

Understanding *Waiting for Godot* Based on a Psychoanalytic Approach

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Abstract

The present paper, drawing upon the intellectual heritage of Psychoanalysis (Freud, Lacan, and Zizek), attempts to give an interpretation of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. Grounded on the concept of the "das Ding", or "the thing", Zizek differentiates between modernism and postmodernism. Based on this division, Zizek claims that *Waiting for Godot* is a Modernist work. We try to challenge him by suggesting that *Waiting for Godot* is a postmodern work. In this regard, the present paper does not intend to investigate the previous literature on *Waiting for Godot*, but we try to present a philosophical-psychoanalytic reading and challenge Zizek's interpretation of the play. By adopting such a strategy, the present paper states that "Godot" is a name for "silent scream", since Godot is the name of nothingness, the name of the fundamental absence.

Keywords: trauma, the real, the symbolic, the thing, silence.

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