

Spassky At A Safe Distance, Issue 2

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1.

This issue is definitely my favourite. Is it the story? Is it the bonus? Is it the religion that spawned from it? Is it that I've not written the third one?

It might be the story.

The author of the thing, Guy de Maupassant, is one of my favourite short story writers, and the only Frenchman I don't pretend to be Belgian. "The Necklace" – the story included in this issue – is certainly one of his best, and when you've finished it, you'll know why.

2.

Do you want to make something immortal?

Myths are old: Ramanaya was in a nursing-home before the first wheel started rolling, the epic of Gilgamesh, a myth, is the oldest readable thing we know of, and "ancient" is a synonym of "perceptively aged", and is a popular prefix to myth. Myths' lifetimes are intertwined with humanity's: the sun will have us for appetisers and Zeus and Odin for dessert. And isn't that something? Long dead people made something dead live as long as humanity!

But isn't that a hard something? I don't think so. I think it's an easy something – a something so easy that even we can make it, and like our grand(^32362)fathers, live forever.

Let me tell you how.

Myths are so easy to make that we're making them unconsciously. The only thing stopping us from beating Asgard out of its immortal lunchmoney is to be conscious of our unconscious mythology, and then write it down.

So what is our unconscious mythology?

KG.

Think about it: mythologies have gods and goddesses, and we, too, have "gods": teachers. We worship our teachers through sacrifices of time, tests, and mental health, so that they will reward us with good grades – not too different from sacrificing oxen in ancient Greece, or villages, for the pious viking.

And gods in myth are often cruel, usually punishing those who don't worship properly: Hera made Heracles kill his family, Poseidon made Minos' wife have sex with a bull, and Zeus didn't need a reason to be a Dick (or any other abbreviation of "Richard")

Our "gods" also punish us if we don't worship properly: bad grades, looks of pity – one might as well get hit by lightning.

(Gods are also specialised. sea-gods, love-gods, weather-gods. Our gods just happen to be educated)

So, we have all the gods in place; we're basically halfway done.

"But gods don't make a mythology! There's other stuff, like minor deities! Do we conceive those unconsciously, too?"

Yes.

Minor deities: nymphs, elves, children of the gods; like backup-vocalists in a band. Of course we have those: The Union, those associations, NaSB – they're practically divine!

Then there are the enemies of the gods: giants, ice-giants, that bloody snake. Of course we have those: HUM.

And then there's the pug, practically a religion itself.

Minor deities: Check.

Yet the casserole is cold in the middle...We need a world!

That's easy enough: KG might as well be Greece, or Scandinavia, or Mesopotamia. We'll have to shrink the gods a bit, and limit the myths somewhat, but it's no proper problem at all: the tuesday-lunch-cue might as well be Styx, or some other commute to the underworld; the choir-classrooms could be Olympus, and we can make up the stuff sandwiched in between as we go along.

We have all the toy-soldiers lined up; the last domino's laid; our finger is on the big red button! We just have to–

"That's far fetched, Spassky." the professional joy-extermiator might say "Mythologies have creation-myths, we don't! Hell, we don't even have myths–"

If the party-defecator would've let me speak, they would have discovered that that is the problem this text aims to resolve: to establish the KG-mythology we must get mythologising. Maybe through a myth-writing association; you could send your myths here, or elsewhere; the point is that we should start making KG-myths so that they, and we in turn, will live forever... kinda.

3.

This week's short story:

[The Necklace](#) (Guy de Maupassant, 1884)

And for you, valiant reader, a bonus:

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