

The Domesticated World

April 2009
One Week Challenge

FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - SUNNY DAY

A group of around one hundred males and females of assorted ages are sprawled out on the freshly mowed grass. Every one of them is completely naked. One older gentleman, RAFIKI, stands up to address the group.

RAFIKI

My friends, I'm sure you're all aware of the economic crisis plaguing the domesticated world.

One man in his early twenties, ZECHARIAH, raises his hand.

RAFIKI (CONT'D)

Yes, Zechariah?

ZECHARIAH

What's the domesticated world?

RAFIKI

The humans that wear clothes and don't live in nature. Please don't waste our time with stupid questions.

ZECHARIAH

But I'm serious, you mean to tell me there's another world out there?

A woman beside Zechariah, FLOWER, nudges him.

FLOWER

(in a whisper)
I'll explain later.

Zechariah puts his hand down.

RAFIKI

Thank you Flower. Now as I was saying, the humans in the outside world are having troubles with their money.

Zechariah raises his hand again.

ZECHARIAH

What's money?

RAFIKI
(growing impatient)
You know how we use leaves to
acquire the things we want from one
another?

ZECHARIAH
Sure.

RAFIKI
Well, these other people use paper.

ZECHARIAH
That's stupid. Doesn't that stuff
just grow on trees?

Flower nudges him again and he once again puts his hand down.

RAFIKI
Now then, those humans who have run
out of paper have started migrating
to the park to make their living.
If the trend continues, there is a
real possibility that they will
intrude on our commune.

A large older woman raises her hand and doesn't wait for
Rafiki to call on her.

LARGE OLDER WOMAN
How will we protect ourselves?

RAFIKI
We've found that these humans are
repulsed by most nudity, so we're
devising a plan to re-locate all of
our least attractive residents to
the outskirts of the commune. That
way the domesticated humans will be
scared off before venturing too
deep into the commune.

FLOWER
(whispering to Zechariah)
They're moving us to the center of
the commune. I've planned a
celebration feast this afternoon.

RAFIKI
If there are no further questions,
our meeting is adjourned.

EXT. SECLUDED GRASS FIELD - AFTERNOON

Flower and Zechariah spread out a blanket stitched from straw and sit down on it.

Flower sits comfortably in one fluid motion while Zechariah continually re-positions himself as the straw digs into his exposed skin.

FLOWER

Help me unpack the food?

She indicates to a straw basket beside the blanket and they begin to unload the various food items. Zechariah still shifts uncomfortably and Flower notices.

FLOWER (CONT'D)

How are the nuts?

ZECHARIAH

A little dirty.

Zechariah removes a handful of wild nuts from the basket and places them on the blanket.

ZECHARIAH (CONT'D)

Is it true what Rafiki was saying?

FLOWER

Yes, and to make room for the uglies we're being moved to the center of the commune. I think it has to do with my melons.

ZECHARIAH

Oh?

FLOWER

The melons we grew and gave to all of the elders. I assume they don't see melons like mine every day.

ZECHARIAH

Not that. Is there really another society of humans?

FLOWER

Well of course, where do you think we all came from?

ZECHARIAH

I figured there was some supreme being that put us all here.

FLOWER
Honey, do you even listen to
yourself speak?

Zechariah removes two wooden cups from the basket.

ZECHARIAH
What's it like out there?

FLOWER
Painfully dull, there are no
animals and they don't let it get
dark. They never work.

ZECHARIAH
Never?

FLOWER
No. They built animals called cars
that take them to various places
and they use that paper Rafiki
mentioned to obtain food instead of
finding it or growing it.

ZECHARIAH
So then what do they do all day?

FLOWER
They eat, sleep and have sex. It's
so unnatural.

ZECHARIAH
I like all of those things.

FLOWER
You haven't heard the worst part.

ZECHARIAH
(eagerly leaning in)
What's that?

FLOWER
They take animal fur and cover
their body with it.

ZECHARIAH
Oh?

FLOWER
Just imagine if you were the only
person allowed to see me naked
every day.

ZECHARIAH
That would be awesome.

She slaps him.

ZECHARIAH (CONT'D)
I mean terrible.

FLOWER
That's better. Now change the
subject please.

ZECHARIAH
Okay.

He looks around him for something to talk about and finally
looks up at the sky.

ZECHARIAH (CONT'D)
Have you ever wondered why we're
here?

FLOWER
Not really, no.

ZECHARIAH
I mean, like, what's my purpose?
What's your purpose? We're smarter
than these animals we surround
ourselves with but there has to be
a reason for it, right?

FLOWER
No.

ZECHARIAH
You've never thought about any of
this? What do you think about?

FLOWER
Rafiki says we should base our
actions on the animals around us.
Never thinking, rarely speaking,
just live with our bodies.

ZECHARIAH
But we're not animals. We have self-
awareness, we can connect with each
other in ways that aren't so
primitive.

FLOWER
New subject please, I think the
juices are drying up.

ZECHARIAH

The what?

Flower points to the wooden cups.

ZECHARIAH (CONT'D)

Oh.

He takes a sip from his drink and then the two sit in silence for a few minutes. Zechariah ponders his surroundings while Flower inspects his naked body.

FLOWER

We should have a baby.

ZECHARIAH

Can I tell you a secret?

FLOWER

Sure.

ZECHARIAH

I want to leave the commune.

FLOWER

What? Why?

ZECHARIAH

Don't you get it? I've lived my whole life wishing there was something else out there, something more to my existence, and I find out there's another world where people don't live among the animals and get by on the bare essentials.

FLOWER

Are you trying to get out of having a baby?

ZECHARIAH

No... well yes. I can't move to the center of the commune, once I'm there I'm stuck for life. Before I have a baby, before I reach the point of no return, I want to be sure there isn't somewhere else I'd rather be.

FLOWER

Is it the sex?

ZECHARIAH

No, I love the sex.

FLOWER

Good, then that's settled. You're staying.

ZECHARIAH

No. I'm not.

FLOWER

But you just said you love the sex.

ZECHARIAH

There's more than just sex, there has to be something else.

FLOWER

Like babies.

ZECHARIAH

(agitated)

That's still the same thing.

FLOWER

I've never heard of anyone associating making babies with having sex. They're two completely different things.

ZECHARIAH

I want to truly connect with another human being, to share feelings, ideas, be in love.

FLOWER

We are in love, just like all of the other couples here. In twenty years we'll be like Randy and Amy.

ZECHARIAH

(growing impatient)

Randy and Amy actually enjoy spending time with each other, they never want to be out of each others' sights.

FLOWER

I like looking at you, don't you like looking at me?

ZECHARIAH

More than that, they laugh with each other, enjoy just talking, hearing each others' voices.

(MORE)

ZECHARIAH (CONT'D)
Whenever you talk I feel like
hitting myself in the head with a
hammer.

Flower looks away from him and remains silent for a few
minutes.

ZECHARIAH (CONT'D)
That's not completely true, I'm
sorry.

FLOWER
(ignoring his apology)
So where does that leave us?

ZECHARIAH
What do you mean?

FLOWER
(she breaks)
What are you trying to escape
Zechariah? The commune or me?

ZECHARIAH
I don't know. I just need a change
right now.

FLOWER
So are we done?

ZECHARIAH
No, at least I don't want us to be.
I just want to see what I've been
missing out on.

FLOWER
Oh.

He notices her disappointment.

ZECHARIAH
Maybe you could join me. After all,
you're pretty nice to look at.

FLOWER
Oh.

ZECHARIAH
Oh?

FLOWER
No, I don't think so.

ZECHARIAH

Oh.

FLOWER

It's just, how many chances will I have to move to the center of the commune, you know?

ZECHARIAH

Okay.

A long silence between the two.

FLOWER

Are you leaving soon?

ZECHARIAH

I'll have to stock up on paper first, and find some clothes.

FLOWER

Oh.

ZECHARIAH

Yeah.

Flower stands up and stretches her body.

FLOWER

I'm going to be really empty without you.

ZECHARIAH

I guess if you have a few minutes...

FADE TO WHITE.