



You are that way and I am this way

Janusz Korczak

A - Why did you order me to stay?

B - I didn't order you, I asked you to stay. I want to talk to you.

A - You want to talk to me? The president of grocery store in person? What an honor!

B - What is this ridicule. Sit down.

A - At your command. I am sitting, Mr. Manager. I'm ready. Please speak.

B - Tell me, why are you harassing me? What you want? What eating you?

A - Me, would I dare harass you? An honorable personality as you?

B - You don't come to the store so that "they don't give you salty fish and stinky sausage"?

A - me? No way.

B - Didn't you incite the boys not to buy anything, because the grocery store is one big deception, scam, fraud, everything is expensive and bad?

A - me?

B - Didn't you write a poem about me saying "he writes bills and hides coins", and that I am sucking up to Mr. Manager?

A - I don't know anything about that.

B - Didn't you push me down the stairs when I was holding the ink bottle? Didn't you throw a piece of ice at me?

A - You know, brother, what can I tell you

B - You are not a brother, but an enemy.

A - Enemy?

B - Yes. And a coward, because you don't want to admit it.

A - You are calling me a coward? (leaps up from his seat)

B - Don't even try fighting. Do you think I'm weak? I'm not. Here – check it out, feel this. Or maybe you want arm wrestling? (They rest their elbows on the table, interlace their palms). Don't raise your elbow, don't cheat. There you have it! Now you see for yourself.

A - Because I didn't hold well. Let's do it again.

B – OK, now hold well.

A - I don't want to. The hand is not everything. Let's swing some blows.

(Suddenly A pushes B; B pushes him back hard and A loses balance and falls on the table).

A - Oh!

B - Did you get hit hard?

A – Its none of your business.

B - You know why I don't want to fight neither you nor anyone else?

A - Because you are afraid that you'll get hit back.

B - not at all. But a fist does not convince anyone.

A - the mouth – even less so.

B - If it were only about me, I would ignore you, but you are harming our grocery store.

A - Behold the protector is found!

B - Precisely: the protector is found. And you don't like it.

A – No, I don't. What are going to do about it?

B - Perhaps you are going to threaten me that you will bring some friends? This is exactly what the cowards do.

A - I am not a coward! (leaps up from his chair)

B – You are not? admit it, then: are you coming to the store to buy "rotten sausage"?

A - Yes, I do, and also to buy "rotten salted fish".

B - Did you say I steal from the shop?

A - I did.

B - Did you call me a peddler?

A - I did, and a grocer as well.

B - did you push me? did you throw ice at me

A - I pushed you. I threw at you. What an important person... is it not allowed to joke around?

B - These were not jokes. No, you are trying to humiliate, not me, but our self-management and the grocery store. You are taking revenge after we found out that you stole a book.

A - not just one. I snitched four books, if you want to know. Ho ho - you found one.

B - Why are you doing these things?

A - I feel like it.

B - Shameless thief!

A - What did you say?

B - that you are a thief!

(they grab each other and fight)

Don't kick!

A - And you don't choke

B - Are you biting?

(A teacher enters with a pile of notebooks).

Teacher – What is this? What's going on here? A fight?

B – No fighting.

Teacher - but this is what I see.

B - I am balancing the score.

Teacher - Funny accounting, something completely new. I have never read about that.

B – because no one wrote about ways to neutralize someone who interferes with the work

Teacher - and what is he doing?

B - He can say it himself, if he has courage enough.

A - Well, I can tell

Teacher - I see that you need to settle a score between you. I won't disturb you. (She sits on a distant bench and starts correcting notebooks).

B - What did you want to say? Speak up

A – I'll tell you how it was – everything, starting from the beginning. When they chose you, I thought to myself: someone like that has it well. If he is smart, he will take money.

B - Do I take for myself?

A - not everything.

B - After all, there is an **accounts audit!**

A - What **audit**. I thought you would work together and not extradite one another.

B - you don't understand.

A - What do I need to understand? I knew how I would do it.

B - Aren't you ashamed?

A - I might have been ashamed as well, but I would have taken it. I can't help it.

B - But it's not your money

A - I know, but that's the way I am.

B - You are that way and I am this way.

A - I know, now I know. Do you remember, I asked you to lend me 30 Groshi?

B - No, I don't remember.

A - You didn't even say a word, you just looked at me with contempt. I was angry that you are so tough. I thought that if you didn't think that the money would end up in your pocket, you wouldn't be so careful.

B - other people's money... and also collective, you need to be super careful.

A - I know. But once I looked: you take a notebook and you just pay yourself at the cash register. I wouldn't have been able to do that.

B - How else can I do it?

A - Well, you are that way, and I am this way. And because of this I turned against you even more.

B - And what will happen next?

A - Not anymore. Let's try arm wrestling once again (They lean their elbows on the table and compete once more). You are strong. Let's try a cockfight (They each stand on one leg, cross their hands on their chests, and while hopping and jumping they shove each other in turns).

Say, why didn't you defend yourself? after all, you could have finished me off.

B - I didn't want to.

A - why?

B – What for, to scare you?

A - Yes

B – Let me tell you this: fists and fear are not convincing. (B collects the books, locks the cupboard and the drawer).

A - Come on, give me your hand. Let it be so - I am this way and you are that way.

Teacher - thank you.

B – What for?

Teacher - I learned a lot from you two.

B - From us?

A - Yes, you learned from us... cockfighting.