

# BLEAK OF REALITY



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*NOTHING IS LOST ...*

*Younes Ben El Haj*

PUBLISHED UNDER MY OWN WELL

This novel is entirely a work of fiction. The names, characters and incidents portrayed in it are the product of the author's imagination. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or events or localities is entirely coincidental.

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*Dedicated to those who listen to their hearts and believe that  
there's a purpose.*

*There is no sun without shadow, and it is essential  
to know the night. ~ Albert Camus*

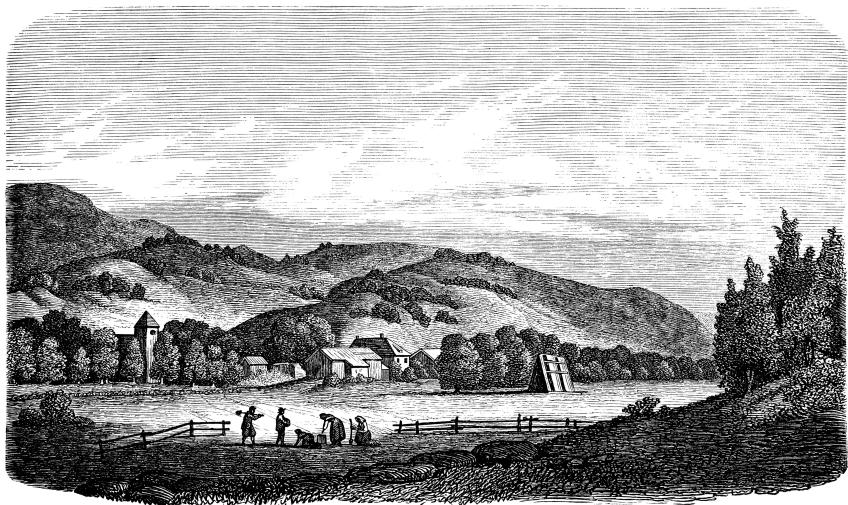


# EVERYTHING AND NOTHING

One night in a dark side of a room, somewhere ultimately unknown. A young man laying in his bed thinking of ways he could've escaped his fate, trying desperately to change his own bleak of reality, lost in endless thoughts that keeps him awake throughout the night. As he was about to sleep he heard a strange whistle sounds coming from out of his house, as he wore his sleepers and went to the balcony to take a glimpse. A bright red light from above the sky flashes his eyes leaving him blind as he falls to the ground unconsciously.

He woke up at sunrise in a strange place stripped from his clothes with nothing but an underwear and a blanket, not knowing where he's or how got there made him scared and confused. He sat for few minutes trying to process what just happened but with no thoughts nor an explanation he eventually stood up and decided to find some help, he climbed up a hill with his bare feet for over thirty minutes till he was able to reach the top. He spotted a

farm that was little far from the hill he was in, fortunately climbing down wasn't painful as going up. He kept walking and walking thinking its getting close but time and hunger wasn't in his favor, everytime he looks at the farm it gets closer but as soon as he takes his eyes away it goes back further and further. It was like torture but it was all the sun's surface reflection. By the time he reached the farm it was already the evening, while being on a empty stomach the whole day felt like days without eating or drinking anything, he felt weak and sick and was barely holding.



A farmer with his family saw him at the fence waving for help, they quickly approached the young man as they got to him he collapsed under the weight of not holding anymore. They took him in treated his wounds and let him rest for as much time he wants. He woke up the next day on a fresh set clothes and a warm bed but still on a empty stomach, he turned his head few times looking at structure of the house thinking “*What is this place?*”, it looks like a 1000 years old, he got out of his room exploring the place, till lady of the house found him in a daze and brought him to where everybody was gathered around a polished wooden table. The farmer’s family was small it consisted of him and his wife and his two daughters, one of them is at his age and the other one was little older, **Elgin** “The farmer” asked:

“**Elgin** : *What’s your name son?*”

“**Boy** : *my name’s... ”* “*being confused*”

“**Boy** : *my name’s is Arye*”

“**Elgin** : *What happened to you?*”

“**Arye** : *I don’t know, all i remember is my name*”

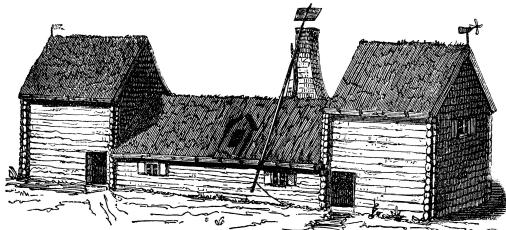
“**Arye asked** : *What is this place, where are we?*”

“**Elgin** : *This is northern east of The United Empire*”

Arye went into a shock, believing this is all a dream and he would soon wake up. But he couldn’t he became frustrated and almost went insane, even trying to cut his hand with a knife as a resort thinking it would woke him up but that didn’t work and soon found out it wasn’t a dream.

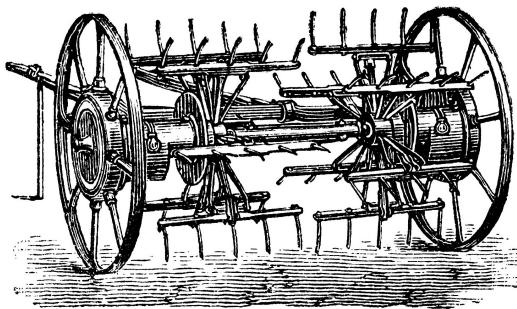
## RAISE AND FALL

The continuous couple days, **Arye** stayed with the farmer's family as he had no place to go, he kept thinking of the possibility of how such thing could happen to him, realizing all the people he knew and love are all gone and there's no way he could've meet them again, all the dreams and adventures he wanted to do are now part of his memory. *Arye* gave up and eventually understood there's no chance for him to expect a miracle, he began to think of how he should live his new life and to make a future. On the other hand the farmer's family couldn't kick Arye out of their home as they had empathy for him for not having anyone. They provided him with a spare room in their house in exchange he would help Elgin in farming which he warmly accepted.



The farm house was a long thatched house, consisting of a kitchen, 3 bedrooms and parlour. All bedrooms were occupied, one for the farmer and his wife, another for his two daughters, and the last was given to *Arye*. His bedroom had a nice little feather bed with two sheets and a blanket with a drugget quilt. The parlour room was where they spend most of the time together, its walls were papered and had a nice polished wooden table at the center with six horse hair chairs and a plain little sideboard at a side wall. There was a nice fireplace with mantelpiece, over which hung a small mirror. *Arye* gets up at five o'clock wear his breeches, shirt and a vest with some boots and waits for *Elgin* in front of the house, they don't take breakfast till they come back at 7 o'clock. *Elgin* and *Arye* open up the barn to let the sheep and cows go out, while *Arye* keeps an eye on them. *Elgin* visits the closest village market to exchange goods, mostly butter and eggs as vegetables and fruits grow in the farm. He comes back later around 6 where *Arye* locks the animals around the fence and they both go back to the house where breakfast will be served. In the parlour table, lady of the house put a cellar full of salt on the table and a big mug of skimmed milk, and a knife for each person in the house, then cooks the eggs

that Elgin brought back from the market. They all sat down, *Elgin*, his wife, and their 2 *daughters*, and lastly *Arye*. After everyone ate their fill, *Arye* and *Elgin* go to the field while one of his daughters go milk the cows and the other checks and waters the garden and lady of the house go down to the field to dig potatoes for lunch and dinner as she brings with her my ass and cart to lift what was harvested in the field as it was heavy work.



Meanwhile *Elgin* trying to teach *Arye* how to use the *Hay tosser* Machine to harvest corn and *Mowing* Machine to seed corn, tomatoes, at the same time. In that moment *Arye* stopped and thought about how different life was. He felt free from everything, no more thinking about problems just living the life as its gonna end tomorrow. As both kept working **Weseel** the younger daughter of *Elgin* brought them a hot beverage of **Leek Milk** that she her self made the other day. The way she hands the bowl to *Arye* as he looks up at her eyes while their hands collide, both made an invisible bubble as the heart's glow and time slows down. What was a 2 seconds felt like eternity. As *Elgin* didn't no-

tice nothing around him, Weseel quickly took off to the farm house while Arye kept thinking about that moment while working. Few hours later **Aurore** the older sister of *Weseel* came up to the field to tell them that lunch is ready to be served. Meal was scarce at that time as there was an arid climate at some seasons, but potatoes were plentiful. They had lunch at 12 and dinner at noon. Dinner consisted of boiled potatoes, cabbage and tomatoes and rarely sometimes bacon, and at around 5 o'clock *Rice Milk* is given, sometimes in the fields, but more often in the kitchen. Supper, like breakfast, consisted of rice, and buttermilk with some smashed potatoes.



Days pass and everyday while *Arye* is working, *Weseel* would come up to him in the field to bring him something new she cooks, they've never talked or said a word since the first day, they would just look at each other with a smile as they bend space and time to their own well. They've kept it this way for months, till one day close to midnight *Arye* got out of his room and headed to the kitchen to drink some water, at the way in suddenly *Weseel* appeared in front him he didn't know what to say and thought about not disap-

pointing *Elgin* as he trusted him, let him in his house and made him one of the family. But as well didn't want to lose another chance, he grabbed her hands pushed her close to the wall. As he experience her soft, voluptuous, wet lips slowly approaching. Perceiving her warm, sweet breath, foreseeing the moment they will touch his. Her big, beautiful, brown eyes can hardly go unnoticed, while simultaneously his hands experience the disconcerting feeling of her smooth skin. Her intoxicating scent can only be rivaled by the overwhelming yearning of her forbidden taste and the breathtaking play of her tongue. Miraculously everyone was asleep as both slowly enjoyed every single bite of their long waited love.

The next day as *Arye* was putting down a great big pot of turnips to scald for the horses in the barn, *Weseel* takes the chance, comes to him and says that she wants to meet him here at night. After everyone had their dinner that night and went to bed, *Arye* and *Weseel* waiting hopelessly for midnight to come, *Arye* gets up first and goes to the barn while *Weseel* patiently waiting for her sister to fall as asleep. The moment *Aurore* slept, *Weseel* snuck out of her room quietly and went to *Arye* where they laid down in the barn, as both express their love. *Arye* describes a look of strength, convicting, and determination to overcome any impediment to their ability to be together, he felt gifted as they kiss and cling together while simultaneously looking at the stars. Meanwhile *Aurore* woke up and didn't find her sister, she searched where she might be at but couldn't find her as she gets closer to the barn she hears whispering only to find out *Weseel* And *Arye* lying around in the barn. *Aurore* decides to keep it as secret and goes back to

her room pretending to sleep, waiting for *Weseel* to come back but falls asleep minutes later. In the morning as everyone gathered eating breakfast, *Elgin* told *Arye* to come with him to a Western city and it would take them at least 3 days. While *Arye* packs his bag *Weseel* secretly joins his room, kisses him and hands him a piece of her clothes as she whispers in his ears “Come back to me soon, I love you.”.

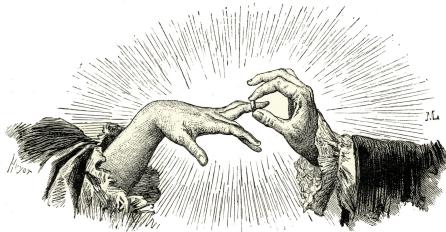
In their journey, *Elgin* and *Arye* stumbled upon many villages and bought many items, *Arye* asked for what purpose are they going for as most of the items are for a special event. *Elgin* replied that he's getting ready to make a wedding for his daughter *Aurore* and he's going to get some fancy clothes from the Western side. *Arye* unintentionally out of nowhere asked *Elgin* if he would somehow let him marry *Weseel* but just before he could've answered. They reached the front gate of the city, the people were protesting and the whole situation there was out of hand. It turned out **The United Empire** just declared war against **The Reunions Empire** for attempting to invade their land, and now they are preparing to draft over 500000 men for war.



*Arye* worst fears of joining the war became real as he and *Elgin* both got drafted. The devastation and fear broke him so badly, he refused to believe so and blamed his bad-luck for turning his dreams upside down again. They gave him a sword a uniform and ammunition to reload the canon when its needed as there was no time for training while *Elgin* was put in the middle line for his beneficial structure and his previous experience in war. *Arye* spent sleepless nights in the wild waiting for the other part to strike, whilst thinking of *Weseel* and how afraid she must have been all this time, notwithstanding the distance and time hoping he one day still will be able to see her. **The Reunion Empire** ambushed silently at midnight with their huge fleet at the western shore, the first line guarding were slaughtered in cold blood as few escaped to spread the word of their trap, *Elgin* and his fellow soldiers were getting ready to put on an attack against the empire's army it consisted of 3 troops of cavalrymen commanded by 3 captains and it had between 30 to 100 men, most of them where operating independently setting at front line with artillery and were managed by soldiers like *Arye* himself. The empire troops arrived close by the gate at around 3 o'clock in the morning, taking heavy cannon balls and stroked with arrows despite that they had an army in front gate of two hundred thousand men out of nine hundred thousand. They didn't had a chance, soon enough *Arye* was hit in his shoulder as a foot soldier with a musket that was a typical long gun with metal ball shot him as it nearly almost killed him. He fell on the ground as life was about to end, desperately trying to get up thinking of his life flashing in front of his eyes. Till he remembered he hasn't

done with life yet, he pulled the piece of clothes that *Weseel* gave him realizing its all he got left. Marvelously twisted it around his shoulders, whereas pain just unexpectedly disappeared. He got a dead gunner firearm and started fighting like a man and for the ones that matter, he shot 8 of enemy troops that night. The fight continued till sunrise and both armies fall back as casualties are increasing by thousands. *Arye* phenomenally survived with a wound but was able to recover from it and was later united with *Elgin* as **King spence** did a memorial burial for those who died in the line of duty, and honored *Arye* and others for their heroic fight against *The Reunions Empire*. The war temporarily stopped as both sides rushing to unite with other kingdoms to go against each other in final deadly battle. Meanwhile *Arye* and *Elgin* go back to the farm after their departure that lasted over 2 months.

When both arrived to the farm, *Arye* first thing he did was to find *Weseel*. Just as he spotted her in the field he dropped his bag and sprinted as fast as he could, as she sees him from far away running towards her brings up tears and joy, they hugged and kissed for what feels like eternity its because of their love saved them both and brought them back together for another chance, during that time *Elgin* cheers up with his wife and daughter *Aurore*, moments later *Arye* and *Weseel* come back to the farm house she hugs her father and the whole family sits around the table to take dinner, *Elgin* starts telling stories about the battle and how *Arye* almost died at the same time how brave he was during that time, **Elgin** looked directly at **Arye** and said “*There's nobody i would trust more my daughter with other than you*”.

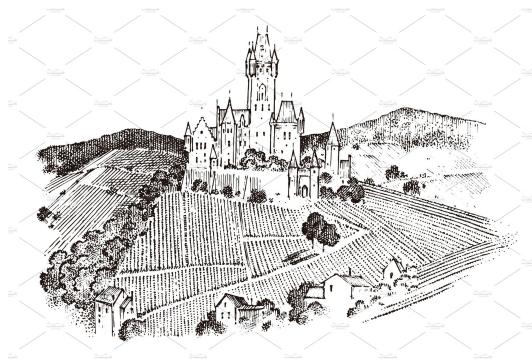


The next couple days the whole family was getting ready for *Aurore* wedding night, they've prepared everything from clothes, food and a huge tent in front of the house. Whilst waiting for the husband's family *Arye* and *Weseel* sit together in a rounded table, discussing when their marriage will take a place and what to name their 4 children and the big house they will have to built to fit in a whole new family. *Aurore* wedding started at 9 o'clock with her husband's family bringing gifts and jewelry, as everyone flip over and dance as never before, in which way *Arye* and *Weseel* join in after drinking for the first time. Everyone spent a glorious night that day.

The farm house now shrank in members as *Aurore* has left with her husband, *Arye* and *Elgin* continued working on the farm specially the fields while *Weseel* and her *Mother* took care of other things, such as the cows and the garden. One day a messenger visited the farm house asking for *Arye* as he passed down a letter from *King spence* saying that was he looking for brave men from around the king-

dom, he signed him as a knight and a commander and has to come back to the western city. *Arye* totally refused so but he cannot go against the king's word. He made a promise to *Weseel* that he will be back and he would marry her as soon as he's over with his duty. *Arye* took off riding a horse to the king's castle and was welcomed with honor and respect, he was given a chamber to where he would stay, the king would gather all this commanders including *Arye* to consider possible options of winning the war, while many gave their strategies and ideas *Arye* proposed to just end the war by both sides signing an agreement and finishing this political debate once for all. The king's first choice of going to war was a total lose, as he lost half of his army just in the first battle realizing if he put up another one, its gonna be his last and for his kingdom. He thought about it wisely and picked *Arye* to be his right diplomatic hand. A week later, *Arye* with *King spence* meet up with *The Reunions Empire* king to negotiate on their terms, to not invade others land and keep it peacefully between both sides in return they will unite together and help grow their kingdoms by any means necessary. Surprisingly both agree and sign the agreement the same day. On the way back *King spence* asks *Arye* to moves back to the castle with him permanently considering he would cover up his wedding and provide him with a place for him and his wife, *Arye* happily accepted his offer hoping *Weseel* would also agree to live in the palace. He returned few days later to the farm house being welcomed with love from *Weseel* and his father in law *Elgin* and his wife. *Arye* came back to fulfill his promise and to marry *Weseel* he proposed to her to get married in the palace in the west-

ern city and to live there, while being shocked from what she hears. she agreed saying it was all girls dream to step in the palace but to get married and live in it was something way beyond imagination.



They packed everything they needed in the next day and headed straight towards the western city, they arrived in the castle where *Arye* showed them the place and took them their rooms. The wedding was set to be 2 days later, the servants brought luxuries clothes and jewelry and made beautiful wedding dress for *Weseel*.

The day he dreamed about is finally happening, from finding the love of his life to getting a life he never expected but was able to get he felt grateful and happy but not as happiest as he was on the wedding day. As everyone in hallway waiting for the pride to come out while he stands impatiently, she comes out in her white stylish dress looking a like princess, his eyes filled with tears of joy and love for her as she stand next to him while everyone is cheering. As now they are wife and husband *Arye* kisses *Weseel* and take her for a romantic dance as both look at each

other knowing they've accomplished wonders. In that night, after the wedding ended and everyone went to sleep the palace was attacked by troops of *The Reunions Empire* where they betrayed the king as a result he and his wife were killed while *Arye* helplessly tried to save *Weseel*, but the castle was surrounded and there was no way out, they didn't want to die separated so they went to the roof as both hugged and kissed each other for one last time and ultimately jump to their fate..

*Arye* woke up in a hospital bed with tears in his eyes unable to process what happened, as the doctor approaches and tells him he has been in a coma for the past 6 months. It cracked him up so badly he couldn't differentiate between whats real anymore everything he saw and experience was just a dream. Till thirty minutes later a black haired girl that looks exactly like *Weseel* enters his room and hugs him he couldn't believe his eyes, nevertheless, the incident he had made him suffer from a temporarily memory lose and as soon as she started talking to him, he remembered she was the girl he loved all this time. He quickly learned that nothing was lost, he was given a chance again to start a life as he dreamed of all this time, he got out of the hospital a week later. Knowing his purpose and starting from scratch, he got married few years later with the same girl and both had big family of 4 children as they lived happily after.