

Vangelis Iliopoulos

---

**The Little Triangle-fish's Brother**

(Original title: *O Aderfos tou Trigonopsarouli*)

Athens: Patakis, 2003, 44 pp

1<sup>st</sup> edition 2003

ISBN 960-16-0720-X

To my nephew, Dionysis

P. 7

The time was ripe for fish-schools to start and Miss Cuttlefish, the teacher, was ready to welcome her new little fish-students once more. The school wardens, the squids, had, as usual, taken care so as everything to be ready for the little fishes to come and learn what a hook is, what a net is and how to escape the fisherman's tricks.

Being a little fish too, the Junior Triangle-fish was ready to go to school for his first time. As soon as he appeared in front of the big doorplate with the sign, "The Great Fish-School", the squids noticed him and shouted in surprise:

"Eh, look at this little fish, who does he remind you of?".

All of the fishes gathered round him full of curiosity. Miss Cuttlefish came out to find out what was going on. When she saw him, she was taken aback, too. Such a resemblance was not a commonplace!

"You can be nobody else except the Little Triangle fish's brother!" she told him.

"Yes! But I've got my own name, too".

"And what's your name?"

"My name's Junior-Triangle fish and it's high time I went to school".

"Welcome to our school. Come in. I'm sure you're so wise as your big brother is!" the teacher shouted at the top of her voice.

"I'm not sure at all about this!" he whispered as he was passing the big rock.

P. 8

The next day the Little Triangle-fish went to the school to meet his little brother. That place reminded him of so many things! The little brother felt so glad to see him and it was not strange at all that everybody looked at them strangely. He knew why. "We resemble each other so much, our shape and our colour is the same. Our only difference is that you are little" his big brother had explained to him. However, the differences the Junior Triangle-fish could see were many more and greater.

P. 9

As soon as Miss Cuttlefish saw the Little Triangle-fish, she ran towards him and gave him a hug. She felt so happy to meet her old student again that inky tears came to her eyes. She turned to her new students then, and said: "The one you see in front of you is The Little Triangle-fish! It's not only for his wisdom, his cleverness and bravery that we should admire him, but also for the way he loves every single creature. He is the one who rescued our school from the fisherman's nets when he was still a student; he is the one who saved the last seahorse and also won the Mighty Shark".

P. 10

A little fish that everybody called him the Naïve Fish asked a jealous Haddock.

"What is she talking about? Are we having a History class now?"

At that point, the Junior Triangle-fish interrupted the teacher:

"Did you forget about me? I am the student of this school now!"

"Of course, I remember. However, I want you to be worthy of your brother's name!"

"Lucky him! The teacher's going to treat him differently now" the Haddock said, but the Naïve Fish considered: "This is good luck. However, it can also be a misfortune!".

P. 11

So, everybody kept saying to the Junior Triangle-fish how much they admired his big brother! And whenever the teacher asked him a question, she started like this: "You must be wise like your brother and know how...". However, he did not always know the answer.

Even during the break, whenever they played "fishermen and port officers", everybody wanted the Junior Triangle-fish to be in their team as they thought of him to be clever and brave like his brother.

One day, the Naïve Fish and the Haddock asked him:

"Can we come to your nest to meet your brother and become his friends?".

"Yes, but you're my own friends".

"Who does know you? If you're good like him, do us this favour, please!"

P. 12

"Like your brother... like your brother", this is what he heard all the time and that made him angry.

"Isn't there anybody who wants to be my friend only because I'm the Junior Triangle-fish?"

Thus, he ran away from the other little fishes, he sat on a rock alone and started whispering quietly:

It's me and only me!  
Like my famous brother is difficult for me to be  
I love him, I agree  
But it's me and only me

It's me and only me!  
It's so frightening to think,  
will I ever be like him?

And how can this be?  
Since  
he's a different being  
while  
it's me and only me!

P. 13

Some little shrimps who were sitting near him said in loud voice:

"Look at him! Wasn't his brother who used to sit on the same rock and recite his poems? And imagine that we didn't pay any attention to him then. We were so stupid!".

"Oh, not again!" the Junior Triangle-fish said when he heard them, and left the school as soon as possible so as not to hear anybody else saying that he does everything "like his brother used to".

P. 14

Since then, he kept company only with three little crabs and a lobster who did not know his big brother at all! They used to play tricks together all the time! They hid under the rocks and whenever the other little fishes sat down to attend the class, the Junior Triangle-fish gave the signal so as they nip them with their pincers. Miss Cuttlefish used to scold them and all the other fishes were very angry with them.

"Sometimes, he becomes intolerable. He disturbs all of us".

"He's probably sending us a message that we can't understand" the Naïve Fish said at some point.

P. 15

"I can't stand you anymore. You've destroyed the whole school. Do you know that this is a place for pupils to learn and create?" the teacher shouted.

"This is what we're doing, too. We create fun and we learn jokes" the Junior Triangle-fish replied to her and everybody laughed.

"Is it only mischief that you can make?"

"Of course not! Would you like to see what else I could do?"

Everybody shouted "Yes" and the Junior Triangle-fish brought pebbles and made a pyramidal slide very quickly and in great skill as if he were a real artisan.

"It's a slide for four! Very good effort but your brother would also put a little shell at the top of it so as nobody gets hurt. He takes everything into account!"

P. 17

"Yes, but although he may have torn the fisherman's nets, he didn't manage to cut a whole piece out of them like we did!" he said and showed them a piece of net.