The Man Who Was Thursday

Finished 4/10/21

“Because I am afraid of him,” said Syme; “And no man should leave in the universe anything of which he is afraid.”

Leonard Gaya on goodreads.com put it in better words than I can:

“Possibly the shortest way to describe Chesterton’s famous novel is to say that it is Alice's Adventures in Wonderland for grownups.”

It is hard to describe the book without diving into spoilers, but you get into exciting action very quickly. From there, the plot starts to feel a bit underwhelming once the realization of the general course of things kicks in. Many times I wanted to skip through the pages of opioid-induced imagery (of which felt excessive for my taste) because I knew what was up next.

Yet, in the end, I never regret reading the story, despite not thoroughly enjoying many of its chapters. It’s a story of compounding “wtf did I just read”. In the beginning, I reread pages over because I did not fully understand what was going on, but I don’t think you’re ever supposed to.

His style of writing is skillful and is not meant for a novice reader. Mixed in with the deranged plot, and it is easy to get lost.

I’d give this book a 3/6, though it will strangely always hold a place in my mind when I glance at it on the shelf. For a quick fix, the first three chapters are quite enjoyable.