

Meeting Badger

Brother Gerrit claims I was found under a cabbage leaf as a baby, no doubt by my mother.

She was an avid gardener.

Probably, fairies placed me

under the cabbage leaf, and in the process, they inadvertently imparted a little magic to me. This magic appears in my life as great luck at finding amazing things in the natural world. This morning was no exception and in fact, since I haven't been out hiking much, I think some luck had been saved up.



An old desert road runs along a local ridge across the wash from where I live. It is sparsely brushy, not providing a lot of cover for animals. As I hiked along I saw movement to my right, making its way to cross my path, so I stopped and stayed very still. The furry creature

came out onto the road and turned toward me. It came toward me as if to actually approach me. I have seen a number of these furry guys in the wild and know them to be all bluff and total cowards, so I stood my ground while checking to see if it was foaming at the mouth. It looked completely healthy and I know they have poor eyesight, so I was sure it was trying to get close enough to see me better. My scent was blowing away from it, so it wasn't clued in with my scent, which surely would have sent it scurrying.

After a pause just long enough for me to get a decent photo, it turned and rambled on down the road. I was a bit surprised to see one though I have seen evidence around here such as massive holes in the ground. The



desert is a tough place for many mammals since there is little permanent water though many creatures don't need to actually drink water. Badgers are an animal that I would assume need to drink water but I don't really know. Clearly whether it drinks water or not, this badger is pretty healthy.

The other photo is of Colorado 4 o'clocks in Arizona.