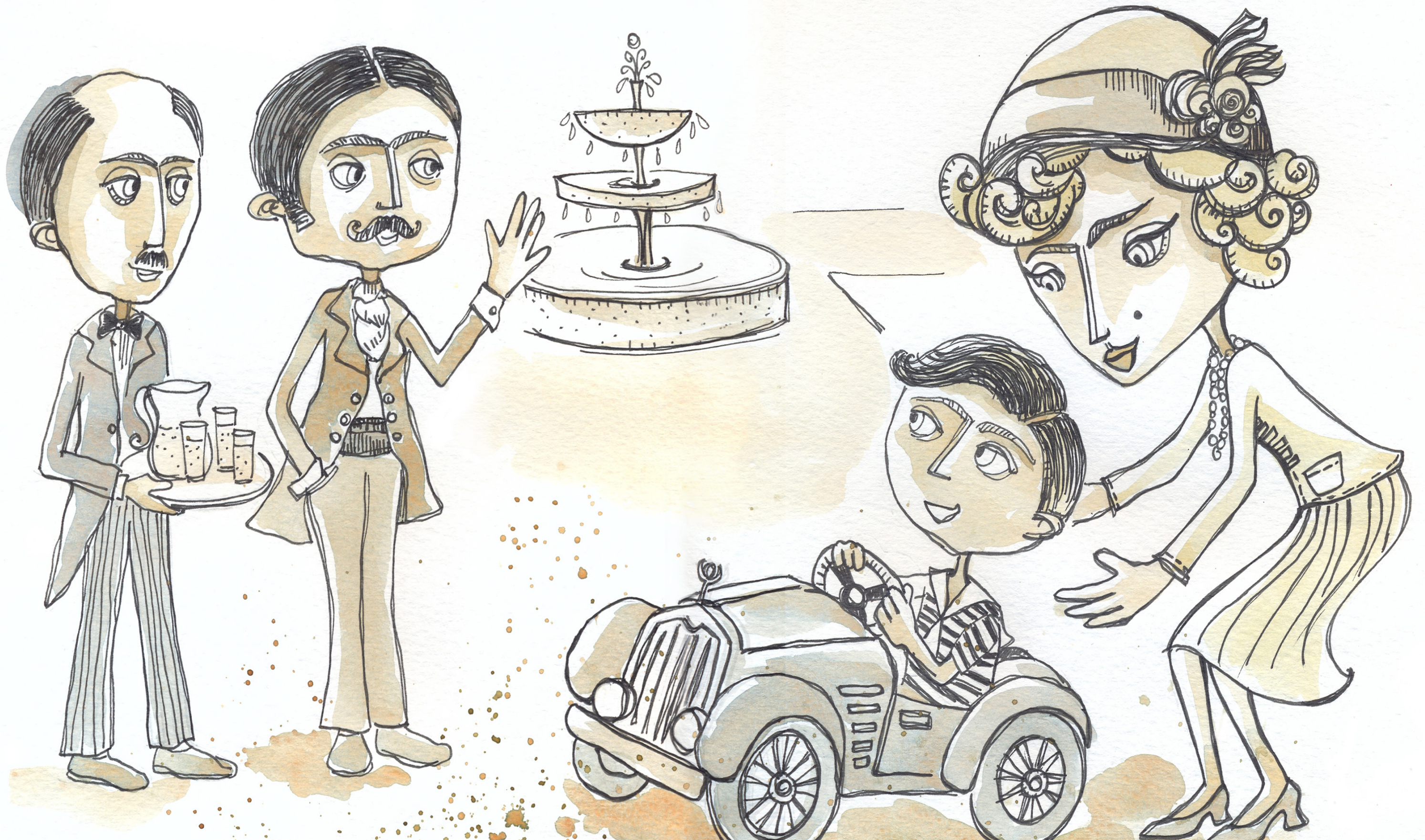


365 Stories

41. The final auction



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Baron X was an extremely wealthy man..
He had only one son. He loved him above everything.
This boy was the center of all the Family's preoccupa-
tions The young man grew, surrounded by love,
and was extremely spoiled by his family and by life in
general !



As a teenager, his mother died after a long illness. The father remains alone with his son. Mister X wept for his wife, but from that time on, he gave himself entirely to his role as father. Sadly, the son becomes gravely sick and he also dies. He was only eight-teen years old. The Baron becomes richer because His land assets gained tremendous value.



The Baron X was a great connaisseur of art, and during some of his many trips.

Thanks to his real estate gains, he acquired large quantities of works of art. Some years later, the Baron X dies too, he had arrived at an advanced age.

But, before dying, he had drafted his will by having given very precise instructions. He wanted his works of art to be sold at an auction.

The auctions were to be organized in The grand reception hall of his château.



Many were interested by this sale. The Barons collection was known not only In England, but also throughout all of Europe. There was something for everyones tastes : books, marble sculptures, bronzes, Paintings from the Italian Renaissance, Vases from great goldsmiths. Paintings from the Italian Renaissance, Vases from great goldsmiths. The day of the auction, the experts were there from all over England. The curator of the prestigious British Museum had made the trip. The pieces of art were exposed in all the rooms of the manor. A decorator had especially come from London, to highlight these works. Among them, there was one piece, certainly pretty, but not very significant. It was a small water painting painted by a local artist. It represented the portrait of the beloved son of the Baron.

At the time of the auction, the Auctioneer struck the hammer.



Silence filled the room. The lawyer read the will. The Baron X had ordered that the first piece presented would be the portrait of his beloved son. No one looked at the piece of artwork. Of course, everyone was waiting with impatience for the rest of the auction. Excitement was at it's highest. Yet, an elderly servant stood. He had known the son, he had loved him and served him. And for his own reasons, he bought the painting for less than one pound. To the surprise of all, the auctioneer stopped the sale. He asked for the lawyer to read another piece of the will. A great silence reigned in the room. The lawyer read : "Whoever buys the painting of my son recieves all of my collection" The word of God tells us : He who has the Son has life ; he who does not have the son does not have life. 1 John 5 verse 12 .Or again, the epistle of Paul to the Colossians chapter 2 : verse 10 tells us : "We have been given fullness in Christ ! Do you know the son of God ?