



# Grandad why?

Imagine you are your  
favourite wild animal...



**For Life**

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## PREAMBLE

In this dialogue, we look at the world from a different perspective, through the eyes of a member of one of the other 8.7 million living species on our Planet Earth.

Humans are the only species (out of 8.7 MILLION) adversely affected by the current pandemic, any pandemic really. All other 8.7 million-minus-one are enjoying only beneficial effects. At least for a while, we did slow down our destruction of Planet Earth. But what's a couple of years in the grand scheme of things ...

Let's hope it gave us time to reflect on the path forward. After all, we are the only species able to make a difference. If we focus on "going back to how it was as soon as possible", our species will only become one of millions that even history won't remember. Who would be left to record history in a few decades time ...

Grandad, why are all the trees  
dying?

Because a terrible disease fell on  
the land, Little One.



Grandad, why are humans behaving like they do?

You know, Little One, humans have been deluding themselves for such a long time that they don't know anymore what's real. They have no idea of what's precious anymore. They made up this thing called money and they are convinced that it is the most valuable thing in the world. They all crave it, but their hunger will never be sated. They measure their success by the amount of money they can make. It is what they value above all else. In some parts of this big world, they won't even let people live in their midst who don't make enough of it. These people are outcast or forbidden to come and live in their country. The more money a person has, the more they are valued and the more money they can make.

It is very strange.

They want the ones that have least to believe that they can get more by working more, but the ones who work hardest earn the least. Their lives are valued the least.

It is so very strange.

But Grandad, why are they destroying so much of our Planet?

Ah, Little One, they have been valuing money so much for such a long time that they don't even value the members of their own species anymore. If one has a white skin, or a black skin, or a yellow or brown skin, they have a different value. But nothing and no-one is as valuable as money to them. And to make money they have to crush the ones they value less, and of course they still value their own species more than all other species.

It is very strange.

When you see how they treat each other, you will understand that they don't care at all about the other People who inhabit the Earth. Of course, they will pretend they do if they can profit from it.

It is so very strange.



Grandad, why are there so few fish in the sea?

Because a terrible disease fell over the sea, Little One.

But Grandad, I heard they were teaching their children about Nature and to love the other People on the Planet.

Yes, Little One, so they say. They are all about how good Nature is and how their children should enjoy Nature more, but in the end, the only thing they are interested in is how Nature can challenge them and how Nature can help them achieve more. They are not really interested in Nature itself, just how they can exploit Nature to make their children better at learning in their schools and ultimately to have a better career and make more money.

It is very strange.

They want their children to enjoy Nature, but they never ask themselves if all the other People in Nature really enjoy having them around too.

It is so very strange.

Grandad, why do they want to go to the moon and the other planets?

Hmmm... I've never understood that, Little One. They consider it a real achievement to send probes and even people up there, but they can't take care of their own Planet, ours. So what's the use of gathering all the knowledge they can about far away planets? They don't even understand or care for the planet they live on.

It is very strange.

For people who value money so much, they should realise it is just a waste. They will never be able to live on any of those planets and the other stars are too far away. They should understand that they first need not to destroy our Planet, their own. And they won't find any answers up there.

It is so very strange.

Grandad, why can't I hear any birds  
singing?

Because a terrible disease fell over the sky,  
Little One.



Grandad, why do humans always take so much, even when they don't really need what they take?

Hmmm... I don't really know, Little One. I think they have convinced themselves that they always need more than what they have, that otherwise they will be lacking something, or that they will be "missing out". They have also become very lazy. They turn many places into stony deserts because they want to go fast from one place to another in their cars. And the other People living on our Planet, plants and animals, get in their way. They don't really care if they destroy everything in their path. They only care about "efficiency" and "comfort", and of course about making as much money as fast as they can.

It is very strange.

Even humans who say they care very much about the Planet do care even more about "the Economy" and "Jobs" than about the life of you or me.

It is so very strange.

Even those who go on protests to try and convince their leaders to act,  
Grandad?

Frankly, Little One, yes. But they don't have much choice. Their whole civilisation is organised in such a way that it can't survive. They need to change their way of life so radically that it would affect too many people. People would go hungry. People would die. But if they don't, they will change our Planet, their own, so profoundly that it will affect them and us and all of the other People even more. Whichever way you turn it, humans will be affected very much. But they will always choose the option that affects them the least in the short term.

It is very strange.

They find it so difficult to care for others than their own.

It is so very strange.

Grandad, why are there no bees on the flowers?

Because a terrible disease is killing them, Little One



Grandad, some humans do care about our Planet, surely! What about those who call themselves vegetarians and vegans?

Oh yes, Little One, I've heard about them. I think they really try to be kind to our Planet, and more humans should eat a lot less meat for the good of our Planet, but like all humans, they are quite narrow-minded. They want to be kind to animals, but they don't really care about the Plant People. Except for those who grow their own food in a kind way, every day they destroy whole forests to make their plantations and to grow their different crops.

It is very strange.

Maybe they think, because they don't eat meat, they are kind to animals. In truth, they kill millions of animals by destroying their homes and the places they live to grow their own plant food.

It is so very strange.

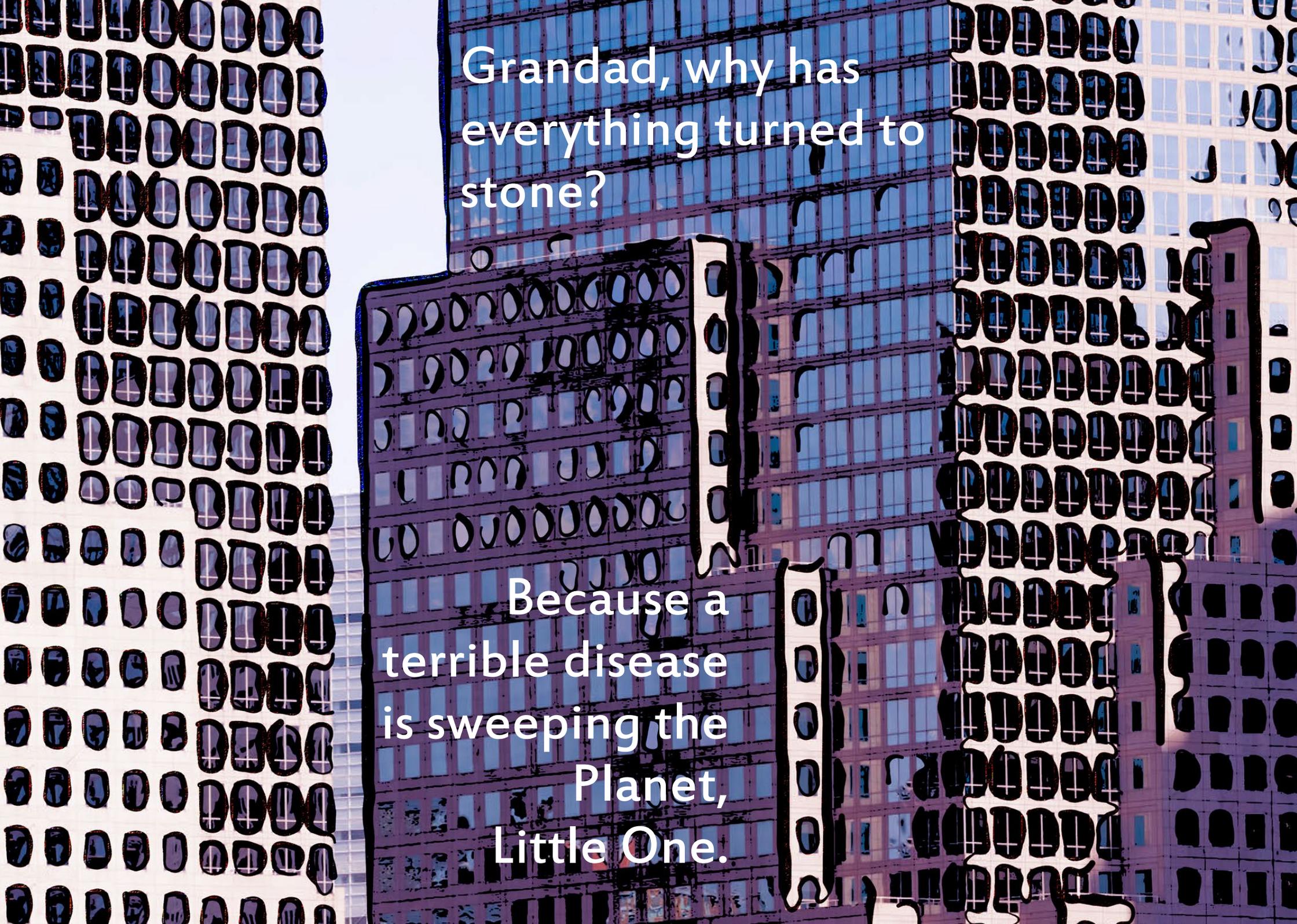
Tell me Grandad, why do humans like to travel so much in their big machines?

Well, Little One, I think they just do it because they can, and they even think that they have a right to do it. They don't really care that those big machines and everything they do on their travels destroy our Planet and the living space of countless creatures. They feel so superior to all other life that it wouldn't even cross their minds that they could live differently.

It is very strange.

They could enjoy the area they live in, but they think that is not exotic enough. They always need to travel far and wide to make them feel it's worth their money. Whatever the consequences.

It is so very strange.



Grandad, why has  
everything turned to  
stone?

Because a  
terrible disease  
is sweeping the  
Planet,  
Little One.

Grandad, I heard that humans have huge factories, where thousands of animals are crammed together and fed just to be slaughtered. Why do they do that?

That, Little One, is purely because they love money so much. It is a lot cheaper to breed animals in that way. They call it "efficiency", and they don't consider the animals as living beings. For them, it is just meat in the making.

It is very strange.

They don't feel any connection with life other than their own kind, and not even that much with their own kind either. That is very sad. I really don't know how they managed to live this long without caring about Life.

It is so very strange.

Grandad, is it true that humans make our Planet warmer and that this is destroying Life?

Yes, Little One, it is true.

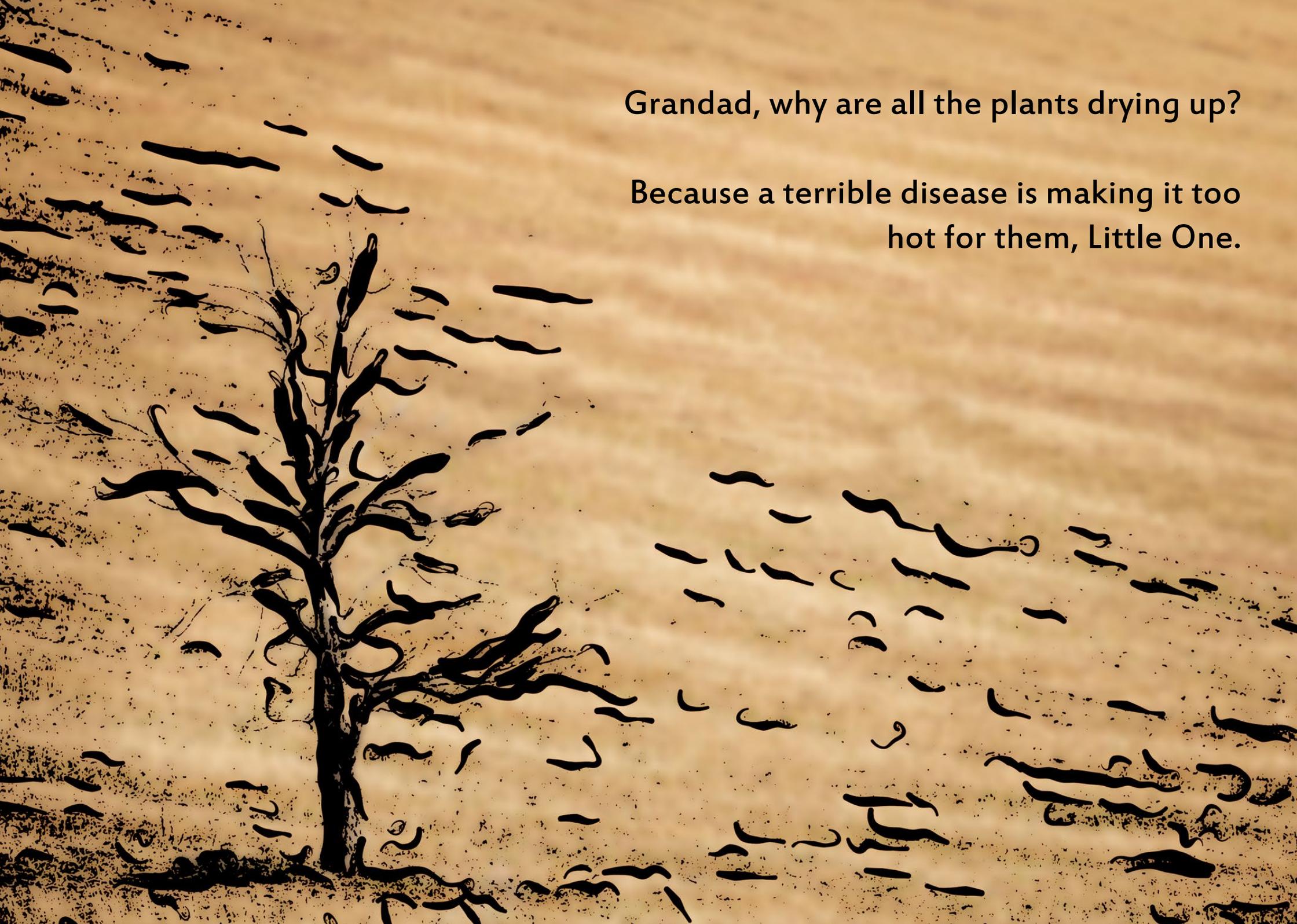
But, if they know that's what they're doing, why don't they stop?

I don't know, Little One... I imagine they find other things more important than Life, and you know what that is.

It is very strange.

They should realize that making money for a few more years is very short-sighted and insignificant compared to the consequences. I am convinced that they do know what they are doing, though. They just don't want to do anything about it and try and live respectfully towards all the other People on our Planet.

It is so very strange.



Grandad, why are all the plants drying up?

Because a terrible disease is making it too hot for them, Little One.

Grandad, why are humans not allowed to live with their families when they are little or when they grow old?

Humans are very weird, Little One. When they are adults, they only want to make money. They don't have time to spend with their little ones, because they need to work, or so they think. So, they give part of the money they make to other people to look after their children, and then they send them to school where other people teach them what they need to know to make money. The same goes for their old people who do not work anymore. They put them all together in big houses and pay other people to look after them, because of course, they need to work, or so they think ...

It is very strange.

They probably like money more than they like their own families.

It is so very strange.

Grandad, why are humans cutting down forests only to plant new trees? I don't understand that.

Well, Little One, humans are insatiable. They need lots of wood to build their houses, to heat their houses, to cook their food. And they always need more and more, because there are more and more humans on our Planet. So they cut down forests and plant new trees to grow more wood, only they plant trees that grow a lot faster so they can cut them down faster too. Or they plant new trees that grows food for them. But they don't care that the People who lived in the forest first lose their homes and are often killed.

It is very strange.

They don't even care that they destroy the homeland of People of their own species. They consider these people as inferior or worse, they pretend they are doing them a favour by bringing "progress" to them.

It is so very strange.



Grandad, why are we dying when we  
drink from the river?

Because a terrible disease has seeped  
into the water, Little One.

Grandad, do you think humans will ever understand that they need to live differently?

I don't think so, Little One. I am convinced they think they can't live differently or that it would be too difficult. It would also require too much effort on their part, or so they think. They don't want to give up their little comforts and they feel they are entitled to take whatever they want, without thinking about the consequences. They don't even care about their children and their grandchildren. They don't care that their children will have a very hard time, and their grandchildren even more so, as long as they can do what they want themselves.

It is very strange.

I have never seen or heard of any other species on this Planet that has so little regard for the life of their own fellows, let alone of the other People inhabiting the Earth.

It is so very strange.

Tell me Grandad, why do so many humans make war on each other?

That, Little One, is because they are envious of what others have. They want whatever is in other humans' soil, like oil and ore and gas. So they make war on the people who have it to grab it for themselves, or they make war to prevent others from getting it. It's always about things that will make them more money, of course.

It is very strange.

But the ones who get hurt and who get killed are not the ones who benefit from it. The ones who benefit are the ones who are already rich and don't need any more. They are also the ones who order other humans to go and fight in the wars. The poor ones don't reap any benefit at all. And the ones who actually do fight in the human wars benefit least of all.

It is so very strange.

Grandad, why can't we do  
anything about it?

Oh, we can, Little One, and we are  
doing something about it!



Grandad, I thought humans were the most intelligent species on our Planet.  
Are they really?

Well, Little One, for a people who think they are the cleverest in the whole wide Universe, they certainly don't think a lot, and they definitely don't feel a lot. But maybe they're not used to thinking and feeling anymore? Or maybe they were never taught when they were young? They have become very narrow-minded, and they even value it. Their brains can't cope with thinking "wide". I mean, they all want to be "specialists". Can you imagine that some of them spend their whole lives researching a single microbe?

It is very strange.

Most of them can't grow or find food for themselves. They don't know which plants they can eat in the forest. They don't know how to kill an animal kindly and eat it properly. Of course, they can make money and pay someone else to provide them with food.

It is so very strange.

So, Grandad, humans are really bad, then?

No, Little One, they are not bad, they are mostly just lost in their souls. Over time, humans have been drifting away from all the other creatures in the world. They have become completely self-absorbed. First with their own kind, then with their own race, with their own country, with their own little town, with their own family and finally with their own little self.

It is very sad.

They just can't feel for anyone or anything else anymore. And that is why the cure the Bat People found might succeed. Humans are not even willing to do what is necessary to survive.

It is so very sad.

How so, Granddad?

The Bat People found a cure, Little One...



Grandad, what is this cure about?

Well, Little One, it is what humans call a virus. But you might call it a pesticide. It makes humans ill and they can die. So far, it has worked, but not very well. For the past year, it forced them to slow down their destruction of our Planet, but they still go on doing it. We will have to wait a little longer to see whether it works in the end.

So, will it work you think, Grandad?

I am not sure, Little One. Humans are cunning, and they are developing some resistance to this pesticide. They are also impatient to get back to their old tricks as soon as possible and they are doing everything they can to do so. If they can, I think they might even get worse and try and catch up with what they think is "lost time". They really don't think much.

It is very strange.

Humans are extremely bad at learning from their mistakes.

It is so very strange.



Will it work, Granddad?

I hope so, Little One!  
I really do!

Please Humans,

Can you promise me you will make our Planet healthy again?  
My Grandad says you are the only ones who can!

Please!!!

Please sign the Pledge of Allegiance, print it out, keep it and read it once in a while so you don't forget your promise to all living creatures on our Planet.

Forward my story to all your friends and ask them to do the same.

Thank you!!!

# Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to our Planet  
And all its inhabitants

Be they plant or animal beings,  
human and other

I promise I will respect, honour and  
protect them all  
In every way I can

I renounce my citizenship of any  
country or state

And embrace stewardship of our  
Planet

Wherever I may be at any time  
From this day forth, I will be a  
citizen of the Planet

I will not own any property  
Except to protect and nurture all  
Inhabitants of my land,  
Humans and others

And I will only take from the land  
and the seas

What I need for sustenance and  
subsistence

And nothing more

Creating a community with all  
living beings

Wherever I am and at all times

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Plain", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

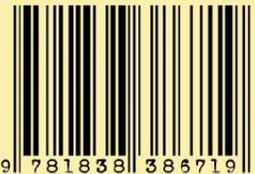
Add your signature below, make a copy of the Pledge of Allegiance for yourself and pass this book on to someone else.



a story of hope for all  
8.7 million species living on  
our Planet, maybe bar one...  
and a story to reflect on  
by that one

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