

The Rough Stone and the Gnarled Trees

A great rough stone lay beneath a gnarled old tree. Years ago a tiny squirrel had climbed upon the stone to nibble some nuts, but before he had finished he was startled away.

“There!” thought the stone to himself as he saw a nut roll to the ground, “now that nut will take root and grow into a tree and I will have to lie here for ages beneath its branches. I wish the silly squirrel had gone some other place to eat the nuts!”

When the little nut took root and sent its tiny shoots up in the air, the old, rough Stone said, “There! I knew it!” and he disliked the tree from that time on.

When the gnarled tree was covered with leaves in the summer time, the old, rough Stone said, “Just see how he hides the blue sky from my view!”

And in the winter time when the limbs of the tree were bare, the old, rough Stone said, “Just see how he lets the snow and the cold rain fall right on me!”

One night during a heavy storm the old, rough Stone heard a crash, and in the morning he saw the gnarled tree lying upon the ground. “Now I shall be all by myself again!” he said. Then he counted the rings in the trunk of the gnarled tree until he came to three hundred. “More than three hundred years have passed since that silly little squirrel dropped the nut from which this tree grew!” said the old, rough Stone to himself.

Then men came with axes and cut up the tree and carried all of it away.

When the hot summer days came the sun beat down upon the old, rough Stone and he missed the shade of the gnarled tree. “My! It’s hot! I wish the gnarled tree with its pretty rustling leaves were here again to shade me and keep me cool!”

When winter came the old, rough Stone missed the leaves which fell around him and kept him warm. "Oh dear! How cold it is!" he cried, "I wish the gnarled tree would come back and scatter his leaves about me to protect me from the cold!"

So years and years and years passed, and the great old, rough Stone lay all alone without a tree to keep him company.

"Ah me!" sighed the old, rough Stone, "We never know how well off we are until we lose something we really need!"

Bill Murray or Tom Hanks?

October 27, 2016

Many social media users have a serious question about a photo that went viral.

Is it a picture of Bill Murray or Tom Hanks? The American actors are both in their 60s. They both have thinning grey hair.

Hanks is known for his roles in movies like Philadelphia, Forrest Gump, and Castaway. He is also known for surprising couples taking wedding photos.

Murray is known for his appearances on the comedy show Saturday Night Live and the movies Ghostbusters and Lost in Translation. He is also a well-known Chicago Cubs baseball fan.

The photo in question shows Laura DiMichele-Ross and her young son along with a man wearing an orange hat and jacket. It was taken in late 2012 at a golf event in Scotland.

The boy, Alexander, was only eight months old. His mother said he started crying as soon as he saw the man.

So the man, a famous comedian, made a face just like the crying baby.

The man looks a lot like Tom Hanks, many people say.

But the man in the photo is Bill Murray. She even had the photo signed by Murray when she saw him again two years later.

She said the photo becomes a major topic on social media every once in a while, after someone sees it on the Facebook page called: "Reasons My Son Is Crying."

It just proves there is truth to the saying "the internet never forgets."

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[編譯陳正健／綜合報導]美國社群網站最近瘋傳一張相片，許多網友都在議論，相中男子究竟是奧斯卡影帝湯姆漢克（Tom Hanks），還是好萊塢知名喜劇演員比爾莫瑞（Bill Murray）？

照片中，男子穿著橘色外套和帽子，模仿男童嚎啕大哭，表情相當逗趣。然而，這令美國網友陷入糾結，不解這名男子究竟是誰？

網友在社群網站上展開辯論：「他是湯姆漢克，不是比爾莫瑞。」「別鬧了，這是湯姆。」「他是比爾，對吧？」

事實上，這是網友蘿絲（Laura Michele Ross）於 2012 年前帶著兒子，在蘇格蘭高爾夫球賽上巧遇好萊塢明星留下的合照，當年她就已上傳這張照片，只是最近又再度爆紅。

正當網友爭論不休之際，蘿絲特地致信 BBC 向各界釋疑。原來，照片中的男子其實是比爾莫瑞，而非許多網友認為的湯姆漢克。

蘿絲提供了一張比爾的簽名照，以做為證據。她和丈夫於 2014 年再度遇見這位明星時，曾請他在照片上簽名，以驗明正身。

The phrase "the internet never forgets" is often used to suggest that once information is posted online, it can be very difficult to completely erase it.

viral – *adj.* spreading very quickly to many people especially through the Internet

The Donkey and the Dog 題目3

A washer man had a donkey and a dog. Both the donkey and the dog helped his master in many ways. Although the two animals had different jobs, the donkey thought his own job was more useful and important than the dog's.

One night, some thieves broke in the house of the washer man. The dog heard them and started barking. The washer man got up and so did the neighbors. "What is that? A dog. Let us run," said the thieves. They feared some dangerous consequences. By that time many people gathered in the street. They tried to run away but they were caught by the people.

The washer man said, "I am glad I had this dog in my house. I am sure the thieves would have looted me if my dog had not barked." The washer man was highly proud of the dog. Everyone praised the dog, too. Seeing the situation, the donkey, whose job is carrying goods for his master, felt jealous of the dog's success.

From that day, the donkey started thinking, "The master thinks that the dog is a more useful animal than me." The donkey decided he would show his master, the washer man, that he could be useful just like the dog, too. To get well-prepared, he stayed up every night and watched out for

any strange guys around the house. Few days passed. One night, it really happened. Two thieves again entered the washer man's house. However, the thieves became aware of the animals, present in that house. "We should be careful, friend! I have heard that a dog guards this house," one thief said to the other.

As the thieves peeped in, they saw the dog sitting just outside the main door. "It seems the dog is quite alert," said one thief. "It is better to leave this house alone. We had better go at once," the other thief said and the two thieves fled. But unknown to the thieves, the donkey was watching all this. He thought, "It is a good opportunity for me to show my master that I can be useful to him as well. The thieves have run away. If I start shouting right now, the master will think that I have driven the thieves away and out of this house." And the foolish donkey started braying loudly.

When the washer man heard the donkey bray at this odd hour, he got angry instead. He came out with a stick and thrashed the donkey. "This will teach him not to bray at night," he screamed. The donkey got all the thrashes in silence. He did not know what was taking place.

Just then the dog came to the donkey and said, "It is better to do your duties than try to be like me." The donkey knew that the dog was right. Thereafter both the donkey and the dog remained peaceful.