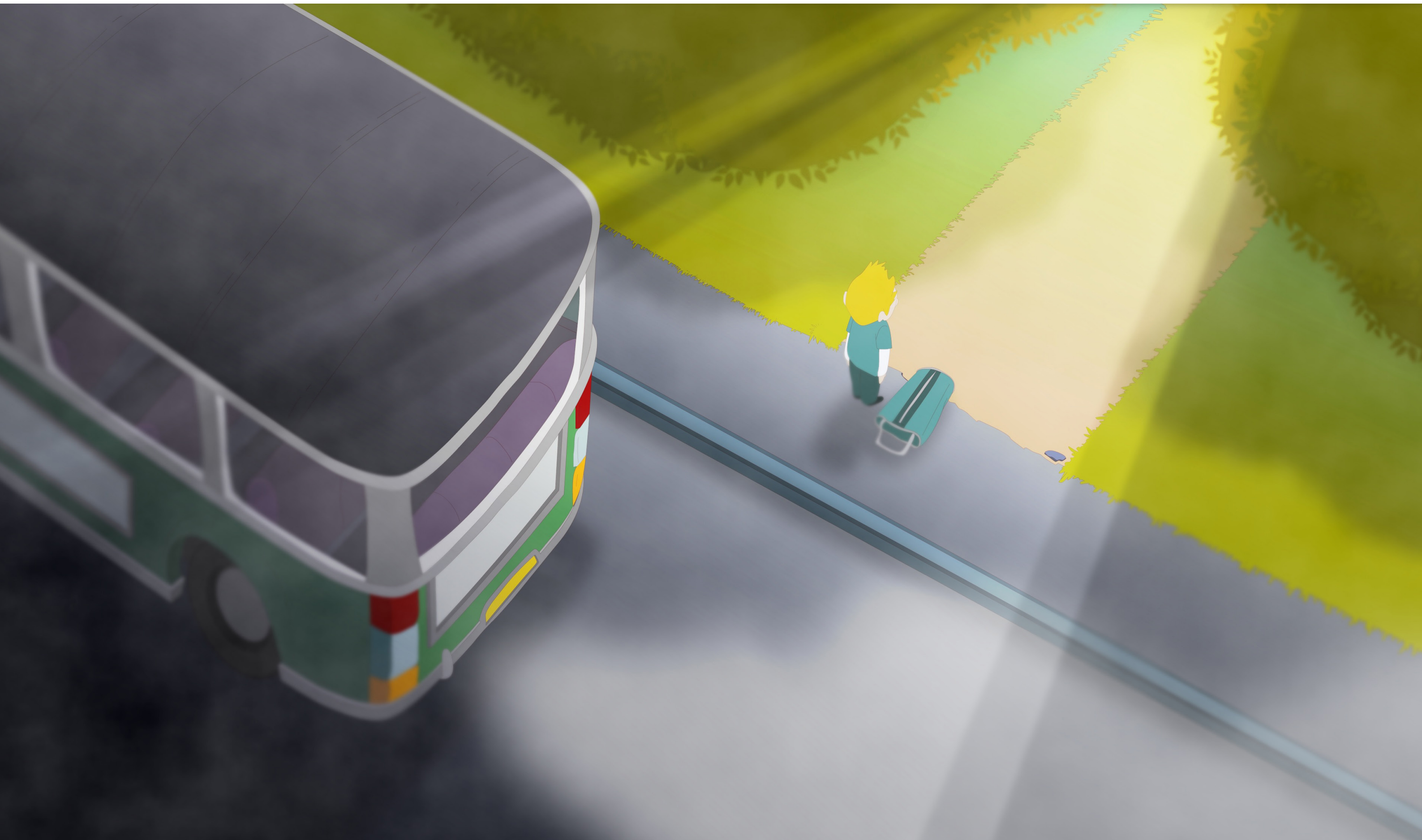


365Stories

39. Rich or poor



39. Rich or poor

When I was 15 yrs old, my parents sent me to the countryside so that I would realize the hardness of life. Indeed, I was not aware of the privilege of being born into a wealthy family and I lacked appreciation.

Privilege, at least that's what they thought... They sent me to spend one month at my aunts, in a family in the Jura region, in the eastern part of France. During one month, I lived with this peasant family, spending my days in the fields. Upon my return, my father asked me :

“What do you think about your experience in the country ?”

I answered evasively : Good !



My father insisted, he wanted to know : "What did you learn ?"

"I learned that we have a dog and that they have four, also some cats. Some rabbits and some hens, some pigs, some geese, and some ducks !"



“We have in our yard a large swimming pool with treated water that must be cleaned regularly, measuring the ph, adding chlorine.

They have an entire river with cristal clear water with fish and also lots of other beautiful things !

We have an electric installation in our yard, They have the moon and the stars to give them light. “Our yard goes up to the wall, theirs goes to the horizon. »

“We eat already prepared meals ; they cook good little dishes”

“They listen to music on records or on the radio or on the television ; They listen to a continual symphonie of birds, crickets, grasshoppers and small animals, and sometimes.



They hear the neighbor singing beautifully while he is working in his fields."

"We use the micro-wave, they eat savory dishes cooked slowly over the wood fire, a slow fire."

"To protect us, we live surrounded with big walls and with alarms, with keys, with digicodes. They live with doors unlocked, no keys, protected by the friendship of their neighbors."

"We live connected to our telephones, our computers, and to the television. They are connected to life, to the sky to the earth, to the water, to the greenery, to the animals. "My father was profoundly impressed by my reflections. ! At last, I concluded : Thank you father ! You helped me to understand to what extent we are poor" !



Every day we are more poor. We always want to own, own, own more each time.

This is our principle preoccupation Those who we call the poor, in fact are those who we call the poor, in fact are very rich, much more than us.

And, they are rich with true riches.

Gary Snyder said :

"True riches, is to not be in need of anything" ; and this is true.

He who has found Jesus Christ, as their Lord and Savior. Does not need all the things the world has to offer ! He can live happily in relationship with his creator. Are you happy ? Do you have this true wealth of the heart ?