

Coco the Great

Maryam David

Coco
the
Great

by
Maryam David



photography
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Once upon a time
in a great forest
a little Coconut palm
sprang from the earth

the forest was blessed
with all kinds of trees
wise, gigantic ones
huge middling
.....small
even tiny ones
harmoniously
grouped together
into a large forest family

surrounded by its arboreal
neighbours
the little Coconut shoot
grew



all kinds of trees ...



it basked in the rays of the sun

It basked

in the rays of the sun
bathed in the rains
as carefree as can be
not even noticing
its venerated neighbours

Until one morning
a little boy
walked into the wide forest
a strange little boy ;
his name was Hardy

as he walked past the trees
he touched every one of them
carefully
examining their trunks
and leaves
with his palms and fingertips

when he reached
the little Coconut palm
he looked very pleased
he stood quite still
smiling happily to himself



Hardy

Actually
this small boy
Hardy
was highly sensitive
for a very good reason

his eyesight was impaired
his feelings were his eyes

and he had plenty of time
to communicate with nature



his eyesight was impaired

As he bent forward
to feel the tiny tree
"little Coco"
just trembled
and passed out

for you may not know it
trees

- even little ones-
faint

when they are threatened
and

their next door neighbours
follow suit in sympathy

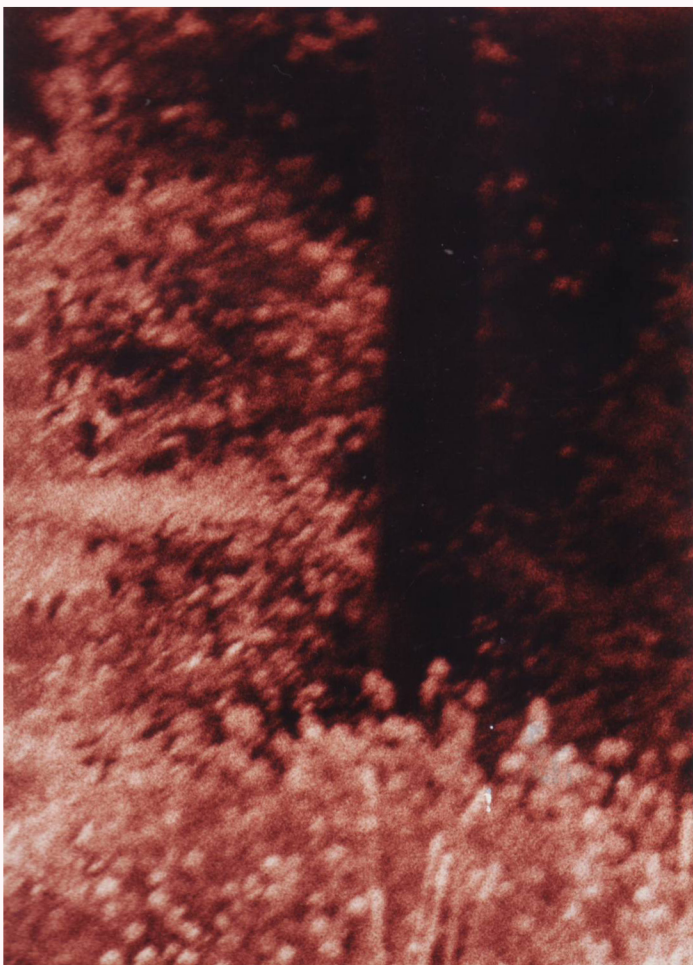
Hardy was a kind, gentle boy

nevertheless

he had come to the forest
that day

intending to uproot a tree
to his liking
to take home with him

Little Coco seemed
the ideal tree



trees- even little ones- faint



Trees should not be disturbed by humans

Truly astonished
he tried walking
from one tree to the other
to check again
their condition
he had felt their fear
and stillness
sink deep into his feelings
maybe most people
did not know
how trees react
when they are threatened

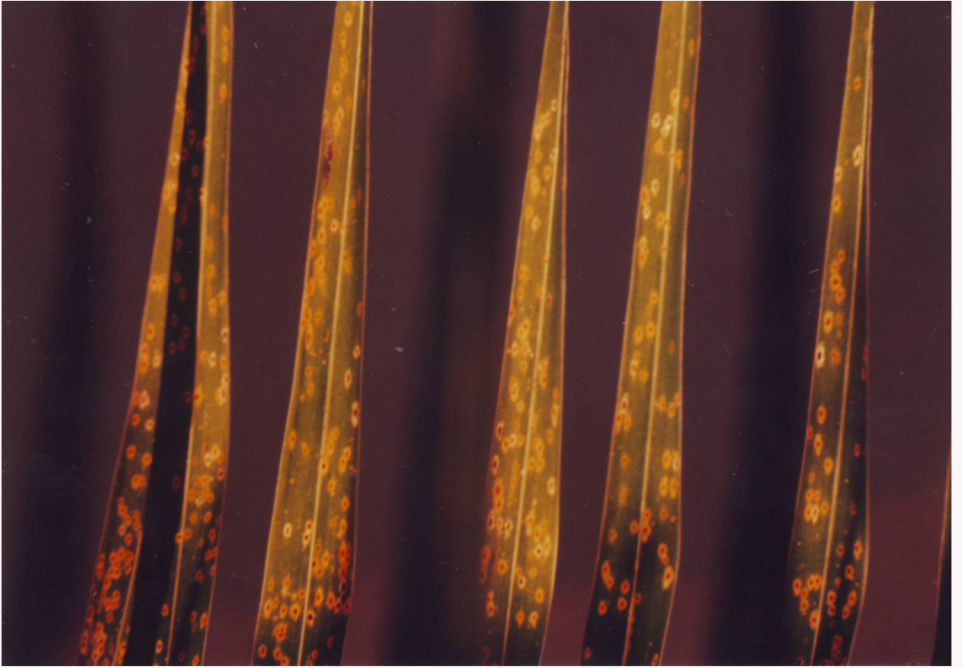
Hardy
was impressed indeed
The wide forest was
a different place now for him

Trees should not be
disturbed by humans
without good reason
they were precious
very precious to Life

Big or small
all trees
have their individual natures
as with us human beings
who do not have
the same features
even the leaves on trees
are not the same

Wow
was Hardy surprised

not only did he give up
the idea of taking
little Coco home
but just the opposite
the forest was to become
his greatest friend



even the leaves on trees are not the same

From that day on
he spent most
of his spare time
in the lovely forest
getting acquainted with
little Coco
and the other trees

it was a rare chance
for a tree
to have a human friend

little Coco
found out
many wonderful things
about his palmy nature

Hardy would come along
and feel him with his palms

first he learned about his trunk
slender
growing from a swollen base
it had rings around it



he learned about his trunk

The graceful
branchless
feather-like big leaves
sprang up
twice the size of his trunk

day by day
month by month
the little boy grew
and so did young Coco

as the boys legs got longer
so did Coco's trunk and leaves
grow bigger
Coco grew faster.... of course
he was after all
a Coconut tree

when a new leaf sprouted
it was always a special occasion
for Coconut palms
do not grow many leaves ;
maybe a dozen in one year
little Coco and his best friend
welcomed it together



feather-like big leaves



young Coco would wait ... dancing from side to side

Young Coco would wait
for the boy every day
dancing from side to side
-if the winds
happened to blow-

along with the other huge trees
shaking the top of his leaves
where a tuft of them stood
upright
-the heart of the palm-
bristling with joy

Coco shared with the boy
the ants
which walked up and down
his trunk
the birds
that brought messages
while resting on his big leaves
news of worlds
exciting
so difficult for a tree
and a little boy
to understand
without sharing
the reptiles too
that crawled up
had their stories to tell
and the various little animals
their secrets
there was never a dull moment



the birds brought messages



Coco was too sleepy at night

Hardy

always remembered to pray
and Thank God
in the beautiful forest
and Coco did too

Coco had unpleasant
and hazardous
visitors as well
the bats for instance
seemed dangerous
but he was too sleepy at night
to get to know them better
later on
when he grew older
he would find out
that indeed bats were pests
for they liked to eat
of his fruit
which was precious

One day
a beetle
that looked like a rhinoceros
made holes in poor Coco
young Coco was taken ill

Hardy
nursed him diligently
he showered Coco
with a bitter medicine
and before long
the beetle disappeared

soon
Coco was well again
but the strong smelly medicine
kept the company of birds
reptiles and little animals
away for a while

Hardy was always there
he never tired of Coco
or the forest



a beetle that looked like a rhinoceros



young Coco bore his first fruit

Five
years
passed

young Coco
bore his first fruit

he stood laden
with Coconut fruits

he was now useful to Life

Hardy
took Coconuts away
or

refreshed himself
drinking of their juice

more Coconuts
would grow in their place
almost immediately

it was delightful

Then one day
a thunderstorm
shook the whole area
making trouble
for man and nature
the winds blew
and blew for hours
they howled like big demons
tearing tree tops
uprooting some trees
leaves and debris
flying everywhere



a thunderstorm shook the whole area



Hardy's head was hit by a falling branch

When the storm hit
Hardy
happened to be in the forest
and was taken by surprise
because he was
resting his head
on Coco's trunk
taking a nap

Coco protectively
bent his leaves over him
to give him shelter

but it was of no use
before even the young man
had time to stand up
his head was hit
by a falling branch
from a huge tree that
was struck by lightning

and there he lay
in a faint
for hours

When calm was restored
Hardy's family
became worried
and together
with their neighbours
went on a search
for the young man

they found Coco's friend
lying still unconscious
and took him away



when calm was restored

The days passed
into months

Coco was lonely
whenever he felt sad
he would stretch
and stretch
upward
towards
the bright sky
and God's Blessed Light
this
soon became
like a game

Coco grew
and grew
and grew



Coco grew, and grew, and grew



he towered so high

Until

one fine day
he towered so high
well above all of the forest
higher than the highest
aged gigantic trees

Coco was now enormous
and grew
to be the wisest tree of all
in his arboreal
family

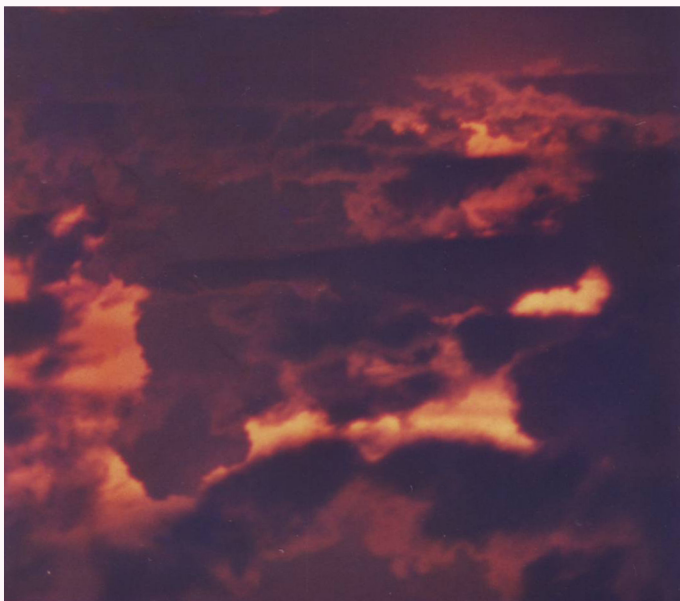
all the other trees
would shake their tops

Greetings Big Coco :
Coco The Great

they would say
addressing him with respect

you can imagine
how proud and pleased
Coco felt

But for all his happiness
Coco was a little sad too
because he never forgot
his friend
Hardy
Coco missed him
and always
thought of him with fondness
what happened to Hardy ?
where was he ?



for all his happiness Coco was a little sad too

There was of course
no way
for Coco to know this
but when his neighbours
and family found Hardy
his head
was so seriously hit
and swollen
that he had to be taken
to hospital

there he lay unconscious
like in a deep sleep
for a long
long time



he lay unconscious like in a deep sleep

When
at last
Hardy awakened
from this state
everyone rejoiced
twofold

they
thanked and praised
The Almighty God
for the young man.
did not only recover
but
- miracle of miracles -
his eyesight was restored too



....his eyesight was restored too



Hardy became a doctor of trees and plants

Hardy
could now see
like any other young man

he studied hard
to learn
how to read
and write

by the time
he returned
to the beautiful forest
he had become
a doctor of trees
and plants



Hardy and Coco Praised God

Hardy and Coco

at last

were together again

and Praised God

for His Bounty

Big Coco
lived
many blessed years
and had numerous
descendants



Big Coco had numerous descendants



Hardy's little kids were always in the forest

Hardy
married
a beautiful girl
who lived
not far from the forest
and loved the trees
just as much
as her husband

Hardy's little kids
were always
in the forest
learning
from their father
all about the wonders
of God's beautiful
serene
precious
forests



Coconut palms



About Coconut palms :

Coconut palms flourish best in the tropics they also grow in many countries where the climate is temperate, or near water

there are about 2,000 families of palms and a very great variety of kinds

most of the world's Coconut palms are produced on small native plantations they can still be found in their natural form in tropical forests

palms are extremely important to man

they furnish food, such as copra-
(oil for cooking)

shelter from their leaves for tropical homes

clothing

matting

fibers

ropes.....

and so on.....

in Indonesia, for instance

there are as many ways to use Coconuts as there are days in the year.

design and layout
by
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