

I love Beckett. I think Hesse is trying to critique humorlessness in Steppenwolf. The immortals laugh. This is what Harry needs to learn. I think of Nietzsche as response to Schopenhauer. Basically he shared a vision of cosmic horror with Schop but explored a different response to this vision. An antinatalist who can't laugh at himself belongs on Seinfeld as a character, because "nothing is funnier than unhappiness." "Gallows humor" is what I associate with Beckett. I especially love Watt. But his genius is scattered all over his works. The stone sucking, for instance. The flight from the terror of life into some soothing system. Haven't read the books you mention. I did read the *Satyricon* by Petronius. I love *Duck Soup* and Groucho and Harpo of course as characters. On "the silliness of life " : I see the theoretical distance (the ecstasy of irony, etc.) as a parasite on the beast that needs to dominate and replicate. Schopenhauer nailed this issue. The "monk" or "philosopher" or "ironic laughing poet" are all "parasites" who (for just that reason) lose a certain coherence when they curse their secret foil and basis. Christ on the cross (on the matrix-mother) can be interpreted as a symbol of the radical entanglement of "good" and "evil." Flowers grow in shit. The fire and the rose are one. And (for the "dead" philosopher who grasps time as the nothingness on which entities are projected) the fire and the rose are gone.