





Carymoron

 Orwell goes on to describe how the Buddhist priests jeer at him and everyone mocks him with "hideous laughter"

Laughter, a cheerful act, is given the adjective "hideous"



- Hatred of imperialism and his resentment of the Burmese:
- "I had already made up my mind that imperialism was an evil thing and the sooner I chucked up my job and got out of it the better."
- Later, he declares the Burmese are "evil little beasts"

Convedy/Tragedy

- Situation itself is comical (elephant on a "must" rampaging the village)
- Corpse is described as "grinning with an expression of unendurable agony"
- Orwell states his life is "one long struggle not the be laughed at" (his concerns seem silly and trivial, but his sentiment is tragic)

Tragic Laughter?

- Motivation for killing the elephant:
- "The sole thought in my mind was that if anything went wrong those two thousand Burmans would see me pursued, caught, trampled on and reduced to a grinning corpse like that Indian up the kill. And if that happened it was quite probably that some of them would laugh. That would never do."
- He will kill to avoid humiliation.

Is this a comical essay?

- No humor is used to clarify Orwell's disgust and anger.
- Laughter loosens the reader ever so slightly, only to make us cringe at the ugliness of imperialism.