

photos and letters he wrote to his son to come.

Yesterday I started an essay and then updated my project before recording a lecture. I later experimented gluing the mosaic on a larger patch of fiber glass so to fill the entire holes in the nets of the project museum. Later I ate a salad and took the kids for a bike ride to the Beusichem lake. There they played a bit in the water and then on the grass with many other kids running marathons around us. After giving them an ice-cream we biked to the children farm where the pandemic restrictions were removed and for the first time Silvester could directly interact with the animals there such as the rabbits. After going a bit on the swing we biked back and I cooked a pasta and a sausage that was expiring. Livia was not feeling so well and after eating we sat on the sofa with her to watch an old Disney movie. Silvester even fell asleep on my knees and after taking him on his bed I drew and then brought Livia to sleep while Myrthe kept working on a lecture despite being a Sunday.

Yesterday I force myself to sleep even though Silvester was in bed with us and kept on kicking. I then woke up with the daylight and brought Livia to school walking slowly back with Silvester after getting him some bread at the bakery. Back home I also ate some bread with honey and then quickly updated my project. I also got to play quite a bit with Silvester turning the living room into a small soccer field but got quite a contraction in my upper back. Soon his grandmother came to spend the day with him and we started talking after months she has been upset with me. At last I drove to the other side of the river and waited at a gas station to meet one of Myrthe's former colleagues who now runs a successful carpentry workshop making pedestals for museums. They needed people to work for them and I offer myself for whatever handy job. Knowing that I know a bit of everything but I am not specialized I agreed to the lowest of positions and of hourly payment. Back home I drew and finished up updating my project before chatting a bit more with grandma Elli and her boyfriend. As they left I walked with the kids to the other side of the railroad and checked a small kindergarten they could attend in case I get to work. Renate's kids were also there but it felt quite sad to see so many kids jammed in a room looking through the door gates as small prisoners. Later I played with Livia and Silvester in the playground of her future school but Silvester did not want to share the ball so much with her. We then walked to the supermarket and with a full box of grocery feeding the kids juice and bananas on the way we ventured home where I prepared a soup with sweet potatoes. The kids were both tired and we ate it with small pasta watching an old Japanese cartoon of a fisherman boy. After Myrthe came home her father came to visit but the kids were way too tired and I brought Silvester to bed before writing in my fable book and preparing a new illustration while watching a very powerful documentary narrating the memories of Italian soldiers during World War II. In bed I read Herzen's account on the endemic corruption in Siberia in the hands of the bureaucratic class.

Yesterday I updated my project in the middle of the night and then went back to bed. Later I walked with the kids downtown where I replaced a toy Silvester got for his birthday with an harmonica for Livia and a triangle for him. We then made it through the market with both the kids playing and then walked all the way to the chicken zoo. There I managed to call Merel, from the company that wants to hire me and she offered me a contract. I then spent some time trying to look for a good kindergarten for Silvester while him and his sister played by the hamsters. Later it started raining very hard and it was nice to keep under a tree with my little ones waiting for the worst to go by. On the way back home the sun came out of the dark clouds. After eating a salad I fixed a flat tire on the stroller and we walked to the second hand shop looking for a pot to use in the oven. We could not find a good one but just looked around and I got a ball for Livia and a Silvester cat for Silvester. On the way home we did grocery at a German discount supermarket and then I cooked some potatoes with biological minced meat and pees but both kids were not into it. Silvester was very tired and I brought him to bed and then as Myrthe came back from work I went upstairs to draw and write in my fable book. Later I went to bed to read more of Herzen's accounts on the blackmailing and bribing culture in Siberia.

Yesterday I updated my project in the night and then went back to bed. Later I got up and took the kids for a walk to the city hall where I left all the papers I need to register my civic status. After getting some grocery at the biological shop we walked back home with the kids eating some multigrain buns. Myrthe soon finished to work and I drew before joining Berend and Marjolein for some sandwiches at the gallery. The latter got into some heavy discussions such as gender and so forth with some silly comments and I tried to get more to the point especially when Jacqueline also joined us but realize it is hard to do something together at this point. Later also Myrthe informed me that the meeting with the new school where the children will go went well but that her mother his being very hard making herself available to babysit them as all other Dutch grandparents do. I then walked home just to discuss how to do with the contract I was offered to sign. Later I got back to the gallery to fetch Jacqueline and tried to discuss on how to move on with the production of mosaics. After driving her to the train station I reached the Dutch company I will soon get to work for and also talked to the other owner, Emile who turned out to be a very inspiring genius who wanted to invest on folk like me who can get a project done from beginning to end. He was very inspired by the video of me building the cube and will give me some months to translate my skills into their wood workshop. With another senior carpenter they showed me all the machines they had and then I drove home and ate some leftover soup with couscous before taking the kids to bed. Later I laid on the sofa to caress Myrthe and watch some more of the silly but well done show about a young pope. In bed I kept reading Herzen.

Yesterday I walk up in the middle of the night but forced myself to sleep. I then woke up with the kids and had little time to update. Later I turned the fire on and sent Merel and email that I accepted their work offer and walked with the kids to get some snacks to bring to our trip to France. At home I ate a salad and fed the kids tortellini. They ate a lot of it and Silvester got quite sleepy afterwards so I took him to bed. With Livia in the living room I drew and then cleaned up before going with them to drop our baby bath holder to Daniela. We then played a bit in the playground of the eco-village school and I also managed to do some tai-chi before walking with the kids on a nice path we never took behind the water tower. As they played in the small square with a goose mosaic game I got to finally talk to August. We had a lot of updates with me starting a new work and him studying programming and attending a workshop for the Swedish military. We kept on talking also as I pushed the stroller with a flat tire and the kids with both pooh in their diapers. At home I cleaned them and cook for the them a pasta with red pesto while I ate the leftover pees with minced meat. Later I kept on playing with them while Myrthe made it home and started packing for our trip. After taking Silvester to bed I kept preparing an illustration while finishing to watch "La lunga strada del ritorno" a great old documentary about soldiers making it home from World War II including the testimony of my relative Mario Righi Stern. In bed I read Herzen's story of Alexander Vitberg, a Swedish artist who was supposed to build a fantastic cathedral in Moscow but got caught up like me in corrupted politics.

Yesterday I forced myself to sleep again and woke up with the kids. I then quickly updated my project and start packing the car with quite some rain and Myrthe taking some time to work. As I finished taking bags to the car with the kids on my side we drove to their new kindergarten and I had both Livia and Silvester trying to play with their new classmates especially Livia and Filippa. Myrthe in the meantime had a chat with their new teacher and soon off we drove first south of the Netherlands making one stop at a fast food to change diapers. Later I drove across Belgium with a heavy rain but soon made it across the Arden and reached quite a sunny France. Everyone was sleeping and at last I pulled off the highway in one of the many village turned ugly by the World War I. There we ate some bread with cheese in front of a church and then walked across an open field along some big hazelnuts. After stopping shortly at a playground where the kids played and I stretched, Myrthe dove us to a mall where we walked in a big toy shop and then ate a burger before checking a gigantic supermarket. In the night I drank some ice tea and drove quite a bit south until Myrthe took over and lead us in a crispy night with half a moon and bright starts to the beautiful Provence. The camping where we booked a small cottage was closed and we had to carry everything inside bit by bit eventually laying in real beds.

Yesterday we woke up in the small cabin we rented in the Provence camping and drove to the near town of Manosque. We then walk to the old city and explored the market around the city walls. We later walked in the old town and stopped at a square to feed the kids some chocolate bread. I also got some olive bread but get half of mine to an African immigrant who asked for charity. Back in the car we drove to an artificial lake down the valley and there let the kids throw stones in the crystal clear water. I also got to take a nap but then the kids were not so happy and we drove back to the cabin. There Myrthe and Livia slept but Silvester did not want to and we just played soccer together. At sun set we drove to a big supermarket to do grocery and for dinner Myrthe cooked a salad with green beans, tomatoes and tuna. After taking Silvester to bed I drew and then planned our week reading a tourist guide.

Yesterday I slept a very long time and so did the kids. Outside was sunny and the Provence sky blue. After eating some chocolate bread we drove across some beautiful valleys and stopped at Greoux to get two baguettes and some cheese. We also walked all the way up to the castle there and then drove further to the small town of Quinson from where we started hiking up the gorge of the Verdon river. The kids were really strong and walked across some difficult passages carved in the rock before it got quite smooth. At some point we stopped to eat our baguettes and then I carried Silvester in my shoulders while Myrthe carried Livia in the backpack. We continued until the path got again difficult and then turned around. Silvester actually slept on my shoulders and it took me some time to make it out of the valley and back in the sun. After playing a bit in the water we drove to Riez. Beside a small flea market the town was quite empty and quite run down. Myrthe and the kids ate some pastry and then she drove home across the cut down lavender fields with an astonishing view of the alps. Livia slept and I also tried to but Silvester kept awake and I sat with him in the back to play. At home I cooked some nice burgers and some not do nice tortellini. Later I gave the kids a pomegranate and then spent then cut my hairs and drew. Both Myrthe and I tried to put the kids early to bed but they both took a long time.

Yesterday I woke up early and updated my project in the uncomfortable setting of our camping cabin. Also Silvester woke up quite early and I just played with him waiting for the girls to wake up. As they did so we drove across the hills to the pretty town of Forcalquier. With the kids we crossed the big market there and got repetitively ripped by the merchants selling us a bit of olives and a few grapes and a thin slice of cheese for quite a tourist price although we were the only foreigners in the crowded town. After walking up a nice road to the little sanctuary built like in a small Jerusalem on top of the former citadel, we ate our expensive Provence products enjoying the sun and the scenery and then again got ripped paying quite some money for a coffee for Myrthe. In the afternoon we drove up the town on a rather deserted land with several lime rocks standing eroded by the centuries. Livia was very happy to walk around and over them but Silvester was overly tired and we made it back down next to a field plowed by big black pigs. In the car Myrthe drove back while we all slept. Back home I showered and then drew before cooking some spaghetti. The kids were not so happy after their long sleep but then got happy and we drove to a supermarket to do grocery and get them a new sweater. Later we walked through Manosque that it was dark. The town was quite deserted but of some junkies and a lot of crows just over the playground where we let the kids play. As Myrthe got quite afraid we walked down the old town on a side road. Back home I played a movie on my laptop for Myrthe and the kids while I read on our tourist guide about the sad history of Provence, so beautiful yet so much struggling for its independence.

Yesterday I slept well and woke up a few hours before sunlight just on time to properly update my project. Silvester was also up early and I kept him next to me watching French cartoons. As the girls also woke up we got ready to drive to Aix-en-Provence. We actually at to stop once to check the car cooling liquid and to let the children stretch a bit. In the city I almost hit a man on a scooter flashing by our car while we were turning in a parking place. The city itself was very nice and I was quite impressed with the main church there baring so many styles and yet being a testimony of time. It was nice to see at last some youth with several university students smoking their cigarettes and otherwise a lot of embellished French people going around doing their shopping. I actually started getting quite dizzy of all the many fancy shops. Even the clothes market was fancy but luckily we found a side route and ended up in a more chilled part of town where we could even eat some cheap burritos with aubergines, tomatoes and feta and pizza slices for the kids. As we strolled back to where we started Silvester fell asleep in the stroller and we just walked to a park to wait for him to wake up and let Livia play. Back in the city center we gave the kids some ice-cream and then drove to a big carpenter shop where I expected to find the clothes and shoes I need for my work starting in Holland in only a few days. I actually parked too far and had to walk with Silvester on my shoulders quite a long road while Myrthe ad Livia checked a clothing shop. Having found nothing we drove back to Manosque and checked another shop there but it was only for people with their own company. To make it back to the camping we had to drive some side roads to avoid quite some traffic. IN our cabin at last I cooked a peperonata and potatoes with broccoli for the kid but they almost did not eat any of it. After putting them to bed I wrote in my fable book and drew while watching a bit of a documentary on the partisan warfare in the nearby alps where also the Nazis retreated.

Yesterday I slept well and updated my project before driving with Myrthe and the kids first to a carpentry shop where I got some working pants and shoes for my new job. I actually spent most of my money I had hoping I can actually keep the job after the trial period. Later we drove all the way to Apt where I was already with August some years ago. This time the city was rather dead with no tourists and no sun light bringing it to life. After getting some sandwiches we drove further to the small town of Roussillon that I also visited with August. Here we climbed up on a terrace and ate our sandwiches and let the kids play. We later walk through the cute town to the former ochre mining site. Myrthe really liked all the colourful earth colours and so did Livia who spent quite some time filling up with red sand the food box we had with us. Silvester was also very strong in climbing up and down the path surrounding the mine and I felt quite sad he will have to be in a kindergarten setting back in Holland after I trained him and his sister so well to be out and on the move. In the cars both kids slept and I also took a nap while Myrthe got us back to the camping. There I went to play some football with little Silvester and then I cooked the kids some pasta while Myrthe and I ate the leftover peperonata with brie cheese. After drawing I spent some time with Livia watching candid camera gags on my phone.

Yesterday I woke up in the middle of the night and updated my project standing next to the fridge where my laptop was under charge. After going back to bed we started cleaning the cabin and then packing the car under quite some rain. At last we drove off but Livia was quite upset and we soon stopped again to get some bread and chocolate for her and Silvester. We then drove towards Avignon and made it to Montelimar. The city itself was not so interesting but it was nice to walk around with the kids and let them round across the empty squares. After eating some chicken and salad at kebab place we also went to the city park and then made it back to the car. Myrthe this time drove and the kids slept. I could not sleep myself and we just talked about how family could harm us with more lawsuits so as to silence me about their dodgy business. There was also a bit of traffic but at last we managed to cross Lyon and stopped to let the kids play some more at a playground by the highway. The last few hours I drove through Dijon to a cute farm in a forest where we rented a cheap room in the attic and ate the leftover bread we had.

Yesterday I updated my project in the living room of the French man who hosted us. As the kids woke up we ate the croissants and tea he prepared for us and then packed our stuff. Outside it was sunny but very cold and humid but we either way ventured to walk in the forest. It was interesting to notice how the man had completely let things go leaving all his machinery out and the forest growing completely wild with only the path left by his daughter going horse riding. Livia was not happy all morning and we just drove up north stopping at a gas station to add more coolant in the car and give her a chocolate bread. Later we stopped in Toul and walked in the rather desolate and gray city. Also the disproportionately big cathedral had nets under the high arches to prevent plaster from falling. As Silvester poohed we found a small restaurant where I changed him and we ate a warm pumpkin soup with chestnuts and rice with sausage. Later we drove to a supermarket to get some French products. In the afternoon Myrthe drove and we slept before reaching Belgium. At Bastogne we stopped to also stroll in a supermarket and get some Belgian products. Later I drove and the kids made a little feast with their mother in the back of the car watching cartoons and snaking. In Holland I got to seat in the back with them and try to cheer up Silvester who did not want to seat in the car any longer. Back home we found quite a mass after the carpenters spent a week to set up a new electric system. We then had to wash the floor of our rooms and change bed sheet before finally going to sleep.

Yesterday I slept well and updated my project before starting to clean up the living room filled with all the stuff we brought back from France. I later also washed the staircase from the dust the carpenters left and after eating a pasta with pesto with the kids I filled the car with the panels I used to build the metal workshop. I then drove to the dump to throw them and also brought there to the station for second hand the double stroller I so much pushed around with the kids inside. It almost felt like the end of a chapter especially now that I will start working and they will begin school. Back home I chatted a bit with Nico and then showered before going out with the kids at first to get some bread and meat and then to the rides they put up in a parking lot in town. Both Livia and Silvester were quite impressed of such chaos and I also met some friends but it was impossible to talk to them with the kids also wanting to go home at some point. For dinner I boiled potatoes and grilled hamburgers. After eating Silvester was really tired and I soon after put both kids to bed. In the evening I recorded a lecture and then drew while listening to some messages my Davide sent me from Florida where is now with his Jewish girlfriend making animations for a Jewish institution.

Today I have to write in my diary in the evenings as tomorrow is my first day of work as a carpenter and I will start very early. This morning I slept rather well and updated my project before going out for a walk with Myrthe and the kids. It was sunny but a bit cold and windy and Livia was not at her best. We made it down the old dike and then across the meadows with cows grazing on our right and sheep on our left. It was Myrthe's first time there and she loved it. Also Livia got happier and the last bit on the asphalt road we just carried the kids on our shoulders and made it to town where they ate a cake. Later I went to do grocery alone and also got cheese and turkey to make the sandwiches I will have to eat at work. At home I prepared a salad with red beats, walnuts and goat cheese and after eating kept with the kids outside to pick up the many leaves on the ground. Later I walked with Silvester to the hardware store to get some tips for my screwdriver. By the time we were home he was asleep and I set up a new hanger in the entrance for the kids to put their jackets. I also cooked a soup with pumpkin and other veggies and we ate it with roasted bread. While the kids bathed I drew and then brought them with Myrthe for one ride in the town fair. We also met a few people such as Hans and Pelle and Rea with her daughter who wants to become a professional dancer. Back home I kept cleaning after the kids and then helped Myrthe to bring them to bed before writing in my fable book and updating.

Today I woke up a bit too early and had all the time to shower, prepare my sandwiches in even draw before going to my first day of work. Outside it was still dark and rainy when I arrived at the wood workshop and I was at first told to seat down and drink tea but then they immediately sent me to download a truck and then to cut panels at the circular saw with Tony, an Asian looking guy who was most kind and patient with me and explained me all the tricks. Later I was sent off gluing together pedestals of all dimensions with Leiva, a Dutch girl who just recovered from a severe for of Covid. I quickly learned how to put panels together, tape them, turn them and glue them and fold them. During the lunch break they did not really give me any break and wanted to also test my Dutch starting to throw sentences at me I did not understand. After eating the two sandwiches I had with me I kept mounting pedestals with Leiva until I was left alone also with