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Consider waiting for Godot as an Absurd Play.

Waiting for Godot is one of the most popular dramas of the modern age. It is a master piece of Samuel Becket, a modern novelist, a short story writer and a dramatist of great repute. Becket, a Nobel Laureate, has been a literary authority and a major influence on the progressively new trend of the modern literature. He enjoys intensively personal experiences of fear, terror, suffering, agony, hardship, poverty, misery and all other possibly negative aspects of human life. His literary works explore and present the modern life of material aggrandisement in a satirical vein and pessimistic tone. The present play demonstrates his creative genius and, at the same time, throws ample light on the enigmatic, exasperating and overall complex situation the modern people are entangled with in the name of modernity. The common people are making futile efforts and just hoping against hope. Let us see the play in a brief.

As a matter of fact, the nomenclature of waiting for Godot has been an interesting subject of discussion among the men of letters and the literary critics. Some critics argue that it is a tragedy, for they find sufficient tragic elements in the play, while others call it a comedy or a farce, as comic elements are also in abundance there in it. A few others nominate it as a tragic-comedy, because both the comic and tragic elements are at their full swing in the drama. But a majority of them consider it with 'Theatre of Absurd' and describe it as an Absurd Drama. In fact, an Absurd drama is quite different from a traditional one, both in its structure and theme. The Absurd dramatist does never follow any of the conventionally expounded norms or precepts of play writing. Thematically

too, he least bothers for a well ⁽⁸⁾exposed and neatly explained theme. In other words, there is no beginning, no middle and no end of dramatic presentation.

Thus, an absurd drama is a drama without a well constructed plot, recognised characters, has no witty repartee or pointed dialogue and well defined theme in the conventional sense. In it nothing happens and there is no exit or departure. The main action relates in showing the absurdities of man's existence, his helplessness, his suffering, his alienation and his sameness in spite of so much progress in the material terms. This drama exposes soul's agony and meaninglessness of life. Like a poetic drama, it relies heavily on dreams and fantasy but unlike that it rejects consciously poetic dialogues in favour of the banal ones. An Absurd dramatist wishes to be intellectual, ideological, objective, cerebral and wants his audiences to accompany him on his celebration. He wants a drama that proclaims 'This is not life, it is my work of art about life'. This drama challenges the audiences to make sense of nonsense, to face the situation consciously and perceive with laughter, the fundamental absurdities. That is, it is a kind of modern mystical experience.

Waiting for Godot can be described as an Absurd drama for it possesses most of the features of this kind of drama. It does not have traditional plot or story, characters, conflicts, emotions, dialogues etc. Everything is changed and disordered confusedly. The language is derided and the dialogue is quite insufficient to express human situation properly. There is no exp.

exposition of well-defined themes or problems and their rational solution. The two tramps go on passing their time in meaningless activities and waiting for an unknown and mysterious Godot who never comes to them. They do not know why and for what they wait for Godot.

In fact, *Waiting for Godot*, like other Absurd plays, deals with human situation, man's existential problems, life, death, God, salvation, alienation, loneliness, suffering, helplessness, loss of meaning and purpose in life as well as loss of faith in God. Estragon's first comment 'Nothing doing' is a kind of key to the actionlessness of the play. Even the tramps lose their identity. The other pair of characters, Pozzo and Lucky, also become blind and dumb in the second part. Suicide is a recurrent temptation. At present they merely wait for the ultimate extinction, a response to which they look forward with longing and horror. As we see, in the two tramps, with their boredom, their fear of pain, their shreds of love and hate, are surprisingly effective version of the whole human condition, a condition for which action is no answer, chiefly because there is no obvious action to be taken, nothing to be done.

Thus, we see that *Waiting for Godot*, quite on the line of Absurd Plays, is a drama that mocks at the futility of man's life and its meaninglessness. Even characters contemplate suicide, their situation does not undergo any change at all. The endless cross-talk act of the two tramps is always funny and, at the same time, sad. Life is treated like a joke. Death is mocked at. God is made a non-entity. To conclude, we can say that *Waiting for Godot* is an Absurd Play that, in contrast to the traditional

dramas, delineates human situation ⁽¹⁰⁾ ~~in the~~
allegorically in the situation of two tramps
waiting for Godot, knowing not for what!