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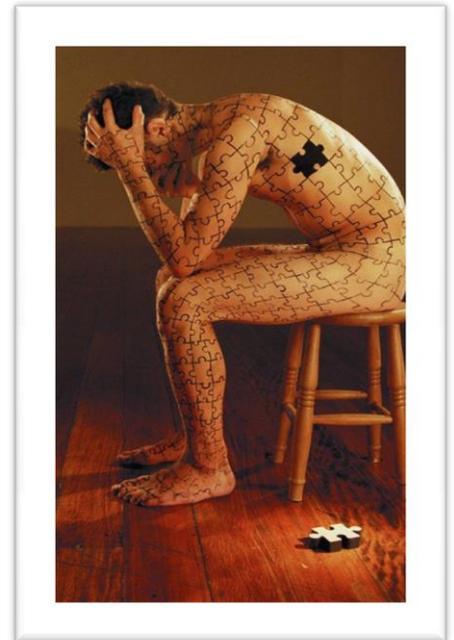
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# The Lion of Grund

The tale of a Social Chameleon

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With thanks to Poe Gee for his unfathomable wisdom



Cal was the undisputed Lion of Grund until the day Leon Green accused him of being a Chameleon.

Cal Leonidae was a unique and highly specialized people pleaser of Grund House marketing.

Indeed, he was a graphics software wizard who always exceeded the desires of others with such colourful pizzazz that even the most difficult of clients gasped in excitement when they saw his story boards.

No one had accused Cal of being a chameleon before and while he was tall and slim, he did not consider himself to have zygodactylous hands, 180 degree vision, a very long extrudable tongue, a curly tail or a double chin. However, he did have a swaying gait from fifteen

years of loyal service during which time he'd earned his well deserved title "Lion of Grund" as well as huge bonuses.

Have you ever been so deeply in tune with another person that you found yourself reflecting their every move, because being extremely in tune with others was Cal's specialty.

Leon Green said Cal's ability was a psychological phenomenon called the chameleon effect.

Cal 'the chameleon' reflected Leon Green so acutely and with such an interwoven canvas of emotional and cultural intelligence that Cal intuitively sensed he was on the right track winning over Leon, but he was wrong.

Cal knew that mimicking other people's actions had always caused them to develop positive feelings towards him.

"Eww" said Leon Green

"your skills are more like those of a domestic tabby than a Lion".

This made Cal feel very unsafe.

Leon Green's accusation had completely taken Cal by surprise. No one had ever called him a domestic tabby before and he didn't know what to do with it.

Making a good impression was Cal's special way of surviving but being extraordinarily attuned to the ways of others came at a psychological cost.

Cal's continual monitoring of his social performances and skilfully adjusting them, whenever he detected they were not having the desired effect, was like living on a sharp edged, constantly changing precipice.

This balancing act along with Cal's ongoing striving to create, in the minds of others, his advertising superiority, gave him regular nightmares.

Cal was a workaholic, addicted to pleasing others through creative expression and no matter how many insecurities he suffered, he pushed himself out of bed, day after day, because he didn't know how else to be.

" A kaleidoscope of dullness is all this is " complained Leon Green.

" I know you are paying careful attention to social cues, scrutinizing with keenness to identify what I expect of you while giving me the sales pitch. Well let me tell you this! I HATE surrealism and the fact you don't get it means you are NOT the right person to promote MY business. " Then Leon Green really chucked it.

" You're nothing but a social chameleon! " he exploded.

Then there it was, on the table. Cal had just been tagged by Leon Green.

The Executives of the House of Grund were gob-smacked.

No one had ever caught the Lion off guard before.

The marketing profession, by its very commercial nature, seemed to attract people who were adept at impression management and Cal was right up there with professional actors, trial lawyers, diplomats and politicians.

" To thine own self be true " he thought, just as quickly dismissing it as too surreal to pitch. Cal felt sick.

The Lion of Grund was done. Cal had nothing left to offer and the eyes of every ambitious executive in the room lit up with notes of green. Everyone except Leon Green who was colour blind.

"To thine own self be true!" Leon Green suddenly exclaimed, breaking the deathly silence of the room with his flashy gold filled smile "that's MY campaign slogan".

How did Leon Green know what Cal was thinking?

Cal hadn't spoken a word and for the first time in his life he didn't know why.

Then Cal Leonidae heard applause and someone said that even when his head was down, the Lion still magically managed to hold his Grund.

Leon Green held out a most zygodactylous hand as a gesture of campaign settlement and it was then Cal realised that he was just like him.

End



To the thousands of Google and other browser users who clicked into Chan6es in 2015, I hope you all found the change link you needed and I wish you a very happy holiday season and the very best of good fortune in 2016. Xs. Editor of Chan6es.com