

The Big and the Small

Japanese bonsai trees are tiny, perfectly formed specimens. Their stature remains small no matter how old a tree gets – most bonsai trees being only 15 to 18 inches tall. To make a bonsai tree, a young sapling is first pulled from the soil. Then, its taproot and some of the feeder roots are tied off. Thus, the growth of the bonsai tree is deliberately stunted.

In sharp contrast, the California sequoia trees grow large. The General Sherman stands 272 feet and measures 79 feet in circumference. If felled, this giant tree would provide enough lumber to build 35 five-room homes. The sequoia begins life as a small seed, no larger than the bonsai seed. But its sapling is allowed to be nourished in the rich California soil and sunshine.

Neither the bonsai nor the giant sequoia has a choice in determining how large it will become. But we human beings do. We cannot blame others, including our parents, for what they have done or are doing to us. We have the potential to transplant ourselves into rich, nurturing environments.

If others are trying to whittle you down today, get away from their knives! Rejoice in whom you are and whom you can be. Find a new place to put down roots.

Remember: People who try to whittle you down are only trying to reduce you to their size.

--Beecher Hunter