

When I began the journey, I was a wanderer, searching for beauty along the way. I stopped here and there for a brief time, but I eventually began to crave a place to settle down. Pretty soon I found a place that looked as if it could be made to be habitable. The land and climate were both fairly nice, so I claimed the land, and tried to develop a relationship with it. It was to be my home.

I continued to walk around the place, hoping to become more and more at one with it. But it began to rain off and on, and the weather became more and more disagreeable as time went on. The clouds and mist began to obscure what beauty there was in the land. As I traveled on, the heavens opened up and I was drenched by a torrential downpour. This rain was soon mixed with sleet, and then hail. The clouds descended upon me and lightning began to strike all around me.

I tried to stay on the path in spite of the tremendous winds, swirling around me, but it proved to be very difficult. I was pushed and shoved around by the violent, unpredictable gusts. The force was so great that it finally caught me up into the air, and I became borne aloft by the tornado.

In the chilling blackness I was turned nearly inside out, but I finally landed safely in a swampy area. The storm was finally over; calm had returned, and the sun had come out again. I had been blown to a totally different place, one that I could not recognize. It was as if I was sent into exile, to be abandoned and separated from all of the comforts that I once knew. I was in the midst of a wilderness, and I began to explore it and consider how I might survive in this new land.

I was not looking for a permanent place, after finding out first hand that I should not set my hopes on that again. But I soon found a path to a land far better than I had ever known before. It was a valley so beautiful and rich that I could not help falling in love with it. I have lived here now for quite a while, and the climate is extremely moderate. The weather has never been threatening; it is calm and pleasant every day. I have learned to trust it completely.

I have passed through my tornado, and it no longer has power over me. It could not really hurt me. In fact, without meaning to, it gave me life again.