

FOREWORD: "That's the orders!"

Our world is absurd and what's worse is that we don't even notice to what extent . We are doing "the absurd" like Monsieur Jourdain was doing "the prose" (*1), without knowing it. "The absurd" situation can be compared to when you have missed an exit on the motorway and you have to keep going whether you like it or not on the same road, turning your back to your destination until you find an escape. It is out of question to go backward against the traffic!

with the interlacing of situations, logics and behaviours, one feels like the prisoner of a role playing game, just like a motorist caught on a one way street.

Absurd dialogues are indeed like hearing impaired talks between normal people. People talk together but they hear only what they want to hear; it must fit with their own role and to the role that they have from the outset given to their interlocutor.

"The absurd" does not lack of logic, like "the fool who has lost everything except his reason" (*2), it is even the triumph of the logic over the common sense.

The logic is to apply the rule, whatever it is and whatever happens. No matter if the rule is crazy or if it does not fit, or is no more adapted to the situation.

"That's the orders!" was the reply the lamplighter to "the Petit Prince" when the latter was wondering about the absurdity of his behaviour (*3).

In our world, there are more and more orders and more and more lamplighters...but the Petit Princes, if some are still existing somewhere, have become quite rare.

The absurd can be funny, and it is mostly such when restricted to unusual situations or misunderstandings. This is behind the success of Molière's (*4) comedies and of many comics before and after him.

But this "folie douce" (*5), which makes us laugh, is no longer funny when it turns into furious madness as the characters are unable to find an exit on the motorway and find they are going straight forward into the no return point. The laugh changes into a grin and the grin into a rictus.

The comedy becomes tragedy, the tragedy becomes horror!

The bureaucrats of the Nazi horrors were all alleging the administrative logic. They were following instructions and theirs files were in perfect order. That was all what mattered for them. In other circumstances, they would have remained perfect lamplighters!

Because the issue with the lamplighters happens when they are employed to do something other than lighting their lamps!

...Like the fictional characters from the stories of this book!

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*1 = Monsieur Jourdain is the main character from Molière's piece "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme"(The middle class gentleman) . Who discovers that he is talking prose

*2 = G.K Chesterton English writer 1874-1936

*3 ="Le petit prince" most famous book from French Antoine de Saint Exupéry. Where the little Prince meets the lamplighter whose duty is to light and shut a lamp every day. Unfortunately as his planet accelerates its rotation , days turns into hours then minutes and the lamplighter is working non stop

*4 = Molière (Jean Baptiste Poquelin 1622-1673) is the most famous French comedies writer

*5 = Sweet madness