

The Story of Immortal2

the slaughterhouse

Another batch of human beings have arrived at the slaughterhouse after death. There are millions of these temporary places scattered round the world where people abide after death before moving on to immortality. You will find them in caves, ships, houses, disused churches and hospitals, islands, old factories and warehouses. This particular one is an old slaughterhouse. Like all the others, the slaughterhouse is a place where human beings have a last chance to live to the full: to love, laugh, dare, be angry or sad, to lose or find their innocence, to straighten up unfinished business, to overcome fear, loss, desire as they are gently eased from the state of mortality to that of immortality. There are many things human beings need to learn before they can embark on that final journey. The process is long and has its stations. Firstly, they will have to learn to love all of their life before they can detach from it. Only when they have accepted all about themselves and their lives, will they be ready to leave behind what they know and love doing: their passions, hobbies, habits, their material things. Their desires. Then they will need to learn to leave the weight of their body behind: gently though, step by step, little by little, without rushing. Otherwise the process would be too scary and harsh. But above all, they will have to learn to recognise the moment of happiness. Our lives are made of fragments. There are only fragments, like in memory and dreams. They say that if you focus on one of these fragments, one single moment of happiness in your life, eternity fails to go by. It might be a movement, a smile, a touch, a step in time and in the right direction, a song, a cluster of meaningless words like the drooling of babies in a cot, anything that might give you that unmistakable surge of happiness: a sense of weightlessness and rising up; a wholeness and peace where all the little mechanisms of being connect in one single artefact. Human beings are not always able to recognise and seize this moment. What if the moment of happiness comes and passes you by? One needs training and the slaughterhouse has its rules. William, the angel in charge of overseeing every person's little progress, has the hard task of helping human beings wade through all the stuff humanity is made of so that they can concentrate on one thing only. They will then be able to recognise that one moment of happiness, wholeness, weightlessness and not let it pass them by. Only then will they be able to journey from this to another life while William waits for another batch of new arrivals. Set in the future, but deeply rooted in the past, the slaughterhouse is an island, an underground world where people must go immediately after death. Or is it just the way the world is? A mish-mash, a slag-heap, an emporium of stuff without a price and sell-by date where we have the very hard task of recognizing our moment of happiness?