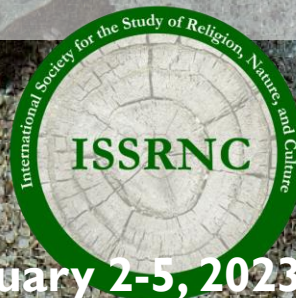


The Fisherman and His Wife

**from Eco-apocalypse and Eco-anxiety
to
cyclical Coexistence**

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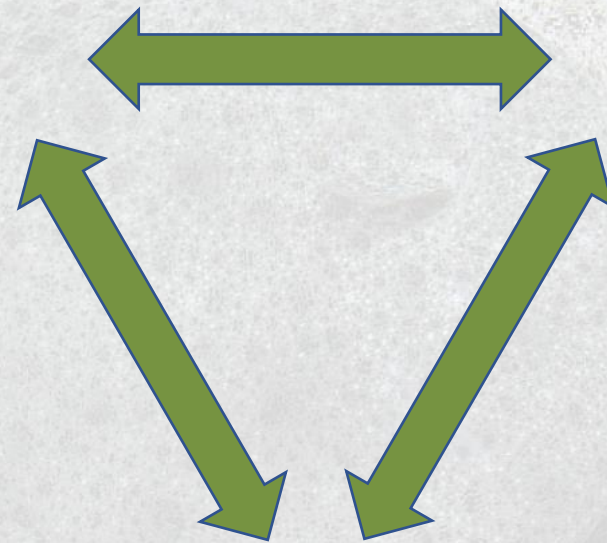
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Nowadays ...

science, politics, society

social
consequences

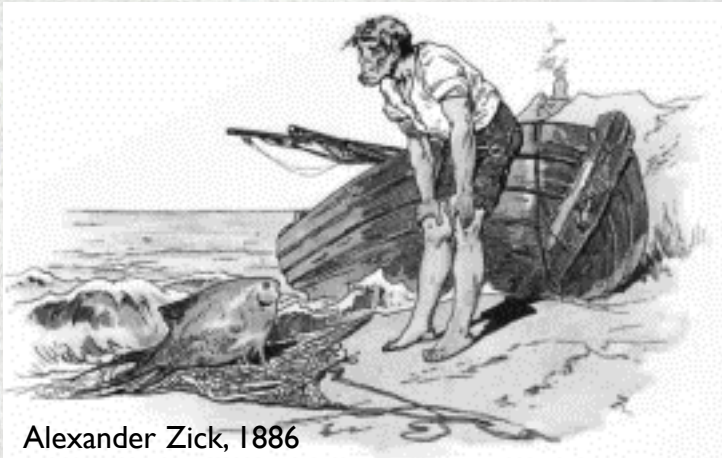
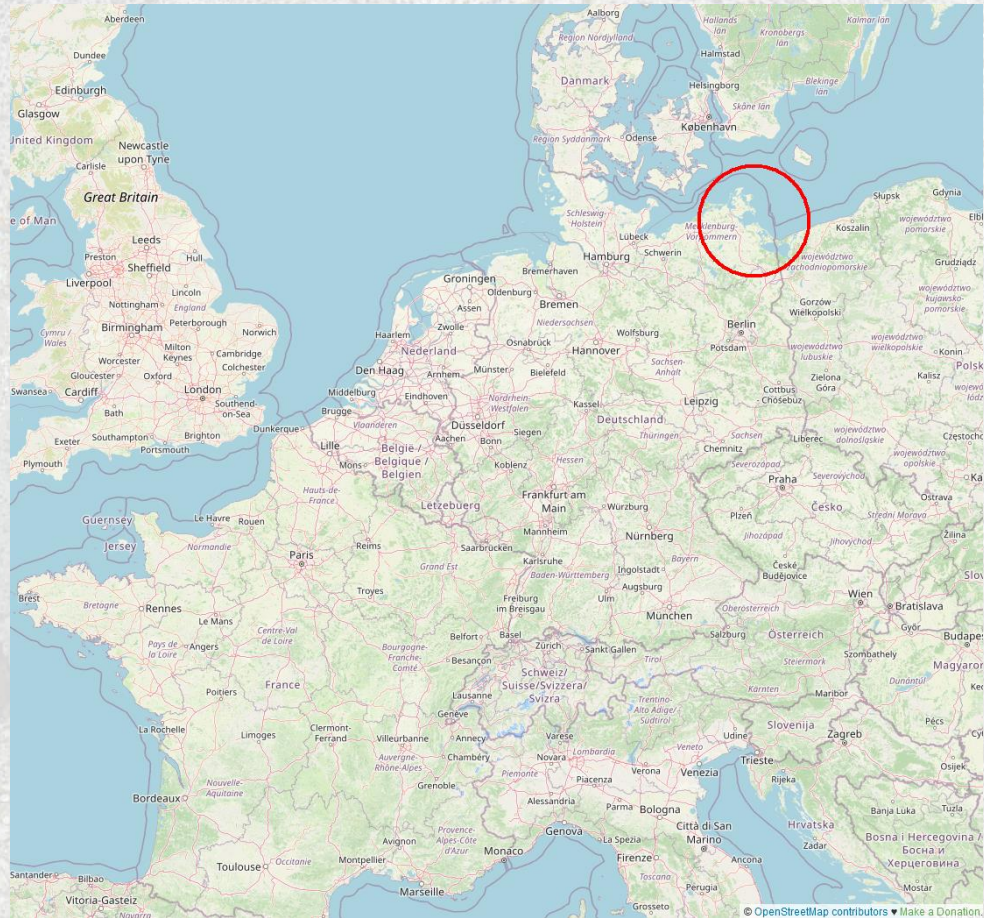
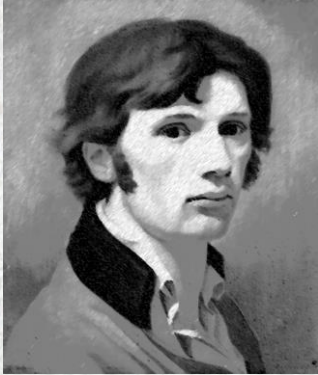
solutions:
policy
technology
education



scientific
background

Once upon a time ...

Otto Runge & Brothers Grimm 1812



Alexander Zick, 1886

19. Von dem Fischer un syne Fru.



endlich so viel Wasser trinken, daß sie zerplagte, und ward in diesem Zustand ans Ufer getrieben. Zum Glück saß da ein Schneider, der auf seiner Wanderschaft ausruhte; weil er nun Nadel und Zwirn bei der Hand hatte, nähte er sie wieder zusammen. Seit der Zeit haben alle Bohnen eine Naht.

Wie andere erzählen, so ging die Bohne zuerst über den Strohalm, kam glücklich hinüber und sah auf dem gegenseitigen Ufer der Kohle zu, wie die herüberzog. Mitten auf dem Wasser brannte sie den Strohalm durch, fiel hinab und zischte. Wie das die Bohne sah, lachte sie so stark, daß sie plagte. Der Schneider am Ufer nähte sie wieder zu, hatte aber gerade nur schwarzen Zwirn, daher alle Bohnen eine schwarze Naht haben.

Von dem Fischer un sine Fru.

Daar was mal eens een Fischer un sine Fru, de v
losamen in'n Piepott, dicht an de See — un de Fischer g
Dage hen un angelt, un ging he hen lange Tid.

Daar satt he eens jan de See bi de Angel, un sach
kanke Water, un he sach immer na de Angel — daar g
Angel to Grun'n, deep unner, un as he se heruttrekt, se
e eenen groten Butt herut — de Butt sed' to em: „i
i, datt du mi lewen lettst, ick bin keen rechte Butt, ick
erwünscht' Prins, sett mi webber in dat Water un le
men“ — Nu, sed' de Mann, du bru ... so veete

Interpretations, so far ...

- Literary criticism and comparative **literature**
- **Folklorists**
- **Mithology**
- Religious study and **moral** theology
- **Psychoanalysis**
- **Anthropology**
- **Gender** research
- etc.

Virginia Woolf's novel **To the Lighthouse** (1927)

Günter Grass and his novel **Der Butt / The flounder** (1977)

Structure

6.

I want to become like God.

5.

I want to become pope.

4.

I have to be emperor.

3.

Immediately I must be king.

2.

I would live in a large palace.

1.

We would have a little cottage.

Houses and trees were blowing over. The mountains were shaking and boulders were rolling from the cliffs into the sea. The sky was as black as pitch. There was thunder and lightning. In the sea there were great black waves.

The wind was blowing over the land, and clouds flew by as the darkness of evening fell. Leaves blew from the trees, and the water roared and boiled as it crashed onto the shore. In the distance he could see ships tossed and turned on the waves. Sky had turned red, as in a lightning storm.

The water was all black and dense and boiling up from within. A strong wind curdled the water.

... sea was dark gray, and water heaved up from below and had a foul smell.

... water was purple and dark blue and gray and dense.

Water was no longer clear, but yellow and green.

Structure

> the final consequence

6.

I want to become like God.

“I cannot stand it when I see the sun and the moon rising, and I cannot cause them to do so. I will not have a single hour of peace until I myself can cause them to rise.”

“... immediately. I want to become like God.”

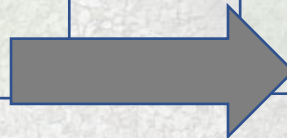
“She is sitting in her filthy shack again.
And they are sitting there even today.”

Fisherman – day-by-day

Fisherman was sitting there fishing and looking into the **clear water**, and he sat, and he sat.



Then his hook went to the bottom, **deep down**, and when he pulled it out, he had caught a large flounder.

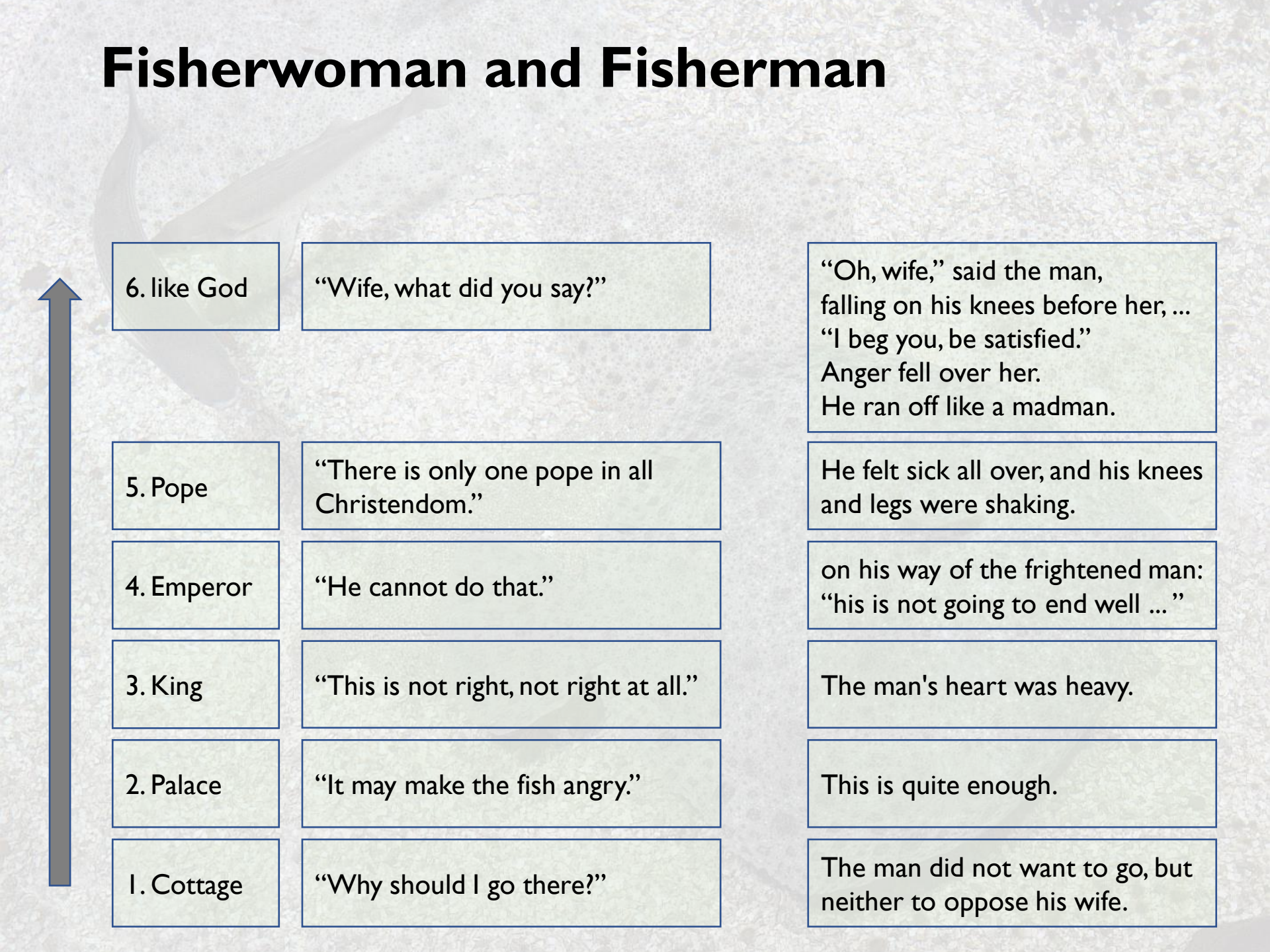


He put it back into the **clear water**, and the flounder disappeared to the bottom ...



“Listen, fisherman, I beg you to **let me live.**”

Fisherwoman and Fisherman



6. like God

“Wife, what did you say?”

“Oh, wife,” said the man,
falling on his knees before her, ...
“I beg you, be satisfied.”
Anger fell over her.
He ran off like a madman.

5. Pope

“There is only one pope in all
Christendom.”

He felt sick all over, and his knees
and legs were shaking.

4. Emperor

“He cannot do that.”

on his way of the frightened man:
“his is not going to end well ...”

3. King

“This is not right, not right at all.”

The man's heart was heavy.

2. Palace

“It may make the fish angry.”

This is quite enough.

1. Cottage

“Why should I go there?”

The man did not want to go, but
neither to oppose his wife.

Fisherman and Nature

6. like God

“Mandje! Mandje! Timpe Te!
Flounder, flounder, in the sea!
My wife, my wife Ilsebill,
Wants not, wants not, what I will.”

“Go home.”

5. Pope

“Mandje! Mandje! Timpe Te!
Flounder, flounder, in the sea!
My wife, my wife Ilsebill,
Wants not, wants not, what I will.”

“She is already pope.”

4. Emperor

“Mandje! Mandje! Timpe Te!
Flounder, flounder, in the sea!
My wife, my wife Ilsebill,
Wants not, wants not, what I will.”

“She is already emperor.”

3. King

“Mandje! Mandje! Timpe Te!
Flounder, flounder, in the sea!
My wife, my wife Ilsebill,
Wants not, wants not, what I will.”

“She is already king.”

2. Palace

“Mandje! Mandje! Timpe Te!
Flounder, flounder, in the sea!
My wife, my wife Ilsebill,
Wants not, wants not, what I will.”

“She's already standing before
the door.”

1. Cottage

“Mandje! Mandje! Timpe Te!
Flounder, flounder, in the sea!
My wife, my wife Ilsebill,
Wants not, wants not, what I will.”

“She already has it.”

Fishewoman

6.

I want to become like God.

5.

I want to become pope.

4.

I have to be emperor.

3.

Immediately I must be king.

2.

I would live in a large palace.

1.

We would have a little cottage.

... everything was illuminated with thousands and thousands of lights ...
... all the emperors and kings were kneeling before her kissing her slipper

In the one hand she had a scepter, and in the other the imperial orb. Bodyguards were standing at her sides ...

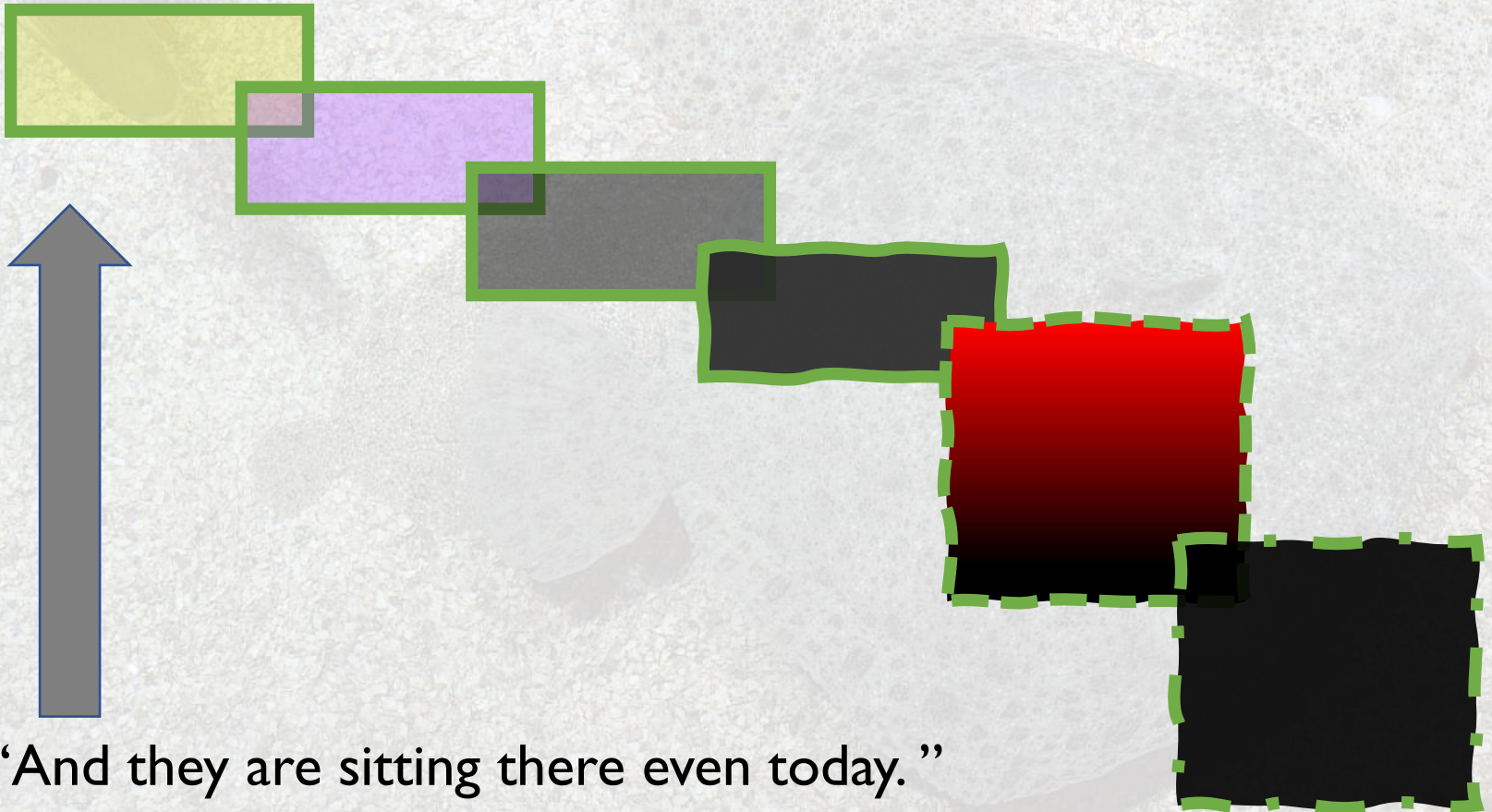
palace with a tall tower and decorations. ... and there were soldiers, ... and drums, ... high throne of gold ...

... a large front hallway with a marble floor. Numerous servants opened up the large doors for them ...

There was a little front yard and parlor, and a bedroom ... and a garden with vegetables and fruit ...

In conclusion

“Once upon a time there were a fisherman and his wife who lived together in a filthy shack near the sea.”



“And they are sitting there even today.”



The fisherman was tuning in to the language of nature.