



## #105 *The Sly Fox*



*The master sat on a rock with her student, gazing across the manifold ranges of mountains. After sitting in complete silence for some time, the master pronounced, with powerful conviction, “I think that it is clear that everything we see, from the smallest blade of grass, to the largest mountain is important!” The student felt that she should get up the courage to say something, so she chimed in, “Yes, master, it is all so magnificent.” Then suddenly, rising up in her body - as if the master’s power of conviction was contagious, the student stood up and added, “but I have a special liking for the trees. The trees are exceptional to me!” Then she sat down again, and an awkward silence ensued. Did she offend the master? Is it her place to think something different from such a wise one as her master? By and by, the master spoke again. This time, with such authority, that she*

*almost seemed to be issuing a challenge, "I believe that among all trees, the hickory deserves undivided attention!" Catching another wave of confidence, the student blurted out, "My allegiance has to go to the oak!" Now she was sure that she should not have said this - after all, she was clearly disagreeing with the master! She quickly added, "I'm sorry master, do I transgress?" The master burst out laughing, "No, no my young friend! You are learning very well. You do not transgress. I am teaching you a lesson in critical thinking. My strong convictions were designed to get you to stand by your own views. You are doing very well. After all, do you want to learn to be like me, or do you want to learn to be like you?"*

*YOU CANNOT BE SOMEONE ELSE*