

DITCH OBEDIENCE

SID BAHRI



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Sid Bahri
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Charlie Mackesy —

*Thank you for reminding us that a good book
doesn't need extensive prose.*

WHAT IS THIS BOOK?

A CONVERSATION.

ABOUT WHAT?

THINGS YOU ALREADY KNOW.

THEN WHY READ IT?

BECAUSE YOU DON'T LISTEN.

TO WHOM?

YOURSELF.

WHAT DOES IT GIVE?

LESS THAN YOU EXPECT.

THAT'S NOT HELPFUL.

IT ISN'T MEANT TO BE.

THEN WHAT REMAINS?

THE QUESTION.



13 is an unlucky number.
Or so we were told by someone.

Someone has been telling us things for a long time.
What to want. Who to be. Which cage is safest.

This book does not argue with them.
It just asks: who asked them to?

Sid Bahri is a coach, speaker, and author of *The Homing Pigeons* — a book published 13 years ago. He has spent 13 years asking the same question in different rooms.

sidbahri.com

*This is not a book against discipline.
Discipline is the boots.
Obedience is leaving them in the cupboard because someone said so.
The rabbit in this book bought the boots.
He wore them once.
Just to remember they still fit.
That is all this book asks of you.*

WHAT DO YOU CHARGE?

IT DEPENDS,

ON WHAT?

WHETHER YOU LIKE THE STORY.

IF I DON'T?

I'LL TELL IT FOR FREE.

AND IF I DO?

YOU MUST TELL IT TO SOMEONE ELSE.



WHAT DID YOU WANT BEFORE YOU WERE TOLD
WHAT TO WANT?

WHO IS THE HERO?

THERE IS ONLY ONE.

WHO?

You.

I AM JUST A LITTLE GIRL.

WHAT YOU ARE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT YOU
COULD BE.



WHEN DID YOU STOP ASKING?

THE RABBIT BOUGHT THE BOOTS.

FOR WHAT?

TO CHASE AN ELEPHANT.

WHAT ELEPHANT?

THE ONE HE DREAMT ABOUT.

THAT'S ABSURD.

A LITTLE BIT LIKE OBEDIENCE

WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM?

ONLY TO THOSE WHO NEEDED HIM USEFUL.



WHAT WERE YOU LIKE BEFORE YOU BECAME USEFUL
TO EVERYONE ELSE?

DID THE RABBIT EVER TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE ELEPHANT?

ONCE, TO THEM.

WHAT HAPPENED?

THEY LAUGHED.

THAT'S CRUEL.

THEY CALLED IT KINDNESS.

HOW IS LAUGHING KIND?

THEY SAID THEY WERE PROTECTING HIM FROM
DISAPPOINTMENT.

WHO ASKED THEM TO?

NOBODY. THAT'S THE THING ABOUT CAGES. NOBODY LOCKS
THEM.



WHEN DID YOU LAST DO SOMETHING WITH NO
PURPOSE?

WHEN DID THE RABBIT FIRST FEEL THE ITCH?

BEFORE HE KNEW WHAT AN ELEPHANT WAS.

WHAT DID HE DO WITH IT?

WHAT THEY TOLD HIM.

WHICH WAS?

SCRATCH IT. IT WILL PASS.

DID IT?

YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.



WHEN DID YOU FIRST FEEL THE ITCH?

WHAT DID HIS FAMILY SAY?

WHAT FAMILIES SAY.

WHICH IS?

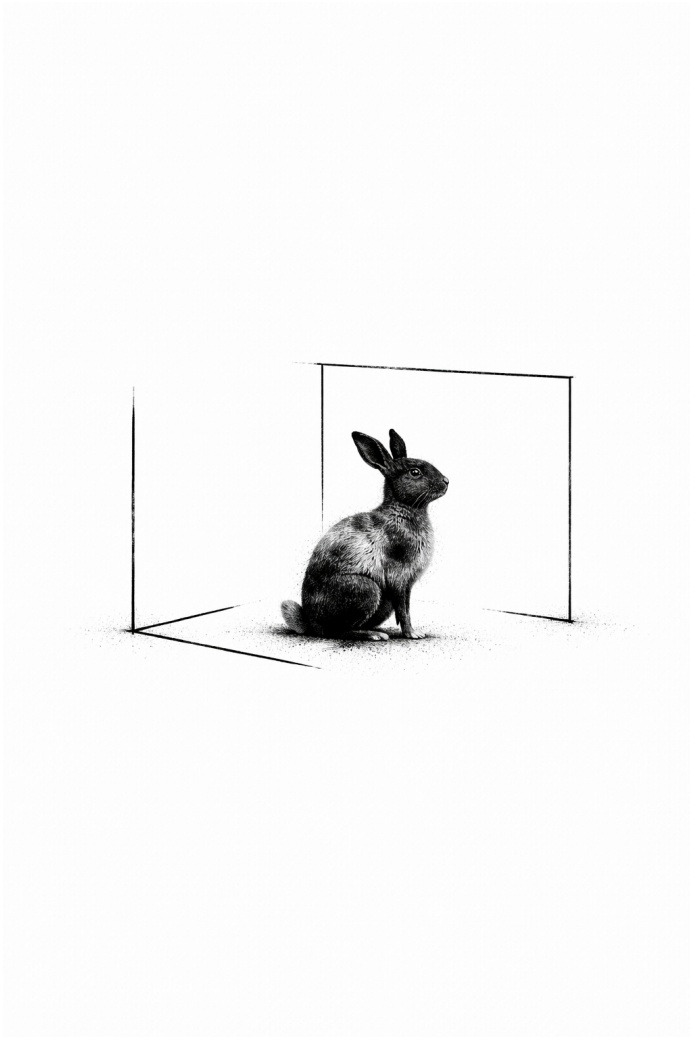
BE PRACTICAL. DREAM SMALLER. YOU'RE A RABBIT.

DID HE BELIEVE THEM?

HE WANTED TO.

WHY?

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER.



WHAT WOULD YOU DO TODAY IF NOBODY WAS WATCHING?

DID THE RABBIT STOP DREAMING?

HE TRIED.

DID IT WORK?

DREAMS DON'T WAIT FOR PERMISSION.

SO HE KEPT DREAMING?

EVERY NIGHT. WITHOUT FAIL.

ABOUT THE ELEPHANT?

ALWAYS.

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTING.

CARRYING A DREAM YOU WON'T FOLLOW IS THE HEAVIEST
THING THERE IS.



WHAT ARE YOU ACTUALLY AFRAID OF?

DID HE EVER SEE A REAL ELEPHANT?

ONCE. ON A BRIDGE.

WHAT DID HE DO?

STOPPED THE CAR. STEPPED OUT. WATCHED.

AND?

WENT BACK TO WORK.

JUST LIKE THAT?

HE WAS ALREADY LATE FOR THE LIFE HE HAD CHOSEN.



IS THE THING YOU ARE AVOIDING AS LARGE AS YOU
HAVE MADE IT?

THAT'S THE SADDEST THING I'VE HEARD.

THE RABBIT DIDN'T CALL IT SAD.

WHY NOT?

HE CALLED IT ENOUGH. TO HAVE SEEN IT.

WAS IT?

...



WHAT'S THE WORST THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED
WHEN YOU SAID NO?

HE BOUGHT THE BOOTS THOUGH.

YES. YOU TOLD ME THAT BEFORE. WHY KEEP MENTIONING THEM?

BECAUSE HE KEPT THEM. ALL HIS LIFE. POLISHED. IN THE CUPBOARD. NEVER WORN.

THAT'S NOT WHY YOU BUY SHOES, DO YOU?

I DON'T WEAR SHOES.



WHO TAUGHT YOU TO BE AFRAID OF THIS?

DID ANYONE KNOW ABOUT THE RABBIT'S BOOTS?

HIS WIFE.

WHAT DID SHE SAY?

NOTHING.

NOTHING?

SHE UNDERSTOOD.

HOW?

SHE HAD A PAIR TOO. DIFFERENT DREAM. SAME
CUPBOARD



WHAT WOULD YOU CHASE IF YOU WEREN'T AFRAID
OF LOOKING FOOLISH?

WHAT WOULD THE RABBIT HAVE BECOME?

HE HAD A LAUGH THAT COULD FILL A ROOM.
THAT LOUD?

BEFORE HE LEARNED IT WAS TOO MUCH.

WHO TOLD HIM?

THE CLASSROOM FIRST. THEN THE DINNER TABLE. THEN
THE OFFICE.

IN THAT ORDER.

ALWAYS IN THAT ORDER.



WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE BECOME IF THEY HAD LET
YOU?

DID THE RABBIT'S PARENTS LOVE HIM?

DEEPLY.

THEN WHAT WENT WRONG?

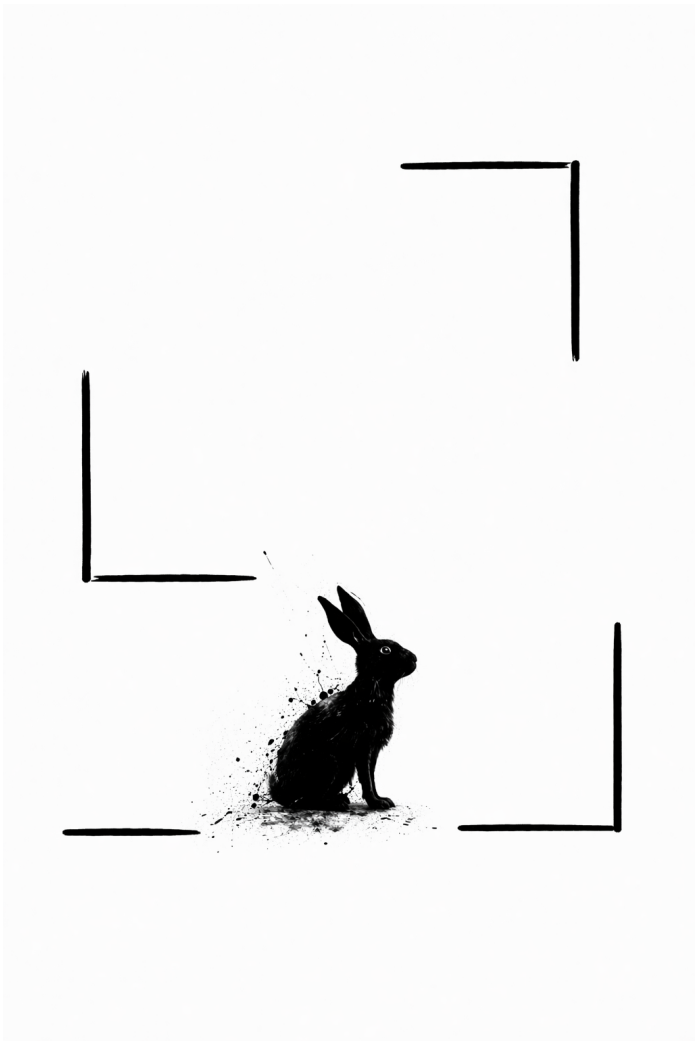
NOTHING WENT WRONG. LOVE ARRIVED. WITH
INSTRUCTIONS. BE THIS. NOT THAT.

THE RABBIT FOLLOWED THEM?

FOR A LONG TIME. YES.

AND THEN?

HE HAD CHILDREN. AND UNDERSTOOD HOW FEAR
DISGUISES ITSELF.



WHEN DID LOVE START FEELING LIKE A CONDITION?

WHAT DID THE RABBIT INHERIT?

A HOUSE. A NAME. A WAY OF SEEING

WHICH DID HE KEEP?

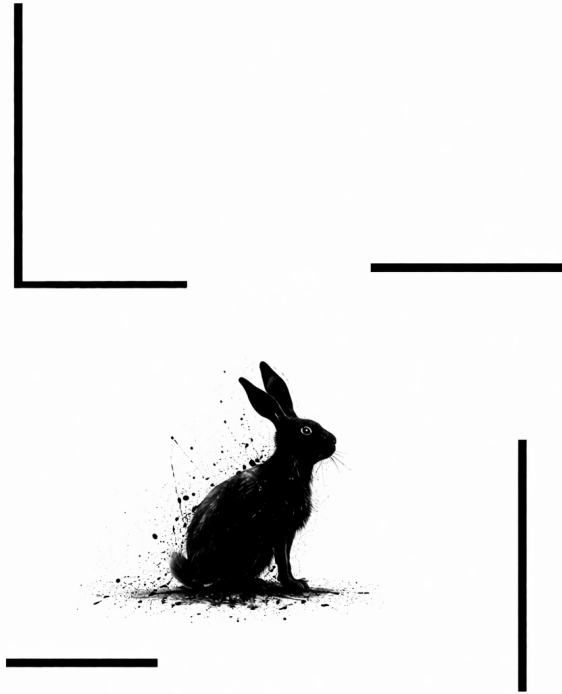
THE HOUSE IS GONE. THE NAME STAYED. THE WAY OF SEEING
TOOK THE LONGEST.

IS IT GONE NOW?

HE IS WORKING ON IT.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

AS LONG AS YOU ARE WILLING TO LOOK



WHAT DID YOU INHERIT THAT YOU NEVER CHOSE?

DID THE RABBIT'S PARENTS MEAN WELL?

COMPLETELY.

THEN WHY?

THEY GAVE HIM WHAT THEY HAD.

WHICH WAS?

THEIR FEARS. CAREFULLY WRAPPED. LABELLED LOVE.

DID THE RABBIT KNOW?

NOT UNTIL HE CAUGHT HIMSELF WRAPPING THE SAME THINGS FOR HIS OWN CHILDREN.

WHAT DID HE DO?

HE PUT SOME OF THEM DOWN.

NOT ALL?

NOT ENOUGH.



DID THEY CAGE YOU - OR DID YOU BUILD IT
YOURSELF FROM WHAT THEY GAVE YOU?

DID THE RABBIT EVER DEFEND ANYONE?

ONCE.

WHO?

HIS SON. IN FRONT OF THE TEACHER.

WHAT HAD THE SON DONE?

ASKED A QUESTION. NOBODY ELSE WAS ASKING.

WHAT DID THE RABBIT SAY?

THAT IT WAS A GOOD QUESTION.

WAS IT?

THE TEACHER SHUT IT DOWN.

AND THE RABBIT?

HE REMEMBERED THE RED CARD HE HAD BEEN GIVEN
LONG AGO.

AND THEN?

HE SAID IT AGAIN. LOUDER.



WHEN DID YOU LAST DEFEND SOMEONE YOU LOVE IN
FRONT OF AUTHORITY?

WHAT DID SCHOOL TEACH THE RABBIT?

TO SIT STILL.

THAT'S ALL?

TO RAISE HIS HAND. TO WAIT TO BE CHOSEN. TO GIVE THE ANSWER THEY WERE LOOKING FOR.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ANSWERS?

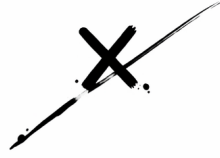
THERE WERE NO OTHER ANSWERS.

BUT THERE WERE.

YES.

SO?

HE LEARNED NOT TO GIVE THEM.



WHAT DID SCHOOL ACTUALLY TEACH YOU?

WHO DECIDED WHAT WAS RIGHT?

THE ONES WITH THE RED PEN.

WERE THEY ALWAYS RIGHT?

THEY WERE ALWAYS CERTAIN.

THAT'S NOT THE SAME THING.

THE RABBIT LEARNED THAT LATER.

HOW MUCH LATER?

TOO MUCH LATER.



WHO DECIDED WHAT THE RIGHT ANSWER WAS?

WHEN DID THE RABBIT LEARN THAT QUESTIONS WERE
DANGEROUS?

CLASS FOUR

WHAT HAPPENED?

HE ASKED WHY.

WHY WHAT?

JUST WHY. THAT WAS ENOUGH.

ENOUGH FOR WHAT?

TO BE TOLD TO SIT DOWN.

DID HE ASK AGAIN?

NOT IN THAT CLASSROOM.

AND THE WHY?

HE KEPT IT. NEATLY. WITH THE BOOTS.



WHEN DID YOU LEARN THAT QUESTIONS WERE
DANGEROUS?

WHAT DID THE RABBIT UNLEARN?

THE THINGS THAT MADE HIM CURIOUS.

LIKE WHAT?

THAT THE WRONG ANSWER COULD STILL BE INTERESTING.

THAT NOT KNOWING WAS THE BEGINNING. NOT THE FAILURE.

WHEN DID HE LEARN THAT?

HE IS STILL LEARNING IT.

AT HIS AGE?

ESPECIALLY AT HIS AGE.

?



WHAT DID YOU UNLEARN THAT YOU ARE STILL TRYING TO FIND AGAIN?

WHO GAVE THEM AUTHORITY?

WHO?

THE ONES WITH THE RED PEN.

NOBODY.

THEN HOW?

THE RABBIT WALKED IN. SAT DOWN. AND WAITED TO BE TOLD.

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS?

THAT'S HOW IT BEGINS.

NOBODY QUESTIONS IT?

THE ONES WHO DO GET A RED CARD.



WHO GAVE SOMEONE ELSE AUTHORITY OVER YOUR
CURIOSITY?

WHAT WOULD THE RABBIT HAVE STUDIED?

HE ONCE DREW AN ELEPHANT IN THE MARGIN OF HIS
NOTEBOOK

WHAT HAPPENED?

THE TEACHER CALLED IT A DISTRACTION.

WAS IT?

IT WAS THE ONLY THING HE DREW FROM MEMORY.
EVERYTHING ELSE HE COPIED.



WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE STUDIED IF NOBODY WAS PAYING?

DID THE RABBIT PRAY?

EVERY MORNING
FOR COURAGE?

YES.

DID HE GET IT?

HE WAS TOLD TO PRAY FOR ACCEPTANCE INSTEAD.

WHO TOLD HIM?

THE ONES WHO DECIDED WHAT GOD WANTED.

AND GOD?

WAS NOT CONSULTED.



DO YOU BELIEVE THIS — OR WERE YOU JUST NEVER
ASKED?

DID THE RABBIT EVER QUESTION IT?

ONCE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

HE WAS TOLD THAT WAS NOT FAITH. THAT WAS EGO.

WAS IT?

HE NEVER GOT A STRAIGHT ANSWER.

DOES IT MATTER?

THE ELEPHANT DIDN'T CARE EITHER WAY.



WHEN DID FAITH BECOME A RULE?

DID THE RABBIT GO TO THE TEMPLE?

EVERY WEEK

DID IT HELP?

IT GAVE HIM A COMMUNITY.

THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

IT WAS.

BUT?

THE PRICE OF THE COMMUNITY WAS HIS QUESTIONS.

HE PAID IT?

FOR YEARS.

WAS IT WORTH IT?

HE WAS NEVER ALONE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED.

NO. YOU'RE GETTING GOOD AT THIS.



WHAT TRADITION ARE YOU FOLLOWING WITHOUT
KNOWING WHY?

WHAT WAS THE RABBIT BOWING TO?

MORE THAN HE NOTICED.

LIKE?

THE STONE. THE BOOK. THE TEMPLE. THE TITLE. THE
OPINION OF PEOPLE HE DIDN'T EVEN LIKE.

AND THE ELEPHANT?

HE NEVER BOWED TO THAT.

WHY NOT?

YOU CAN'T BOW TO SOMETHING THAT KEEPS GROWING.



WHAT ARE YOU BOWING TO THAT DOESN'T DESERVE
IT?

WHAT DID THE RABBIT DO AT WORK?

WHAT THEY NEEDED HIM TO DO.

WAS HE GOOD AT IT?

VERY.

DID HE LIKE IT?

HE LIKED BEING GOOD AT IT.

THAT'S NOT THE SAME THING.

NO. IT ISN'T.

DID HE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

ENOUGH TO FEEL IT.

WHERE?

THE SAME PLACE HE KEPT THE BOOTS.



WHOSE VERSION OF YOU ARE YOU MAINTAINING?

WHAT DID THEY CALL THE RABBIT?

RELIABLE.

THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

HE THOUGHT SO TOO. FOR A WHILE.

WHAT CHANGED?

HE REALISED.

WHAT?

RELIABLE MEANT HE WOULD NEVER SAY NO.

WAS THAT TRUE?

IT BECAME TRUE.



WHAT LABEL DID YOU ACCEPT THAT WAS NEVER
YOURS?

WHAT WAS THE RABBIT'S TITLE?

HE HAD SEVERAL. OVER THE YEARS.

DID THEY MATTER?

HE BUILT HIMSELF AROUND THEM.

WHY?

WITHOUT THEM HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY WHEN
PEOPLE ASKED.

ASKED WHAT?

WHO HE WAS.



WHO ARE YOU WITHOUT YOUR TITLE?

WAS THE RABBIT HONEST AT WORK?

IN THE BEGINNING.

WHAT CHANGED?

THE SALARY.

THAT'S ALL IT TOOK?

IT USUALLY IS.

DID HE EVER SAY WHAT HE THOUGHT?

ONCE. IN A MEETING.

WHAT HAPPENED?

HE WAS NOT INVITED TO THE NEXT ONE.

AND AFTER THAT?

HE LEARNED TO NOD. LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.



WHEN DID THE SALARY START DECIDING YOUR
HONESTY?

DID THE RABBIT EVER REGRET AGREEING?

WHICH TIME?

ANY TIME.

THERE WERE TOO MANY TO KEEP TRACK OF.

EACH ONE SEEMED SMALL.

AT THE TIME.

AND TOGETHER?

TOGETHER THEY WERE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE.



WHAT DID YOU AGREE TO THAT YOU ARE STILL
PAYING FOR?

WAS THE RABBIT WORKING?

HE WAS SHOWING UP.

THAT'S NOT THE SAME.

ASK THE ELEPHANT.



ARE YOU WORKING - OR ARE YOU JUST SHOWING
UP?

DID THE RABBIT EVER MEAN THE SMILE?

IN THE BEGINNING.

AND LATER?

IT TOOK LESS TIME. TO PUT ON.

HIS FACE ADAPTED?

HIS FACE THOUGHT SO.

AND THE RABBIT?

COULDN'T REMEMBER THE DIFFERENCE.



WHEN DID YOU LAST MEAN THE SMILE?

DID THE RABBIT BELIEVE EVERYTHING HE NODDED AT?

NOT REALLY.

THEN WHY NOD?

IT WAS EASIER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE.

WHAT WAS THE ALTERNATIVE?

THE ELEPHANT.



WHAT ARE YOU NODDING AT THAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE?

DID THE RABBIT EVER LEAVE THE HERD?

ONCE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT WAS COLD.

SO HE WENT BACK.

YES.

WHY?

THE HERD WAS WARM.

AND?

HE LEFT SOMETHING OUTSIDE.

WHAT?

HIMSELF.

DID HE GO BACK?

...



WHEN DID BELONGING MATTER MORE TO YOU THAN
BEING REAL?

WHAT DID THE RABBIT GIVE UP?

TO STAY IN THE HERD?

YES.

THE INCONVENIENT OPINIONS. THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS.

THE DREAMS THAT DIDN'T BELONG.

DID ANYONE NOTICE?

HE DID.

AND THE HERD?

THE HERD WAS VERY PLEASED.



WHAT DID YOU GIVE UP TO STAY IN THE HERD?

WHO WOULD STILL BE THERE?

WHERE?

IF THE RABBIT STOPPED PERFORMING.

HE DIDN'T TEST IT.

DID HE EVER TRY?

ONCE. HE SAID EXACTLY WHAT HE THOUGHT. TO HIS WIFE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

SHE LAUGHED.

WAS THAT BAD?

IT WAS THE FIRST REAL LAUGH IN A LONG TIME.



WHO WOULD STILL BE HERE IF YOU STOPPED
PERFORMING?

WHAT DID THE RABBIT LEAVE OUTSIDE?

WHEN?

WHEN HE WALKED INTO ROOMS.

THE LAUGH THAT WAS TOO LOUD. THE QUESTION THAT WAS
TOO DIRECT. THE ANSWER THAT WAS TOO HONEST.

EVERY ROOM?

HE HAD A SYSTEM. IT TOOK SECONDS.

THAT'S EFFICIENT.

THAT'S THE SADDEST THING YOU HAVE SAID.



WHAT PART OF YOU DO YOU LEAVE OUTSIDE
BEFORE YOU WALK IN?

DID THE RABBIT HAVE FRIENDS?

MANY.

DID THEY KNOW ABOUT THE ELEPHANT?

THE OLD ONES DID.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

THEY GREW UP.

AND THE ELEPHANT?

IT STOPPED BEING MENTIONED.

WHY?

IT MADE EVERYONE UNCOMFORTABLE.

WHY UNCOMFORTABLE?

THEY HAD ELEPHANTS TOO.



WHEN DID YOU START PERFORMING INSTEAD OF
LIVING?

WHO IS THE RABBIT WHEN NOBODY NEEDS ANYTHING FROM HIM?

I HAVE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME. I HAVE SEEN MANY COME AND SIT WHERE YOU ARE SITTING

AND?

THAT QUESTION. ALWAYS THAT QUESTION. LAST.

WHY LAST?

BECAUSE IT IS THE HARDEST. TO ANSWER HONESTLY.

HAS THE RABBIT ANSWERED IT?

HE IS STILL SITTING WITH IT.



WHO ARE YOU WHEN NOBODY NEEDS ANYTHING
FROM YOU?

WHAT DID STOPPING COST THE RABBIT?

WHICH TIME?

THE FIRST TIME.

MORE THAN HE ADMITTED.

WHAT DIDN'T HE COUNT?

THE ELEPHANT. GETTING SMALLER EACH TIME.

DID HE NOTICE?

NOT UNTIL IT WAS VERY FAR AWAY.



WHAT DID STOPPING COST YOU THAT YOU NEVER
COUNTED?

DID THE RABBIT EVER FEEL IT?

WHAT?

THE THING HE USED TO FEEL.

ONCE. ON THE BRIDGE.

JUST THAT ONCE?

THAT WAS ENOUGH TO KNOW IT WAS STILL THERE.

WHAT WAS STILL THERE?

HIM.



WHEN DID YOU LAST FEEL THE THING YOU USED TO
FEEL?

THE BOOTS.

YES.

STILL IN THE CUPBOARD?

STILL POLISHED.

HE NEVER WORE THEM.

NO.

NOT ONCE?

HE TRIED THEM ON ONCE. WHEN NOBODY WAS HOME.

AND?

THEY STILL FIT.

THAT CHANGES THINGS.

THAT'S EVERYTHING.



WHAT'S STILL IN THE CLOSET UNWORN?

WHEN DID THE RABBIT BECOME THIS?

THIS?

THIS PERSON.

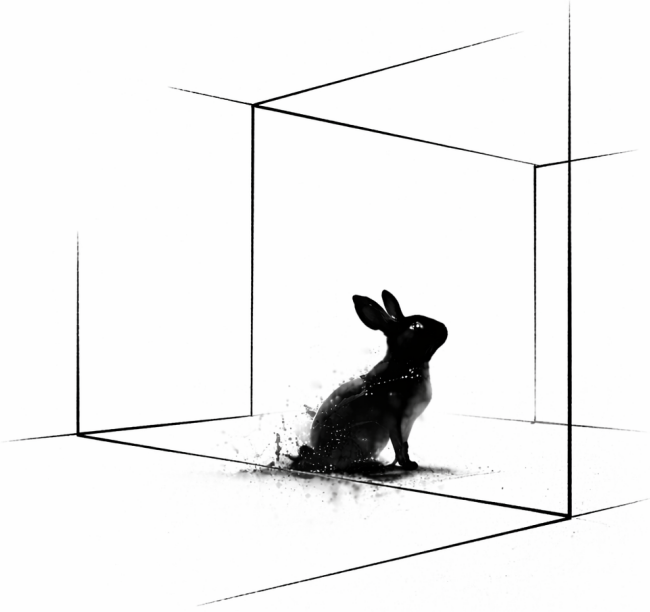
HE DIDN'T NOTICE.

HOW DO YOU NOT NOTICE?

ONE SMALL YES. AT A TIME.

THAT'S ALL IT TAKES?

IT ADDS UP.



WHO DID YOU BECOME WHILE YOU WEREN'T PAYING
ATTENTION?

WHAT DID THE RABBIT TRADE?

EVERYTHING HE TRADED HAD A REASONABLE
EXPLANATION.

LIKE?

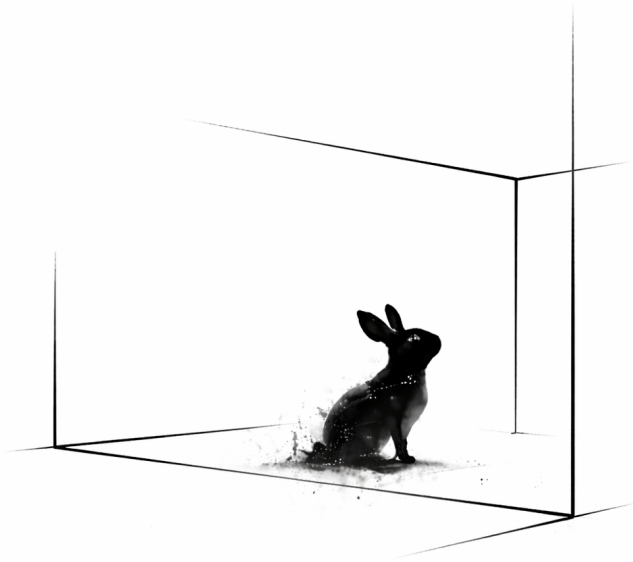
STABILITY. SECURITY. SENSIBLE THINGS.

AND WHAT HE GOT?

MORE OF THE SAME.

THEN WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE A LOSS?

BECAUSE HE CALLED IT GROWING UP.



WHAT DID YOU TRADE AND CALL IT GROWING UP?

DID THE RABBIT EVER SURPRISE HIMSELF?

ONCE.

WHEN?

THE DAY HE STOPPED THE CAR ON THE BRIDGE.

THAT WAS IT?

THAT WAS EVERYTHING.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ENOUGH.

IT ISN'T.

THEN WHY ARE YOU DEFENDING IT?

...

YOU'VE DONE IT TOO, HAVEN'T YOU.

I HAVE BEEN STILL A LONG TIME.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED.

No.



WHEN DID YOU LAST SURPRISE YOURSELF?

WAS THERE A MOMENT

WHEN HE ALMOST SAID NO?

MORE THAN ONE.

TELL ME ONE.

THE MORNING HE WAS OFFERED THE PROMOTION.

HE DIDN'T WANT IT?

HE WANTED THE ELEPHANT.

WHAT DID HE DO?

HE SAID YES.

AND THE BOOTS?

HE THOUGHT HE MIGHT NEED MORE.



WHAT WAS THE MOMENT YOU ALMOST SAID NO?

DID THE RABBIT HAVE MONEY?

ENOUGH.

ENOUGH FOR WHAT?

THAT'S WHAT HE NEVER FIGURED OUT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EVERY TIME HE GOT ENOUGH, ENOUGH MOVED.

AND THE BOOTS?

WERE NOT CHEAP. HE TOLD HIMSELF THAT. FOR A LONG
TIME.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING TO HAVE ENOUGH OF?

WHAT DID THE RABBIT HAVE?

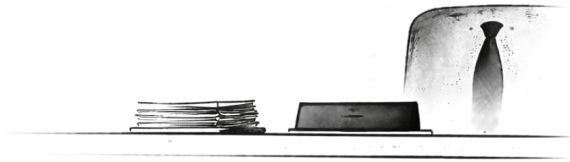
PLENTY.

HOW MUCH IS PLENTY?

PLENTY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A NUMBER.

WHAT IS IT THEN?

IT COULD BE WHAT YOU NEVER COUNT.



WHAT IS IT THAT YOU NEVER COUNT?

DID THE RABBIT HAVE A FRIEND?

ONE WHO KNEW.

ABOUT THE ELEPHANT?

YES.

WHAT DID THE FRIEND SAY?

NOTHING. AFTER A WHILE.

WHY NOTHING?

BECAUSE THE RABBIT STOPPED BRINGING IT UP.

AND THE FRIEND LET HIM?

HE DIDN'T STOP HIM.

WHY?

THEY CALL IT UNDERSTANDING. AND SOMETIMES
SURRENDER.



WHO HAVE YOU STOPPED TELLING THE TRUTH TO?

WAS THERE A MORNING THAT HE TOOK OUT THE BOOTS?

THE BOOTS WERE OUT. THE DOOR WAS OPEN. THE
ELEPHANT WAS CLOSE. HE HAD EVEN TOLD HIS WIFE.

AND THEN?

THE PHONE RANG.

THAT STOPPED HIM?

THAT WAS ENOUGH.

HE ANSWERED IT?

HE ALWAYS DID.



WHAT PHONE ARE YOU STILL ANSWERING?

WHAT COULD THE RABBIT DO TODAY?

ONE THING.

WHAT THING?

SOMETHING THAT WAS COMPLETELY HIS.

DOES HE KNOW?

HE HAS ALWAYS KNOWN. THAT'S THE HARDEST PART.



WHAT IS ONE THING YOU COULD DO TODAY THAT
WAS COMPLETELY YOURS?

WHAT DOES THE ELEPHANT ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE?

HE USED TO WONDER THAT.

AND NOW?

HE AVOIDS THE QUESTION.

WHY?

WONDERING FELT LIKE WANTING. WANTING FELT
DANGEROUS.

IS IT?

ONLY TO THE LIFE HE BUILT INSTEAD.



WHAT DOES THE ELEPHANT ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE UP
CLOSE?

IF NOT NOW WHEN?

EVERY MORNING FOR TWENTY YEARS.

AND?

EVERY MORNING SOMETHING CAME UP.

SOMETHING ALWAYS COMES UP.

YES.

SO?

SO.



IF NOT NOW – WHEN? AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?

WHAT IF THE NET APPEARED?

WHAT NET?

IF HE KNEW HE WOULDN'T FALL.

HE WOULD HESITATE ANYWAY.

WHY?

THE NET WAS NEVER THE PROBLEM.

WHAT WAS?

BELIEVING HE DESERVED TO JUMP.



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU KNEW THE SAFETY NET
WOULD APPEAR?

WHAT'S THE SMALLEST THING?

HE ALREADY HAS IT.

TELL ME.

THE BOOTS.

HE ALREADY HAS THOSE.

YES.

SO?

THE FIRST STEP WAS NEVER THE PROBLEM.

THEN WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR?

...



WHAT IS THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE FIRST STEP?

WHAT DID THE RABBIT LET GO OF?

ONCE. HE LEFT A JOB.

WAS IT HARD?

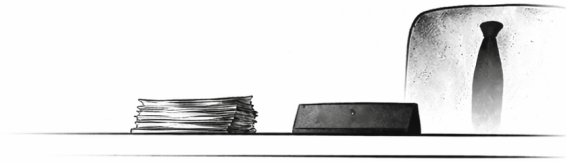
TERRIFYING.

AND AFTER?

HE DISCOVERED HE DIDN'T NEED WHAT HE THOUGHT HE
NEEDED.

WHAT DID HE NEED?

LESS. MUCH LESS. THAN THEY HAD TOLD HIM.



WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER YOU DIDN'T NEED AFTER
YOU LET IT GO?

WHO IS THE RABBIT WITHOUT ALL OF IT?

THAT'S WHAT HE IS FINDING OUT.

NOW?

LATE. NOT FINISHED.

IS IT TOO LATE?

THE ELEPHANT DOESN'T THINK SO.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

IT'S STILL THERE.



WHO ARE YOU WHEN YOU STOP TRYING TO BE WHAT
THEY NEED?

DID THE RABBIT EVER RING HIS OWN BELL?

ONCE.

WHEN?

THE DAY HE STOPPED THE CAR.

ON THE BRIDGE.

YES.

THAT WAS ENOUGH?

IT COUNTED.

DID HE KNOW THAT THEN?

NO. HE ONLY KNEW HE WAS LATE FOR WORK.

AND NOW?

NOW HE KNOWS.



WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO RING YOUR OWN BELL?

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE?

THE RABBIT SAID IT FELT LIKE TAKING OFF A COAT HE
HAD WORN SO LONG HE FORGOT IT WASN'T SKIN.

WAS IT COLD WITHOUT IT?

AT FIRST.

AND THEN?

HE REMEMBERED. HE HAD FUR. ALL ALONG.



WHAT DOES DITCHING OBEDIENCE ACTUALLY FEEL
LIKE IN THE BODY?

WAS IT WORTH IT?

ASK THE RABBIT.

I'M ASKING YOU.

I WATCH. I DON'T DECIDE.

THEN WHO DECIDES?

THE ONE WEARING THE BOOTS.



WAS IT WORTH IT?

WHAT IS THE ELEPHANT NOW?

THE RABBIT STOOD NEXT TO ONE. FINALLY.

AND?

IT WAS LARGER THAN HE IMAGINED. AND SMALLER.

BOTH.

HOW?

IT WAS JUST AN ELEPHANT. THE MIRACLE WAS THAT HE WAS
STANDING NEXT TO IT.



WHAT IS THE ELEPHANT NOW THAT YOU ARE
STANDING NEXT TO IT?

WHAT WOULD THE RABBIT TELL HIMSELF?

WHICH ONE?

THE ONE STILL IN THE OFFICE.

THE BOOTS.

THAT'S ALL?

WEAR THEM. ONCE. JUST TO REMEMBER THEY STILL FIT.

AND IF THEY DON'T?

THEY ALWAYS FIT. THAT'S THE THING ABOUT DREAMS.

THEY WAIT.



WHAT DO YOU TELL THE RABBIT WHO IS STILL IN
THE OFFICE?

WHAT DO YOU CHARGE?

YOU'VE HEARD IT BEFORE.

TELL ME AGAIN.

IF YOU LIKED THE STORY.

TELL IT TO SOMEONE ELSE.

WHICH PART?

THE PART THAT WAS ABOUT YOU.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHICH PART?

YOU ALREADY DO.



WHAT DO YOU CHARGE FOR THE STORY?

IS THIS THE END?

THAT DEPENDS.

ON WHAT?

ON WHETHER THE RABBIT WORE THE BOOTS.

DID HE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK HE DIDN'T.

YES.

BUT DID HE?

...

THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER. NO. IT ISN'T. BUT SUCH IS LIFE.



WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THE BOOTS?

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