

T H E W O R M W O O D R E V I E W

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Nestorlah

He assumed the air of an actor. Raising a finger in a certain way, he told us vaguely about everything. People applauded in the many pauses. Yes! There was proof! All our worries are due to incorrect thinking. "Don't think that way! And furthermore, stand up straight! You owe yourselves at least that much!"

His bright orange pants fit him well. Occasionally, he'd throw in a flip or cartwheel. Gaining his audience, he began to explain the connection between and cure for nail-biting and fear of death. "I once bit my nails myself," he started. The story caught more and more ears, his speech going on and on.

After everything imaginable had been uttered, the actor said, "One more thing. I wonder if you want to know my name?" "My name is Nestorlah," he said. And all the people shouted, "Nestorlah, Nestorlah!" knowing that the world had been born between Nestorlah's lips.

The child could count to four or five and before it was very long he had reached the number ten. His mother taught him well, she taught him to dislike it. The boy wrote his numbers down, then he erased them, and placed the rewhitened sheet of paper on his pillow. He was destined to become a minor poet. All he needed was the ability to rest his head upon those crackling blank pages, and sleep-dream.

Uncle Williams

Uncle Williams pointed in the direction of the llamas' cage said he'd seen 'em in the war. I pointed to the lambs 'n asked him if he seen any of those. "Nope. They're common. But I been everywhere in my life. I traveled the Mongolian Sea and Oh the sights! The water there's extra wet so you don't need to take baths so often. Went for a week workin' on them greasy engines 'n my hands just a little smudgy. They got princes over there that go huntin' for elephants. That's all I know about llamas."

-- Stephen Hall

Attleboro, MA

Around Her Leg She Wore

She said the Prince had sent her
all the way from the castle
she'd come running
all that way

She said there was a war on
and asked me if I would
wear one of their roses

I said I would be pleased to
we both smiled as she pinned it on me