Herby He

In Waiting For Godot, Vladimir and Estragon talked about being **tied down** by Godot. With the sole purpose of waiting for Godot, Didi and Gogo feel constrained or limited by Godot’s imminent arrival. Didi and Gogo thus must come to the exact place every day to wait for Godot’ arrives. The reason Didi and Gogo wait for Godot is that they want Godot’s response for their supplication. Even though Didi and Gogo didn’t mentioned much about Godot, they are mentally tied down to the idea of “waiting for Godot”. “Tied down by” something means to be influence, or controlled by a certain person or event. Being tied down to a thing may have certain impacts on the person, such as motivating a person to do certain things, changing a person’s living habits, oe even changing a person’s personality. However, when people are so tied to a thing, that thing loses it’s the practical purpose and becomes a spiritual symbol that seems unreachable and yet, hanging above you, guiding every action. That goal you’ve been working for for a long time, or the thing you are tied to, becomes something you don’t even have to think about to get motivated, it stays in the back of your mind and you automatically works towards it without consciously realizing it. That’s what usually happens when someone has been working for a goal, or tied to a purpose, for such a long time that the goal becomes a concept more than a satiable goal. For example, I’ve always wanted to go to a top university when I was just a kid. So having good grades becomes one of the things that “ties” me just like Godot “ties” Didi and Gogo. As time went on, I became capable of subconsciously categorizing what’s good for my grades and what’s not, and I automatically do things that are beneficial. In the end, getting good grades becomes more of a spiritual than any other practical plans. Even after I achieved relatively good grades, I still feel tied down by it. Moreover, the idea of being “tied down” to something is like having a moral standard--both are subliminal but controls everything. When people are doing usual things that don’t violet the moral standard, people don’t even realize that a standard exists; but when something against our moral standard happens, abusing animals for instance, our moral standard suddenly stands out. In Waiting For Godot, the ideas of “waiting” is the ultimate purpose that hangs above Didi and Gogo. When Didi and Gogo are doing things that have minor impact on the goal, such as eating carrots or interacting with Pozzo, they don’t even think about Godot; but when one of them proposes an idea that opposes the goal, such as when Gogo tells Didi “let’s go”, this idea jumps out and stops them from doing it. “Waiting for Godot” is a concept that controls Didi and Gogo’s actions. Nobody knows what Didi and Gogo would do after they meet Godot or whether Godot exists or not. Maybe the feeling of “waiting” will continue even they’ve met Godot.