



#95 *The Green Carpet*



Having just visited the beautiful Palace of Versailles, a peasant modeled his meager yard after the gardens he had seen. Of course, he could not begin to imitate the many plantings, so he mimicked the 'tapis vert' or 'green carpet' of short cut grass. Between his cabin and the road, he cleared the land to have only one kind of grass, which he weeded and cut to perfection. Soon his neighbors did the same. By the end of the year, the whole village had perfect green carpets. When Spring arrived, the villagers longed for their festivals to celebrate life. But alas, one villager could not come, because he had to work on his green carpet. Another had already spent her money maintaining her grass. A third couple had to spend all Spring nursing the nearby brook back to health. Apparently, it had been poisoned by their green carpet. Eventually, one villager woke up and said, "Will we all wear nooses around our necks if one of us does? Will we all teach our children what our neighbor does? Are we nothing more than conformists?" Suddenly, the carpet madness ceased and the villagers returned to their festivals and life.

CONFORMITY IS AVOIDING YOUR SELF