

EXT. ROOF - DAY

Two men - MAN A and MAN B - stand at the edge of a roof and look off into the distance. They make no effort to conceal themselves.

MAN A

Yesterday some man on the street told me that I was "making a mockery" of what I "stand for". How can I make a mockery of it when I don't even know what I stand for?

MAN B

For that matter, how could he know what you stood for?

MAN A

Exactly! Besides, I was just standing there.

MAN B

Maybe you got him confused. Maybe he meant that you were making a mockery of what he stood for, id est, what he actually said was "You're making a mockery of what I stand for!"

MAN A

...No, no... that doesn't sound right. In any case, I wasn't mocking anything, I was just standing.

MAN B

What if the act of standing was mockery in and of itself? Was he in a wheelchair? I could see how someone in a wheelchair might get sensitive about those sort of things... standing and the like.

MAN A

No, no, he was standing perfectly well.... he was wearing pants, mind you, so he may have had a wooden leg under there, or prosthetics. It's amazing... the things they can do with prosthetics.

MAN B

Quite amazing. I saw a television special once...

MAN A
Wait! Shh....

MAN B
What?

MAN A
Is that him?

MAN B
Him... who?

MAN A
You know... Him.

MAN B
Is that... particular inflection
and timbre of your voice meant to
tell me something more than when
you said it the first time?

MAN A
...HIM.

MAN B
Oh. You mean HIM. ...It's... hard
to tell from here. Binoculars?

MAN A
Here.

MAN B
They're all smudged. What did you
do, look with your fingers?

MAN A
Never mind that. Is it Him?

MAN B
Decidedly not. It is a woman with
a cocker-spaniel.

MAN A
A cocker-spaniel?

MAN B
Decidedly.

MAN A
How could I confuse the two?

MAN B
It's quite a far distance.

MAN A

No, no, that is unacceptable.

MAN B

Also, it's foggy and... the fog is... omnipresent as well as being rather greenish. Decidedly sinister.

MAN A

Why do you keep saying "decidedly"?

MAN B

It's a good word. I'm trying to return it to popular use.

MAN A

Ah.

MAN B

Hmm?

MAN A

I said "Ah". I really have no other response than that. Simply "Ah".

MAN B

Ah.

MAN A

We were talking about something, weren't we?

MAN B

Him!

MAN A

What?

MAN B

Him! Over there! Here, take a look!

Hands him the binoculars.

MAN A

Yes! It's Him!

MAN B

Excellent! Hand me the gun.

MAN A
Gun. Check.

MAN B
Loaded?

MAN A
Just now.

MAN B
Keep an eye on him. Is anyone
watching?

MAN A
The streets are clear. Completely.

MAN B
Alright. One. Two. Three, and....

A shot.

MAN A
...Nicely done.

MAN B
Thank you.

MAN A
Took the top of his head right
off, I think.

MAN B
He was wearing a hat.

MAN A
Well, yes, but there was a lot of
blood.

MAN B
Let me see.

MAN A
Here.

MAN B
Mmmm. Decidedly so.

MAN A
Has anyone seen?

MAN B
No. The streets are completely
clear, just like you said.

MAN A
Well, I mean... someone will
notice soon enough, won't they?

MAN B
I suppose so.

A pause.

MAN A
How long should we give it?

MAN B
Give what?

MAN A
Well, I mean... how long should we
wait?

MAN B
Wait until what? You're being much
too vague!

MAN A
...I'll vague you!

MAN B
...You're being entirely
senseless.

MAN A
It was a threat nonetheless. Think
about it further and you'll find
the threat.

MAN B
Find the threat! Hah!

A pause.

MAN A
I think it would be terrible.

MAN B
What, dying? Most likely.

MAN A
Well, yes and no. Dying would be
bad, but dying alone with no-one
to notice would be worse.

A pause.

MAN B
We noticed.

MAN A
Take us out of the equation.

MAN B
Well, yes, that sum comes out to zero.

MAN A
Zero. Exactly.

A pause.

MAN A
Perhaps we should tell someone.

MAN B
Tell someone?

MAN A
Well, we could make a discreet call...

MAN B
If we give it enough time, someone will come along and notice. These are busy streets.

MAN A
Really? Busy streets?

MAN B
Well...

MAN A
If these are busy streets, why is he the second person we've seen in three hours?

MAN B
It must be an off day. Is it a holiday, perhaps?

MAN A
If it was a holiday, I think we'd know.

MAN B
We never get holidays.

MAN A
Well, yes... that's why we'd know.
(MORE)

MAN A (CONT'D)

We'd be keenly aware of the fact that we were not, as it were, on holiday, when, well... you know... everyone else in the bleeding universe was.

MAN B

Universe?

MAN A

Maybe not. How about "principality"?

MAN B

That word has an antiquated sound to it.

A pause.

MAN B

In any case, he is dead, and we are not, and I am ready for my sandwich.

MAN A

Oh.

MAN B

Oh?

MAN A

The sandwiches. I...

MAN B

Come on, out with it!

MAN A

I seem to have left them in the car. I'm terribly sorry.

MAN B

(Sighing.)

Well, we'll just have to go and get them, I suppose.

He begins to get up.

MAN A

Look!

MAN B

What?

MAN A

That woman with the cocker-spaniel! She's discovered the body!

MAN B

(Looking through binoculars.)
Half-right. Someone has discovered the body, but it's a man in a priest uniform.

MAN A

A priest?

MAN B

It's too early for Halloween, so... signs point to maybe.

MAN A

A priest! Fancy that!

MAN B

Ahem. Sandwiches...

MAN A

Fine. Hand me the gun, will you?

They start collecting their things and begin heading towards the exit.

MAN B

We'll just have to climb right back up here, you know.

MAN A

You don't have to remind me. My knee is already acting up from this morning!

MAN B

I thought that meant rain?

MAN A

It has many meanings. None of them clear.

MAN B

Inscrutable.

MAN A

Quite.

They exit.

THE END