

41. Samuel Beckett

Samuel Beckett *Waiting for Godot* (1952/1954)

A message 167

In the second act the boy informs the two tramps that Godot cannot come.

	BOY	Mister ... [<i>Vladimir turns</i>] Mr. Albert ...
	VLADIMIR	Off we go again. [<i>Pause</i>] Do you not recognize me?
	BOY	No, sir.
	VLADIMIR	It wasn't you came yesterday.
5	BOY	No, sir.
	VLADIMIR	This is your first time?
	BOY	Yes, sir.
		<i>Silence.</i>
	VLADIMIR	You have a message from Mr. Godot.
10	BOY	Yes, sir.
	VLADIMIR	He won't come this evening.
	BOY	No, sir.
	VLADIMIR	But he will come tomorrow.
	BOY	Yes, sir.
15	VLADIMIR	Without fail.
	BOY	Yes, sir.
		<i>Silence.</i>
	VLADIMIR	Did you meet anyone?
	BOY	No, sir.
20	VLADIMIR	Two other ... [<i>he hesitates</i>] ... men?
	BOY	I didn't see anyone, sir.
		<i>Silence.</i>
	VLADIMIR	What does he do, Mr. Godot? [<i>Silence</i>] Do you hear me?
	BOY	Yes, sir.
25	VLADIMIR	Well?
	BOY	He does nothing, sir.
		<i>Silence.</i>
	VLADIMIR	How is your brother?
	BOY	He is sick, sir.
30	VLADIMIR	Perhaps it was he came yesterday.
	BOY	I don't know, sir.

Silence.

VLADIMIR [softly] Has he a beard, Mr. Godot?
 BOY Yes, sir.
 35 VLADIMIR Fair or ... [*he hesitates*] ... or black?
 BOY I think it's white, sir.

Silence.

VLADIMIR Christ have mercy on us!

Silence.

40 BOY What am I to tell Mr. Godot, sir?
 VLADIMIR Tell him ... [*he hesitates*] ... tell him you saw me and that [*he hesitates*] ... that you saw me. [*Pause. Vladimir advances, the Boy recoils. Vladimir halts, the Boy halts. With sudden violence*] You're sure you saw me, you won't come and tell me tomorrow that you never saw me!

45 *Silence. Vladimir makes a sudden spring forward, the Boy avoids him and exit running. Silence. The sun sets, the moon rises. As in Act I. Vladimir stands motionless and bowed. Estragon wakes, takes off his boots, gets up with one in each hand and goes and puts them down centre front, then goes towards Vladimir.*

ESTRAGON What's wrong with you?
 50 VLADIMIR Nothing.
 ESTRAGON I'm going.
 VLADIMIR So am I.
 ESTRAGON Was I long asleep?
 VLADIMIR I don't know.

55 *Silence.*

ESTRAGON Where shall we go?
 VLADIMIR Not far.
 ESTRAGON Oh, yes, let's go far away from here.
 VLADIMIR We can't.
 60 ESTRAGON Why not?
 VLADIMIR We have to come back tomorrow.
 ESTRAGON What for?
 VLADIMIR To wait for Godot.
 ESTRAGON Ah! [*Silence*] He didn't come?
 65 VLADIMIR No.
 ESTRAGON And now it's too late.
 VLADIMIR Yes, now it's night.
 ESTRAGON And if we dropped him? [*Pause*] If we dropped him?
 VLADIMIR He would punish us. [*Silence. He looks at the tree.*] Everything's dead but
 70 the tree.
 ESTRAGON [*Looking at the tree.*] What is it?
 VLADIMIR It's a tree.
 ESTRAGON Yes, but what kind?
 VLADIMIR I don't know. A willow¹.

1. willow: it. *salice*

- 75 *Estragon draws Vladimir towards the tree. They stand motionless it. Silence.*
- ESTRAGON Why don't we hang ourselves?
VLADIMIR With what?
ESTRAGON You haven't got a bit of rope?
VLADIMIR No.
- 80 ESTRAGON Then, we can't.
Silence.
- VLADIMIR Let's go.
ESTRAGON Wait, there's my belt.
VLADIMIR It's too short.
- 85 ESTRAGON You could hang on to my legs.
VLADIMIR And who'd hang on to mine?
ESTRAGON True.
VLADIMIR Show all the same. [*Estragon loosens the cord that holds up his trousers which, much too big for him, fall about his ankles. They look at the cord.*] It might do at
- 90 a pinch². But is it strong enough?
ESTRAGON We'll soon see. Here.
They each take an end of the cord and pull. It breaks. They almost fall.
- VLADIMIR Not worth a curse.
Silence.
- 95 ESTRAGON You say we have to come back tomorrow?
VLADIMIR Yes.
ESTRAGON Then we can bring a good bit of rope.
VLADIMIR Yes.
Silence.
- 100 ESTRAGON Didi.
VLADIMIR Yes.
ESTRAGON I can't go on like this.
VLADIMIR That's what you think.
ESTRAGON If we parted? That might be better for us.
- 105 VLADIMIR We'll hang ourselves tomorrow [*Pause*] Unless Godot comes.
ESTRAGON And if he comes?
VLADIMIR We'll be saved.
Vladimir takes off his hat (Lucky's), peers inside it, feels about inside it, shakes it, knocks on the crown, puts it on again.
- 110 ESTRAGON Well? Shall we go?
VLADIMIR Pull on your trousers.
ESTRAGON What?
VLADIMIR Pull on your trousers.
ESTRAGON You want me to pull off my trousers?
- 115 VLADIMIR Pull on your trousers.
ESTRAGON [*Realizing his trousers are down*] True.

He pulls up his trousers.

VLADIMIR
ESTRAGON

Well? Shall we go?
Yes, let's go.

120

They do not move.
Curtain.