

The evening air was thick with the scent of autumn leaves, evoking reflections on time and existence for Will, who felt a deep sense of loneliness, bemused that no one else shared this feeling—perhaps only his father did. It was a precarious time, imbued with the sweetness of discovery yet laced with the bitterness of uncertainty. As they lingered, Will finally broke the silence with a poignant question about his goodness, seeking reassurance from his father.

His father affirmed Will's nature but introduced a sobering perspective, emphasizing that goodness does not inherently guarantee happiness, cautioning that outward appearances can be misleading. The happiest person may carry the heaviest burdens of guilt, while those who seem forlorn may often embody true virtue. He articulated the challenges of striving for goodness, explaining that the internal struggle could be so intense it risks breaking a person apart.

Their discussion meandered through philosophical territory, with Will questioning his father's happiness despite his admirable intentions. The father acknowledged that life's complexities often render individuals unsatisfied, sharing that perfection is unattainable and that true coexistence is about accepting each other's imperfections.

As night deepened, they touched upon themes of life, death, and the ever-looming carnival—a metaphor for the unpredictable and often frightening spectacle of life. Will, anxious to shield his father, urged him to avoid the carnival, sensing it as a threat yet to be fully unveiled.

In a tender moment of connection, they exchanged promises and reassurances, with Will expressing a desire for his father's happiness. The conversation swelled with unspoken sentiments, and as they prepared to retreat into the house, Will climbed up the iron rungs hidden beneath the ivy, sharing an intimate understanding and love with his father.

In a final exuberant act, they transcended their worries and shared joy, reveling in the night's adventures before retreating into the familiar safety of home, leaving behind their fears and embracing the warmth of their bond under the stars.