

"Very Short Stories"

by Paolo Silingardi

The sustainable zebra



There was a **very sensitive zebra** who wanted to be **sustainable** at all costs.

He was a zebra who looked like all the other zebras, with hooves, a tail and lots of black and white stripes.

But he could only think of one thing... how to be the **most ecological zebra on the planet**.

He would only eat grass if he was sure it could grow again, he would only poop where it could be used as fertiliser, and he was very pleased with the way he behaved.

One day, the sustainable zebra met a **hungry lion**.

The lion would only eat meat but, while all the other zebras ran off, some to the left, some to the right, into the savannah, the sustainable zebra started arguing with the lion: **“Did you know, hungry lion, that it takes 100 times more water to make 1 kg of meat than it does to make a vegetarian meal? And did you know that grass is born thanks to the sun’s rays and grows using 100% renewable energy? Have you ever thought about changing your diet and becoming a sustainable lion?”**

The lion, who was even more hungry now, looked at the zebra, becoming less sustainably hungry all the time. The more the zebra talked the more he thought about sinking his teeth into those beautiful meaty, stripy thighs. **The idea of munching grass didn’t appeal to him at all.** But the zebra did so much and said so much that, in the end, the lion got such a headache he could no longer think.

The hungry lion looked one last time at the sustainable zebra, turned around and walked away in search of something less talkative to eat.

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