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Vite

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Vite

By Clare Munger

His back is a battlefield. Leathery mounds of scar tissue reside on the shoulders that used to carry me.

I once chased ill-fated pigeons in the Champs-Elysées gardens. "Vite ma chérie, vite!" he encouraged. Faster I ran.

I once raced with untied shoelaces around Stanley lake. "Vite ma chérie, vite!" he cheered.

I once pretended to faint during a pitiful race.
I preferred his face be worried, not disappointed.
I was not his vite chérie.

My legs no longer chase pigeons or run around lakes. They take me to Giverny, Beirut, and someday Kathmandu.

Now, he does not want me to go faster, faster, faster.

My back is still flush, no protruding scars, I hope one day it is a battlefield.