Godot shows up

A short third act for a tragicomedy

Viresh Ratnakar

Another day. Same time.
Same place.

ESTRAGON: There you are again, Didi.
VLADIMIR: I was beaten up again, last night.
ESTRAGON: Were you beaten up again, last night?
VLADIMIR: I told you so.
ESTRAGON: When?
VLADIMIR: Just now!
ESTRAGON: I don't remember.
VLADIMIR: Now who's forgetting things!
ESTRAGON: You should have called for help.
VLADIMIR: I was bored. Let's hang ourselves, Gogo.
(Silence)
VLADIMIR: *(Walks up to the tree).* Do you think it will hold?
ESTRAGON: We will ask him.
VLADIMIR: Ask whom?
ESTRAGON: Godot.
VLADIMIR: Good idea.
(Silence)
VLADIMIR: Do you think he will come today?
ESTRAGON: Who?
VLADIMIR: Godot.
ESTRAGON: The boy said he will, remember?
VLADIMIR: What boy?
ESTRAGON: The boy, imbecile! Yesterday, in Bombay. He said Godot will show up tomorrow.

VLADIMIR: I don't remember.

ESTRAGON: On the stage. He was scared.

VLADIMIR: Who, Godot?

ESTRAGON: *(Exasperated).* No, the boy.

VLADIMIR: *(Remembers).* That was in New York.

ESTRAGON: And Paris.

VLADIMIR: London.

ESTRAGON: Bombay.

VLADIMIR: New York.

ESTRAGON: Right here, by this tree.

VLADIMIR: Do you think he will really come today, Gogo?

ESTRAGON: The boy said he will.

VLADIMIR: Nothing to be done but wait, I suppose.

ESTRAGON: I suppose.

(Silence)

Vladimir sits down again. He falls asleep. Estragon picks up the remains of a carrot from the ground and munches on it noisily. He stops suddenly, trying to listen. He shakes Vladimir, awakening him.

ESTRAGON: Didi! Didi! Wake up! I hear him.

VLADIMIR: *(Rubbing his eyes).* Hear who?

ESTRAGON: Godot!

VLADIMIR: What, where?

ESTRAGON: Listen!

They listen. Estragon munches on the carrot again.

VLADIMIR: I don't hear anything. Except your chewing noise.

ESTRAGON: *(Offended).* What chewing noise?

VLADIMIR: It is disgusting.

ESTRAGON: Don't make me angry, Didi.

VLADIMIR: You never save me from getting beaten up.

ESTRAGON: You never call for help.

VLADIMIR: You wouldn't come. No point.

ESTRAGON: *(Angrily).* Perhaps we should part, then.

VLADIMIR: Yes, let's go.

ESTRAGON: But what if he comes and we are not here?

VLADIMIR: Who comes?

ESTRAGON: Godot.

VLADIMIR: Oh, let's wait for him, then.

ESTRAGON: And then we will part.

VLADIMIR: I suppose.

Godot enters, running. He has a white beard. He sees Vladimir and Estragon, and stops. He sits down beside them, panting.

GODOT: Oh, you are here.

VLADIMIR: Yes, we are waiting for Godot.

ESTRAGON: Then we will part.

GODOT: *(Still panting).* Do you have anything to eat?

VLADIMIR: *(Pointing at Estragon).* He has a carrot.

ESTRAGON: *(Clumsily hiding the carrot).* No I don't! *(Looks angrily at Vladimir.)*

GODOT: They were going to beat me up.

VLADIMIR: Who were?

GODOT: The ones who beat you up.

VLADIMIR: How do you know?

GODOT: They told me. They said they would beat everyone up.

ESTRAGON: Who are you?

GODOT: Godot. Don't you remember? We were to meet here, by this tree.

VLADIMIR: You will save us?

GODOT: From what?

ESTRAGON: You said you would.

GODOT: I don't remember.

ESTRAGON: Then why are you here?

GODOT: I am hungry. Give me that carrot.

ESTRAGON: And then you will save us? *(Gives him the carrot.)*

Godot munches on the carrot, noisily. Estragon looks at him with a mixture of hope and jealousy. Godot finishes the carrot.

GODOT: Is there anything else?

ESTRAGON: What do you mean?

GODOT: To eat!

VLADIMIR: I am scared, Gogo.

ESTRAGON: *(Soothingly).* What for, Didi? Godot is here now.

GODOT: You don't have anything else then?

ESTRAGON: What do you mean?

GODOT: To eat!

ESTRAGON: *(Angrily).* You are the one who ate up that carrot. Is there anything else, he asks!

GODOT: Nothing to be done, then.

VLADIMIR: I might have had some turnips too.

GODOT: Where?

VLADIMIR: In Bombay.

ESTRAGON: And New York.

VLADIMIR: Paris.

ESTRAGON: London.

VLADIMIR: They are over now. But you are here!

GODOT: That I am.

ESTRAGON: What kept you?

GODOT: They were trying to beat me up.

VLADIMIR: You bring good news, I hope.

ESTRAGON: What do you have to offer us? You said you were going to think about it. Did you think about it?

GODOT: I lied.

VLADIMIR: *(Starts sobbing).* I am scared, Gogo.

ESTRAGON: Don't be afraid, Didi. *(Pats Vladimir on his back. Turns to Godot, angrily.)* You cannot go back on your promise now!

GODOT: Why not?

ESTRAGON: I . . . I will strangle you.

GODOT: Good idea. I was thinking of hanging myself on that tree anyway.

VLADIMIR: Do you think it will hold?

GODOT: What will?

VLADIMIR: The bough.

GODOT: I don't know.

ESTRAGON: He doesn't know!

VLADIMIR: *(Sobs again).* Nothing to be done then.

GODOT: We can always wait.

ESTRAGON: For whom?

GODOT: I don't know.

ESTRAGON: He doesn't know!

VLADIMIR: Let's all part then. Shall we go?

GODOT: Good idea. Let's go.

ESTRAGON: Yes, let's go.

They do not move.

Curtain.