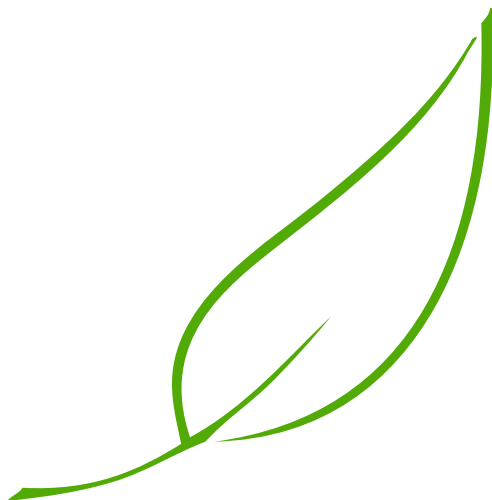


THAT SOMETHING MISSING IS ME

by Ken Bradbury



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BLAIR: (standing behind a ticket counter) Next, please!

JALEN: That's me. (hands Blair an imaginary ticket)

BLAIR: A ticket for Portland, round trip?

JALEN: Yep! Got to be there this afternoon!

BLAIR: Name?

JALEN: Jalen. Jalen Whalen.

BLAIR: (looking through his lists) Whalen..Whalen...I'm sorry. I don't have a reservation for any Whalen.

JALEN: Oh, they're always doing this. Look, I've got the ticket. Just give me a seat anywhere.

BLAIR: I'm afraid the flight to Portland is full ... all sold out.

JALEN: What?!

BLAIR: (to another customer) May I help you?

DENVER: Two tickets for the flight to Portland.

BLAIR: Do you have a reservation?

DENVER: Sorry. Just now decided to go. Got room?

BLAIR: (looking through the papers) I think I can find something...

JALEN: What?

BLAIR: (to Jalen) You'll have to wait your turn, sir. (to Denver) Yep ... looks like we've got plenty of seats. Would you like an aisle or a window?

JALEN: You've got tickets to Portland?

DENVER: Thanks ...

BLAIR: The plane's now boarding at gate 8-A. Thanks for flying Skyways.

JALEN: You just sold him two tickets to Portland?

BLAIR: Of course. That's what we do.

JALEN: Then I want a ticket!

BLAIR: To where?

JALEN: Portland!

BLAIR: Let me look ...

JALEN: You just told him you have plenty of room!

BLAIR: I'm sorry. That flight's been booked for weeks. Big Star Trek convention in Portland.

JALEN: Are you crazy?

BLAIR: I'm calling security.

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JALEN: No you're not! (walking away) I'm getting out of here. You're nuts, fella! Man, where am I gonna find another flight? And I'm starving. (walking up to Hale) How 'bout a cheeseburger and some of those fries.

HALE: Sorry. We're closed.

JALEN: Closed? You've got cheeseburgers in the warming tray and I'm lookin' right at the French fries. How much?

HALE: Those are for tomorrow. We cook ahead.

JALEN: You do what?

HALE: (to another customer) May I help you?

BLAIR: Two cheeseburgers and fries.

HALE: Coming right up.

JALEN: What?

HALE: You'll have to wait your turn.

JALEN: You told me you were closed!

HALE: At an airport? Buddy, we're open 24-7. The planes don't quit flying and people don't quit eating.

JALEN: But what about ...

BLAIR: Could you hurry? I'm catching the 420 to Portland in five minutes.

HALE: Sure thing. (handing him the food) Here you are.

BLAIR: (pays him, takes food, then) Keep the change. (Blair exits)

JALEN: I want some food!

HALE: Hey! Hey! No need to shout! I can hear you, buddy.

JALEN: Good! I'll take a cheeseburger and fries.

HALE: Sorry. We're closed.

JALEN: But you just said ...

HALE: (leaving) Gimme a break, man. I been workin' ten hours.

JALEN: My ... (watching Hale go) My ... my food. What's going on? The sign said "open." Surely I can spell.

DENVER: Your next word is "Portland."

BLAIR: (moving Jalen out of the way) Excuse me. It's my turn.

DENVER: Could you use it in sentence, please?

BLAIR: Yes. "The plane is going to Portland any moment now."

DENVER: Portland. P-O-R-T-L-A-N-D. Portland!

BLAIR: Correct! Next contestant.

HALE: (moving Jalen aside) Pardon me.

BLAIR: Your word is "airplane."

HALE: Could I have a definition, please?

BLAIR: Certainly. “An airplane is a large thing with things that take people to Portland.”

HALE: Thank you. Airplane. A-I-R-P-L-A-N-E. Airplane!

BLAIR: Correct! Now ... Mr. Whalen?

JALEN: Huh?

BLAIR: It’s time to spell your word.

JALEN: My word?

BLAIR: You’re next.

JALEN: I’m in a spelling bee?

BLAIR: Look, it’s perfectly natural to be nervous. Your word is Athazagoraphobia.”

JALEN: What?

BLAIR: Athazagoraphobia. And please, I'd rather not say that again.

JALEN: Wait a minute! He got Portland and the other guy got airplane. What's with this Athaza-stuff?”

BLAIR: Would you like a definition?

JALEN: A definition?

BLAIR: Very well. Athazagoraphobia is the fear of being forgotten or ignored.

JALEN: What?!

BLAIR: Next!

JALEN: But I didn't even get a chance to ...

BLAIR: Sorry. I'm ignoring you. Next!

JALEN: (walking away) This can't be happening. It just cannot be happening. (sits) Am I going crazy?

DENVER: (entering) The doctor will see you now.

JALEN: What doctor?

DENVER: You made the appointment.

JALEN: I’m not sick.

DENVER: That’s what they all say.

HALE: (entering quickly) I’m here to see the doctor.

DENVER: Right this way. (Hale exits as he “enters”)

JALEN: Wait a minute! Wait a minute! I was next!

DENVER: Do you have an appointment?

JALEN: You just told me I had an appointment!

BLAIR: (entering) Is the doctor in?

DENVER: Certainly. There’s no waiting today. Go right on in. (Blair “enters”)

JALEN: Those people are going ahead of me! This isn’t fair!



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