

Audition piece Hal/Lars

Hal Ha

Lars But

What I have done for those who reach that point That abyss Is to offer a choice, a cure if you like

Hal Physician, heal thyself

Lars I say the psychological apocalypse is a cosmic wake-up call. And a position of total despair is a great place to wake from because, Hal, the only way is up

Hal There's always down. Things can always, always be worse

Lars Would you rather consume, or rot? To go back to your microbe analogy, that is the central question. Do you want to eat or have things eat you?

Hal The whole thing comes down to power for you, doesn't it?

Lars Power sounds supremacist and my philosophy is not. I call it psyche-drive. With the psyche-drive of the will, you can decide to live and flourish or you can decide to rot

Hal You want us to behave like diseases

Lars No

Hal Well, it's just capitalism gone mad then, isn't it? Consume / consume

Lars No, no

Hal And the thing about consumption is that once your host organism is completely devoured – and in our case the host is the planet Earth — once / it's consumed, you rot anyway!

Lars I'm not talking about consumption on a physical level; I'm talking about psyche- attitude. People let themselves putrefy. Look at Mags

Hal Could you just not go there?

Lars Well, look at Paige then

Hal Paige is the ultimate consumer

Lars Oh, look harder; she's decomposing

Hal So anyone who professes to any pain or weakness is decomposing?

Lars It's their decision: do they indulge or deflect?

Hal What about the meek?

Lars The who?

Hal The unfashionable meek: the selfless, the givers. Blessed are they, Lars

Lars Oh bullshit

Hal For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

Lars You don't believe that

Hal I believe that there's virtue in / compassion

Lars As Heaven doesn't exist, the meek are very welcome to it. And so is anyone else who'd rather be dead than alive. I say you can leave pain behind.

And I don't lack compassion. My lessons on psyche-drive and negative deflection come directly from the Buddha

Hal So this new way of thinking, this Nazi Buddhist morality

Lars I object to Nazi

Hal How is it for you? In your own life? Not for the superman persona who's obviously written your book / but for you?

Lars There is nothing Nazi in my thinking. How dare you suggest it?

Hal Anyway, answer my question will you because I can't believe that you can simply decide to walk away from life's pain and find yourself free

Lars Look at me, Hal. You know me of old

Hal You're the guy who can see gaps in the despair market

Lars Do I seem different to you? Am I raging? Sulking?

Am I agonising over people I'm powerless to change? I'm cool Hal

Hal You always were