

GOMM. Frederick, stand up. You must understand. He is very very valuable. We have invested a great deal in him. He is personal surgeon to the Prince of Wales.

MERRICK. But I only wish to examine him. I had not of course dreamed of changing him.

GOMM. But he is a gentleman and a good man.

MERRICK. Therefore exemplary for study as a cruel or deviant one would not be.

GOMM. Oh very well. Have him back for breakfast time or you feed him. Frederick, stand up. Up you bloody donkey, up!

TREVES, still asleep, stands up. *Fadeout.*

SCENE 18

WE ARE DEALING WITH
AN EPIDEMIC

TREVES asleep. MERRICK at *lecturn.*

MERRICK. The most striking feature about him, note, is the terrifyingly normal head. This allowed him to lie down normally, and therefore to dream in the exclusive personal manner, without the weight of others' dreams accumulating to break his neck. From the brow projected a normal vision of benevolent enlightenment, what we believe to be a kind of self-mesmerized state. The mouth, deformed by satisfaction at being at the hub of the best of existent worlds, was rendered therefore utterly incapable of self-critical speech, thus of the ability to change. The heart showed signs of worry at this unchanging yet

untenable state. The back was horribly stiff from being kept against a wall to face the discontent of a world ordered for his convenience. The surgeon's hands were well-developed and strong, capable of the most delicate carvings-up, for others' own good. Due also to the normal head, the right arm was of enormous power; but, so incapable of the distinction between the assertion of authority and the charitable act of giving, that it was often to be found disgustingly beating others—for their own good. The left arm was slighter and fairer, and may be seen in typical position, hand covering the genitals which were treated as a sullen colony in constant need of restriction, governance, punishment. For their own good. To add a further burden to his trouble the wretched man when a boy developed a disabling spiritual duality, therefore was unable to feel what others feel, nor reach harmony with them. Please. (TREVES *strugs.*) He would thus be denied all means of escape from those he had tormented.

(PINS enter.)

FIRST PIN. Mr. Merrick. You have shown a profound and unknown disorder to us. You have said when he leaves here, it is for his prior life again. I do not think it ought to be permitted. It is a disgrace. It is a pity and a disgrace. It is an indecency in fact. It may be a danger in ways we do not know. Something ought to be done about it.

MERRICK. We hope in twenty years we will understand enough to put an end to this affliction.

FIRST PIN. Twenty years! Sir, that is unacceptable! MERRICK. Had we caught it early, it might have been different. But his condition has already spread