

The next day, just before sunset, as I worked on my plane a thousand miles from any human habitation...

(LITTLE PRINCE enters.)

...he appeared again. It took me a long time to learn where he came from. This little person, who asked so many questions, never seemed to hear the ones I asked.

LITTLE PRINCE. It is true, isn't it? Sheep eat little bushes?

AVIATOR (turns, startled). Where did you go yesterday?

LITTLE PRINCE. It is true, isn't it?

AVIATOR (exasperated). Yes.

LITTLE PRINCE. Then it follows that they also eat baobabs, correct?

AVIATOR. Baobabs are not little bushes. They're trees as big as castles, and—

LITTLE PRINCE. But before they grow so big, the baobabs, they start out by being little?

AVIATOR. Strictly speaking, yes. Where is your family? Where do you come from? Why do you want the sheep to eat the little baobabs, anyway? (LITTLE PRINCE doesn't answer, he has wandered over to plane.) Don't you ever answer a question?

LITTLE PRINCE. What is this object?

AVIATOR (turns, startled). That is not an object. That is my airplane ... my—friend. (With irony.)

LITTLE PRINCE (investigates the plane). Hello.

AVIATOR. It doesn't talk. It's true, I talk to it occasionally—but it doesn't answer back.

Side #1

LITTLE PRINCE. That doesn't seem very satisfactory. (LITTLE PRINCE is puzzled.)

AVIATOR. It's an airplane! It flies!

LITTLE PRINCE. You dropped down from the sky?

AVIATOR. Yes. (LITTLE PRINCE laughs. AVIATOR is miffed. LITTLE PRINCE tries to suppress his laughter.)

What's so funny?! (LITTLE PRINCE bursts into laughter again. AVIATOR speaks to audience.) His laughter irritated me. I liked my misfortunes taken seriously. (With a look from the AVIATOR, LITTLE PRINCE continues his laughter.)

LITTLE PRINCE. You too come from the sky. Which is your planet?

AVIATOR. What?

LITTLE PRINCE. Though it is true that on that airplane you couldn't have come very far.

AVIATOR. You come from another planet?

LITTLE PRINCE. Listen to that sunset. Do you hear the music?

AVIATOR. What music?

LITTLE PRINCE. It's wonderful that the sunset lasts such a long time here. Where I come from, the sunsets are much shorter, but there are so many more of them.

AVIATOR. It's clear I'm not going to get a straight answer out of you. I have to get back to my pl— (AVIATOR heads back to plane.)

LITTLE PRINCE. One day I watched the sun set forty-four times.

AVIATOR. Forty-four times?

LITTLE PRINCE (takes his hand). Come with me.

AVIATOR (pulling his hand away). Enough of this. I have important things to—