

He went through the first path.

No, he had to go back. He wanted to go back. He moved forward, taking with him the confusion from before and the confusion he had incremented just now.

The confusion of our protagonist - Peter - from before is in fact what we should start talking about. In order to spare more confusion in the future. We shall build more confusion as we see where the story of Peter takes us. Confusion has been what Peter always dealt with at the pinnacle of his heart. It played a hand in every experience he had lived through in the past. By now he should have been well adjusted to it. But that was not the case.

Confusion was always there for Peter, but he had been too young to give it much attention for most of his life. For most of his life was a life of a child. Peter now was merely 25 years old.

Fellows from previous generations may note that Peter is in fact not in the age of children, which is partly true, and it partly isn't. Peter was one of those born into a generation of transition in the classification of age groups. Peter was born in the mid-nineties, and so he grew up knowing that there was a good chance he would make it to live over the age of one hundred.

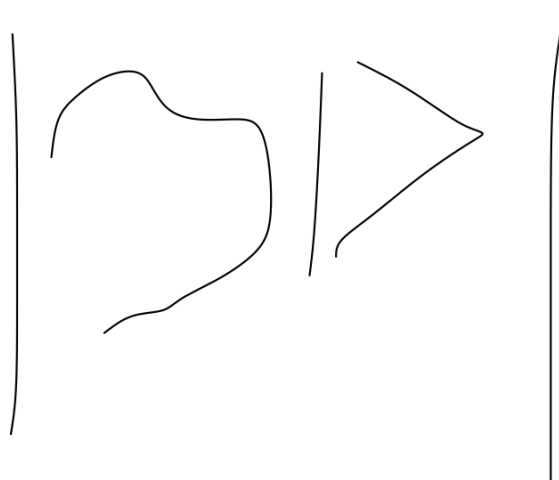
Sometimes he let himself fantasize about living more, even indefinitely more, but he did not always feel so comfortable with such thoughts. He felt that such hopeful thoughts were dangerous, especially when their probability of actually happening was quite unpredictable, and he knew that the chances of him living forever were unpredictable. In truth they were probably very low, and Peter knew that fact. He had stored it in an area of his mind that he visited rarely, he knew visiting the area would not bring him much good, so he would usually avoid it.

The area of his mind where thoughts of living on forever and their peers would inhabit, would flourish quite magnificently as Peter would water them much more than the former thoughts we mentioned.

We've seen here two examples of chambers inside the mind of Peter. As the reader may infer from this comparative example, Peter's involuntary invitation of confusion is not quincidental.

I beg you to keep this in mind as we continue unto the path Peter had decided to walk through.

Picture the confusion sitting as a triangle on his heart. Something like this:



Where the left shape is the heart and the triangle is the confusion. The two lines are the lines of Peter's body. As you can see, his figure was quite slim. His heart was big, and so was his confusion.

We had said earlier that Peter was not aware of his confusion or the size of it for most of his life. But what is interesting in this exact time in Peter's life, is that he slowly started to understand his confusion while taking the path that he took into the forest. If you had been wondering until now, *how many paths were there into the forest?* Well, imagine standing at the edge of a forest, and walking in a certain direction. That direction directs your path. Peter was very anxious before the choice of his direction. He had only started moving when he felt an urge he did not stay to understand, urging him to move in some direction. And he had taken what he was given.

I apologise again for halting the story, we do have more explaining to do before we enter the path and Peter's state of confusion.

About 3 months before Peter had reached the entrance to the forest, a strange virus had broken out. First it was in a city in China, Peter did not know the name of the city, it never bothered him. It never bothered him that it started in China either. The country of China, its history, heritage, and culture, were also things that he never bothered to question. It was not because he was uncurious. In fact, I've seen Peter's curiosity proven several times. He did not try to prove it ever, but one proves best when one does so without intention.

Without questioning where the virus came from, and how it got to his country, then city, then household, Peter had contracted the virus. This also, he was not aware of. There were a few days when Peter felt sick, he laid in bed and stayed in his room, watching streets slowly emptying on the outside. It was in these days where he did not feel very well when his country's government decided to impose the strictest of restrictions:

1. No one was allowed to leave the house for any reason other than buying groceries or necessities.
2. No one was allowed to be walking in a distance of over 100 meters from their house, unless they were going to buy groceries or necessities.
3. No one was allowed to come within 2 meter distance of any other person.

There were a few more rules, but they were less interesting. The thing Peter loved most was watching people walking on the street, scarce as they were but still not too rare (you would see about 20-50 people through the view of the street that Peter had from his room in one hour, and so the situation for seeing action was not utterly hopeless. Peter really loved to see two people, come from different directions towards one another. When people walked the streets in these times of the corona virus, they would usually behave in one of two ways. It was either they were looking into their cellphones while walking, sometimes texting in it as well, or they were looking around, very wary of coming into contact with other people. There were also some more categories of people, one time Peter thought about it and came to a conclusion that there must be an infinite number of such categories of people.

Then he remembered that there were not an infinite amount of people living in the world and walking the streets during these times. 'Then again' he thought, 'there are probably an infinite number of such *potential* categories for people'. He based this theory on the understanding he had reached sometimes in the past few years (he could not exactly remember the exact moment of time where he had reached the conclusion of this theory, rather he remembered it as being understood slowly and in a continuous manner throughout a certain period of time within those past three years, the intervals themselves were continuous, but there were breaks between them as well).

For those familiar with the ideas of mathematics, you could see that the way Peter's mind worked was naturally quite mathematical. He did not know this fact. He did not know what mathematics was really, it was not something he paid much attention to in school either. But it was something that added to his confusion. It was also a thing that sometimes helped him deal with confusion. The trouble was that he did not know in what settings to apply these ways of thinking. Of course

he was also unaware of the idea that one could apply different ways of thinking towards different subjects of thought.

I hope I have not confused my reader too much. I am merely trying to get you comfortable with the character of Peter, and with his peculiar mind. It is important to not try too hard to understand the character of Peter. I myself learned this after many more years than a multiple of Peter's own age. Today I believe it is quite impossible to understand another character. It is very challenging for me to write about Peter, as I myself do not understand him very well, but I will try my best to transfer to you what I have seen of him.

While feeling ill, Peter did come out of his room several times. He lived in a house made mostly of wood. His parents and his little sister also lived in the house. The house was spacious, and family members could spend hours, even a full day, without seeing or hearing one another. There were no grudges held in the household, there were no enemies, it was simply the way it was. To this day I do not know who it is in a family household that decides upon these rules of behaviour. The first time Peter left his room to go and eat downstairs, he met his sister Martha, and without being very aware of it, he had infected her with the virus. Martha herself never knew she had contracted the virus, but for all of her life she had felt guilt for passing the virus on to both of her parents.

Peter and Martha's parents had fallen ill about ten days after Peter's days of sickness. They stayed ill in their room. There was no other room in the house where they decided it was ok for them to be. The house was large, but it was unproportionally very unfurnished. The parents stayed sick for two weeks in the room. Martha would cook eggs and bread for them. Peter would bring them snacks and tea, he never tried to cook really, although I believe he would have been a talented cook had he tried.

There is another detail about Peter we should briefly discuss at this point. Peter was very talented, but he was afraid of gaining new skill. He was afraid of truly understanding something foreign. There is a subtle point here. We mentioned before that Peter was a curious boy. Being a curious boy, Peter had an adventurous nature. He liked to see many things. He liked to touch and play with many things. But he would quickly become disinterested in the objects with which he was playing, and move onto other activities.

Despite his curiosity, Peter was very afraid to dive too deep into a certain subject, for his fear that he would not be able to understand it. And so it was with cooking. He had never turned on the stove, he did not know how the machines in the kitchen worked, and what to put in them. If he had read instructions he would have done just fine. Such an act was also stored in the same chamber where he stored the fact of low chance that he would live forever, though in a different area of the chamber.

On the fifteenth day after Peter's parents had contracted the virus, Peter's father died.

*** next chapter - the family did not know how to deal with the father's death. The father was the source of income. Instead of being a man, Peter secluded himself in his room. Until one day he went for a walk, it was towards the end of the lockdown phase in his country. But at the moment he left the house he truly believed lockdown would not end soon. And that if he went alone outside it truly wouldn't matter if he stayed away from people. He had resolved to keep a 20 meter distance from every person he would see, that way he would not die as his father had. Of course, at this point he was not aware of the fact that he had already lived through the attack of the virus on his body..... Then he gets to the forest

*****maybe he meets the forest people Laura and daily from my forest book. Maybe this is how he joins them.