

Tall Tree in the Forest

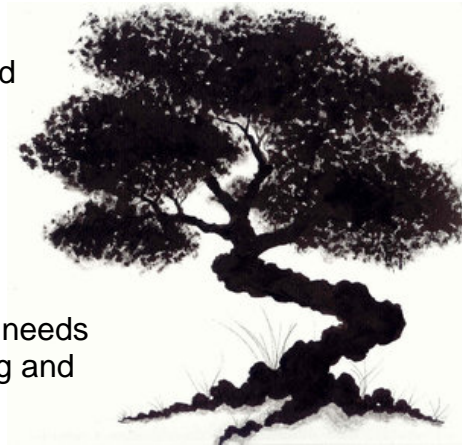
A Chinese legend tells of how several followers of the philosopher Lao Tzu came to a clearing in the forest where trees had been cut – all except one giant tree.

It cast so much shade that all the woodcutters could rest under its branches. The followers asked why this one tree had been spared.

The woodcutters answered that its wood was too hard to cut and, when burned, it gave off smoke that hurt their eyes.

When Lao Tzu heard this story, he laughed and told his followers to become like the tree.

Those who change themselves to fit everyone else's needs are easy to cut down, and "somebody will come along and make a chair out of you," he said.



It is better to be yourself – strong and resistant – for then thousands of people will come to rest under your shade.

After all, you are unique. There is no one else like you. God made you with a plan for your life. As you understand it and fulfill it, you will impact multitudes of people along your life's journey.

– Beecher Hunter