very often) by the habit of watching his steps. When in a forest, which is also a strange place, you should be careful, who would argue that? So that the youth walked gingerly along a narrow path, controlling his every step. Frisky squirrels were jumping from branch to branch, bathing in striking through the lush crown sunbeams. But, intent on gauged steps, the youngster didn't notice that and seemed like a bent by years and diseases old man. Suddenly he heard ringing laughter and raised his head in great surprise. In front of him, not far off, a girl was standing, with the hamper full of strawberries, and looked sharply at his side. The young man was gazing into her eyes, sparkling with laughter, like he was enchanted. He wanted to look at them closer so he kept on going. And all at once he fell, his foot having caught a barely visible tree root growing across the path. The laughter ceased and the girl, having taken a few impetuous steps, gave the youth her subtle hand. Risen, he heard a question: "Don't you recognize me?"

"It's the first time I see you," answered the guy.

"Though we live in the same town and meet each other often."

"How could I take no notice of such beauty," thought the youngster and only blushed at words of the girl, whose eyes started to brim with laughter again...

Several years passed. Resting in the garden and looking at the stars the young people, united in matrimony by then, were talking deliberately.

"So rare we happen to look at the stars!" said the wife.

"Just like at the eyes of each other, my dear."

Having lowered her gaze and turned to her husband she responded: "But we look down very often. And has it ever helped one to avoid all fallings?"

"I learn a lot from our little son, who sleeps so easily right now: how he cognizes our world, with interest and great delight."

"Yes, darling, everyone can make mistakes. Even the one who has just learned to walk had done missteps already."