

**FOR THE LIBRARY**

**A MOCK TRIAL.**

**THE TRIAL OF SCIENCE  
FOR THE  
MURDER OF HUMANITY**

BY

**A. S. P. Ayyar, M. A., I. C. S., Bar-at-law,**

(FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.)



**G. V. K. SWAMY, & Co.,**

EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS,  
KUMBAKONAM.

1942

Price. Re. 0-8-0.

I object to the accused's being seated. The practice has been for an accused to stand, unless he is sick."

THE DEFENCE COUNSEL: "The accused is not yet proved to have committed any crime, and ought to be allowed to sit down, like any other respectable citizen my lords. This Court has never followed bad, old customs."

JUDGE CULTURE (*consults the other two judges*): "We agree. The ruling is that every accused will be allowed to sit down till he is proved to be guilty of a crime, or to be addicted to sleep unless made to stand. Now, clerk, read out the charge. In accordance with the spirit of the times, crimes sure of completion in future are taken as already accomplished and, therefore, punishable as such."

CLERK (*reads out the charge*): "That you, Science, operating on this planet called the earth, have, between the 4th Century B.C. and to-day, by inventing bows and arrows, the sword and the spear, and gun-powder and bomb, and by attempting to discover the death ray, and by occasioning the death of thousands by motor-cars, and by diverse other acts calculated to kill humanity by sapping it of its faith, intelligence and resources, intentionally, or knowingly, acted so as to cause the death of Humanity in 2000 A.D., and thereby committed an offence under section 302 I P.C., and triable by us — the full bench of the Court of Time. Dated this the first day of July 1942."

(*To the accused*): "Do you plead guilty, or claim to be tried?"

ACCUSED: "I claim to be tried."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY (*to the clerk*): "Have the jurors called! Under our new laws, all grave crimes will be tried with the help of a jury, even by a Full Bench."

(*To the accused*): "Each juror will now be called aloud. As he comes in, you will be asked if you object to

him. You have the right to object to him then for proper reasons, like Insolvency, Lunacy, Pauperism, Enmity, Minority, etc. The Public Prosecutor too can object on similar grounds. The old rule of objecting to any juror, up to the number of eight, without assigning reasons, is abolished, like the ancient right of a dog to bite a man once."

USHER (*calls*): "Education! Education! Education!"

*(Education proceeds to the jury box).*

THE ACCUSED: "I do not know this man at all. He never came into contact with me till now. He is a man of the old world. How can I challenge him?"

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "You are not bound to challenge him. As you do not object to him, he will take his seat."

*(Education sits down in the jury box).*

USHER (*calls*): "Trade! Trade! Trade!"

*(Trade appears).*

THE ACCUSED: "My lords, this man abused all my discoveries about production and distribution and has become a pauper to boot."

JUDGE INTUITION: "He does look cunning enough for that. Has he filed an insolvency petition?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Oh, yes. I shall give your lordships the number at once."

*(He goes out, and comes back.)*

"He has filed I. P. No. 211 of 1942 on the file of the Sub-Court of Vellore."

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "I don't think that there can be such a number in the Sub-Court, my lords. One Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, when premier, passed a law called 'The Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act', with whose merits we are not concerned now, but, as a result of which, I-Ps. have fallen heavily in number. I don't

think that the number can be more than 11 in the Sub-Court now. In fact, it never exceeded 25 within my experience of a quarter of a century."

*(The Judges consult together.)*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "There is no time for going into this matter now. So, the accused will be given the benefit of the doubt. The Juror will stand down."

*(Trade bursts out, "I want to file a petition against the accused for defamation." The Judges ask him to go away, and do as he likes. The Juror goes away, murmuring protests at the injustice done to him.)*

USHER *(calls)*: "Finance! Finance! Finance!"

*(Finance comes in.)*

THE ACCUSED: "I am afraid to challenge this influential person who is responsible for all the wars, revolutions and turmoils on our planet."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "This Court is above fear or favour. If you want to object to him, you can do so. We are here to protect you."

THE ACCUSED: "I prefer not to challenge him. The authority of this Court extends only to the doors of this building, while the juror is powerful everywhere. The highest punishment this Court can award me is nothing compared to what he can do to me. He can cripple me for life."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "As you happen to be an accused, you will not be prosecuted for contempt. But, take care that you do not say such rash and reckless things hereafter."

*(Finance is allowed to take his seat.)*

USHER *(calls)*: "Research! Research! Research!"

*(Research comes in, with a pre-occupied look)*

THE ACCUSED: "Your Lordships, I submit that this juror is of unsound mind."

RESEARCH: "Stuff and nonsense! What do you know about insanity?"

*(The judges consult together.)*

JUDGE CULTURE *(to the clerk)*: "We are not commissioners in Lunacy. Clerk, what is it that we can do? Is there any precedent?"

THE CLERK: "There is an expert doctor now in the Court premises who can declare, in two minutes, after examining this man, whether he is a lunatic or not."  
*(The Judges ask him to call the expert. The expert comes in, and wants to examine the juror's head. But Research refuses to be examined by him, saying to him, 'What nonsense! How can sanity or insanity be determined by looking at a man's head?' The Judges order his turban to be taken off, so that his head may be examined by the expert.)*

THE EXPERT *(after scrutinising the head all round, and tapping it at the back)*: "Oh, yes. This man is a lunatic all right. But, still, to make it absolutely certain, I will have a second infallible test."

*(To Research)*: "Open your mouth, please, and show your tongue."

*(Research shows his tongue.)*

THE EXPERT *(nods his head significantly)*: "This man is a raving lunatic, my lords."

RESEARCH *(pulling the expert by the tie)*: "I will learn you."

JUDGE CULTURE: "No quarrel in the Court premises! Usher, ask them both to go away." *(The usher leads them both out of the Court. Research cries out, as he goes away, 'I am no more lunatic than your lordships.')*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Silence! Call the next juror."

USHER *(calls)*: "Service! Service! Service!"

*(Service comes in.)*

THE ACCUSED: "This man has been honestly trying to do good service, though on most unscientific lines. I don't want to challenge him."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "As you like."

*(Service takes his seat.)*

USHER (*calls*): "Citizen! Citizen! Citizen!"

*(Citizen comes in.)*

THE ACCUSED: "Your lordships, this man is a minor."

CITIZEN: "My lords, I am not a minor. How can I be? I have two children. And, two years ago, I was put up, as a major, for setting fire to a hayrick."

JUDGE INTUITION: "We need not inquire into your alleged minority. Suffice it, that you were put up for incendiarism. Stand down!"

CITIZEN: "But, I was discharged, my lord."

JUDGE INTUITION: "That does not matter. It is better that a man with your record is not a juror in a case like this."

USHER (*calls*): "Society! Society! Society!"

*(Society comes in)*

THE ACCUSED: "I understand that this lady is, by the laws of our country, ineligible to be a judge. So, let her be at least a juror. Scientifically speaking, she is as good as any other, I suppose, provided she does not weep."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "We don't want your opinions on the laws of our country. But, as you don't object to her, she is allowed to take her seat."

USHER (*calls*): "Unemployment! Unemployment! Unemployment!"

*(Unemployment comes in.)*

THE ACCUSED: "My lords, is a man without any employment to be also a juror? Besides, this individual gave evidence against me in a maintenance case."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY (*to Defence Counsel*): "Is he the woman who filed the maintenance case?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "No, your lordship, he is a man. He was a witness for Agriculture, the lady who sued Science for not maintaining her."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Have you any evidence that he gave evidence?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Here is a copy of the judgment."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY (*to the clerk*): "Is this a certified copy?"

THE CLERK: (*after perusing it*): "No, your lordship, this is a private copy prepared by the accused."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Owing to the lack of issue of copy stamps, caused by the present scarcity of paper, it is difficult to get a certified copy. So, I took a private copy on what paper I could get. I swear that it is a true copy."

THE JUROR: "But, I never gave any evidence which was not true, my lord."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "In view of the heat engendered between the accused and the juror by this allegation, the juror will be asked to stand down."

USHER (*calls*): "Frontier! Frontier! Frontier!"

(*Frontier comes in.*)

THE ACCUSED: "Saheb, are you a Muslim?"

THE JUROR: "Why, yes."

THE ACCUSED: "I do not object to this juror, as I am for communal harmony, and don't want to have any quarrel with our Muslim brethren, as there is no scientific warrant for doing so."

(*The juror is allowed to take his seat.*)



ALL THE JURORS (*stand up and swear, as directed by the clerk*): "Impartial between sense and nonsense, we shall consider the evidence as we like, and give our verdict according to our fancy."

THE CLERK: "Please choose a foreman." (*All the jurors vie with one another to be foreman. Finally, they elect Finance as the foreman*).

THE ACCUSED: "I thought as much."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Silence!"

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: (*rising to open the case for the prosecution*) "My lords—"

THE DEFENCE COUNSEL: "I raise a preliminary objection, my lords."

JUDGE INTUITION: "Does it go to the root of the case?"

THE DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Yes."

JUDGE INTUITION (*rather impatiently*): "What is it?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "The charge, as it stands, is under section 302 I.P.C., for the murder of Humanity. I submit that, even according to it, humanity is not yet dead, and will not die before 2000 A.D. So far as I can see, I speak with some diffidence, even your lordships, who are fully alive, appear to be human beings not adversely affected by Science."

*(The judges hastily consult one another)*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "As at present advised, we think that we can be reasonably classified as such human beings. But, note that the charge relates to the murder in 2000 A.D., and we are now only in 1942."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "That is the point, your lordship!"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "But, I submit, my lords, that, in a case like this, unless it is absolutely certain that humanity will die by 2000 A. D., of the wounds



inflicted by Science, the charge of murder is unjustified, and, with due respect, is illegal, even under the amended law."

*(The Judges consult one another)*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Public prosecutor, what proof have you to show that humanity will surely die out in 2000 A.D.?"

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: *(Reads from an almanac prepared by Sri Krishna Upasi of Jothinagar)* "In 2000 A. D., humanity will perish, utterly and irretrievably, as a result of the machinations of Science!"

THE DEFENCE COUNSEL: "This Upasi man is a most unreliable person, in no way comparable to Cheiro or H. G. Wells. He predicted that the whole world would come to destruction in 1911 A. D., when a comet appeared. But the world still exists, and the man has been proved to be utterly and hopelessly wrong. His almanac cannot be taken judicial notice of, like a Gazette. He must be examined in Court and made available for cross-examination!"

*(The judges consult together)*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "The almanac cannot be admitted in evidence. As there is a reasonable doubt regarding the certainty of the death of humanity in 2000 A. D., we have decided, after due deliberation, to drop the charge under Section 302 I. P. C. and substitute one under section 302 I. P. C. read with section 511 I. P. C."

THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: "What is it your lordships? Are we to understand that the charge is dropped?"

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Oh, no. Instead of being charged for 'murder', he is being charged for 'attempt to murder', a lesser offence. It is permissible under our laws." *(To the Defence Counsel)* "Are you now satisfied?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "I should like to be not too insistent, your lordship. But, in the interests of justice, I have to represent that my client does not deserve to be charged with an attempt to murder. He is completely innocent. If your lordships want to put him on his trial, I submit that the ends of justice will be served by putting him up for trial, under section 352 I.P.C., for an assault on humanity."

*(The judges consult together).*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "This being a Full Bench of the Supreme Court of Time, we don't think it proper for the offence to be reduced to one of 'assault', triable by a third class magistrate. Besides, the matter requires to be considered carefully after the entire evidence is let in and the arguments heard."

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR (*opening his case*) : "This trial, your lordships and gentlemen of the jury, is of a novel character. There are no precedents for it. It is calculated to prevent the murder of humanity and preserve the human race from the machinations of a most insidious enemy. By inventing various weapons of destruction, culminating with the poison-gas and bomb, and by an attempt to discover the death ray, by inventing machinery of all kinds, taking away the skill of hand and causing unemployment to millions of people, and converting even those actually employed from heads and hearts into hands, by killing originality at its source, and providing ready-made second-hand thought, and thus making men no better than the animals which perish for lack of intelligence, by preaching against God, and bringing about spiritual death which inevitably leads to physical death, and by inventing pernicious patent medicines, and making them take the place of food, by putting monkey glands into men, and by other degrading acts, which I shall presently prove, the accused has committed the heinous offence charged against him. I shall now call my witnesses."

*(P. W. 1., Politician, is called, and sworn in).*

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "What do you know about this accused?"

POLITICIAN: "I know far more about him than I care to disclose."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Stick to the point. Don't indulge in rhetoric."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: Rhetoric has become part of the witness, your lordship. He cannot get rid of it."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "All right. I shall allow for his incurable, defect. But, let him be as brief as he can."

POLITICIAN: "In the wars waged during the past six centuries, nearly twenty million people have been killed by gun-powder, poison gas, aerial torpedoes, mines, submarines, and other diabolical contrivances deliberately invented by the accused, with no other intent than to murder humanity. At the present moment, he is engaged not only in the greatest massacre, in a world war waged with weapons forged by him, but in discovering the death ray, which will destroy everybody, including your lordships."

JUDGE CULTURE: "Leave us alone."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "That is what the accused will not do, my lord."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "I object to the witness's evidence regarding the death ray. An attempt to discover it will amount only to 'preparation' under our law, and can never constitute evidence for proving the charge."

*(The judges consult together)*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "We are satisfied that the position of law taken by the learned counsel for the accused is correct, and that this evidence will be inadmissible for proving the substantive offence, but it will be admissible to prove the real motive of the accused in

inventing gun-powder, poison-gass, bomb and other things, by disproving mistake, accident or misfortune."

DEFENCE COUNSEL (*cross-examining*): "Mr. Politician, are you 600 years old?"

POLITICIAN: "I am as old as mankind, in one sense, though, personally, I am only 52 years old. I speak as an expert with a due sense of responsibility. Time will show the truth of my statement."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "The Court of Time will appraise it. Have you seen twenty million people die in war with weapons forged by the accused? Can you say that they would not have died without the accused's inventions?"

POLITICIAN: "Yes. I will go further. The people who died are far more happy than those who survived the accused's bombs, torpedoes, machine-guns and poison-gas. Millions of these are maimed and deformed, millions are affected by nerves, and millions have lost their memory."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Are you one among them?"

POLITICIAN: "I would never have spoken to the above facts, if I had lost my memory. Please exercise your intelligence."

JUDGE CULTURE: "No impertinence, please."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Can poison-gas be used for killing mad dogs?"

POLITICIAN: "Yes."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Do you know that gun-powder is being used for blasting rocks, and getting drinking water?"

POLITICIAN: "Yes"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Don't you admit that while the inventions of the accused lend themselves to abuse, by aggressors, they have, in a more unmistakable way, aided

civilized countries to defend themselves, as China against the Mongols, India against the Huns, and England against the Luftwaffer and the submarine?"

POLITICIAN: "I suppose so."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Is death ray a reality? Can you be certain that it will ever be discovered?"

POLITICIAN: "There is no certainty."

*(The next witness is Zamindar.)*

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "You see this accused. What do you know about him?"

ZAMINDAR: "Before this accused was heard of, this land was flowing with milk and honey, and was full of healthy people, free from all kinds of disease. To-day, the rice-mill has come, and displaced hand-pounded rice. Cotton-mills have arisen, and ruined the spinners and hand-loom weavers. The motor-car has come, and driven out the bullock-carts and jutkas. Buses have come, and are taking busloads of our villagers to the towns, making them useless for life. Our workmen, who were famous for their heads and hearts before, have become mere hands now. There is no more any pride in making things. No educated man handles a plough. There is not one leader with a real stake in the land. Every man considers himself as good as every other. The Indian pride in agriculture has gone, the respect for one's betters has gone with it, and worthless discontent has taken its place. Millions are starving for lack of food and employment. The production of food has fallen. The capacity to eat has increased. All this is due to the ravages of the machines invented by this accused. At this rate, humanity will surely perish by 2000 A. D."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Sir, how did you come to the Court?"

ZAMINDAR: "By car!" *(Laughter.)*

THE USHER OF THE COURT: "Order, order!"

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Seeing that you came by car, why do you condemn cars ?"

ZAMINDAR : "I often get a head-ache, but I condemn it all the same." (*Laughter.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Do you think that so many millions can be supplied with pins, fountain-pens, pencils, and such like necessities, without machines ? Is there one blacksmith in your place who can make a pin ?"

ZAMINDAR : "That is the tragedy. We cannot experiment, for the accused has dumped the market with his cheap and worthless things".

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Has not agriculture profited by the irrigation schemes introduced as a result of scientific discoveries ?"

ZAMINDAR : "I come from a village where there is not even a minor irrigation tank. I know nothing about what you are talking. But I can say this. A cousin of mine, living under the Dhauleswaram Project, tells me that all his lands have become saltish after he irrigated them with Government water."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "No attack on Government, please."

*(The next witness for the prosecution is Old Thought.)*

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "What do you know about this accused, sir ?"

OLD THOUGHT : "Before this man's pernicious activities began, there used to be original thinkers all over the world, like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in Greece, Shakespeare in England, Firdausi in Persia, Valmiki, Vyasa and Varahamihira in India, and great prophets like Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad. But, after this man's advent, I do not know of even one first-class thinker, or prophet. Newspapers with their third-rate ideas, radios



with their fourth-rate singing, and cinemas with their fifth-rate pictures have debilitated the human mind."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Have you got a radio?"

OLD THOUGHT: "I hired one from the accused, but it went out of order the very next day."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "So, you have a grievance against the accused?"

OLD THOUGHT: "Oh, no. I was glad to get rid of the radio and its hideous noise."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Can you say whether the people who are supplied with thoughts by the newspapers are capable of thinking for themselves?"

OLD THOUGHT: "My point is that they are capable of thinking for themselves, but that, at present, they are made to borrow their thinking from the newspaper men."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Will those who listen to the radio be able, or willing, to listen to real songs of first-rate songsters?"

OLD THOUGHT: "I don't know much about songs."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Do you say that those who see films now will go to dramas if there were no films?"

OLD THOUGHT: "I cannot say that."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "What is your property qualification?"

OLD THOUGHT: "I own nothing except my character." (Laughter.)

*(Religion is the next witness.)*

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you know this accused?"

RELIGION: "I know this accused. He is going to be the death of humanity. He preaches against God, the Creator of mankind. He says that God is not needed for a child to be born. He says that life can exist without



God. Indeed, he proclaims that Religion is the opium of the people."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Have you seen God, sir?"

RELIGION: "No."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Why then do you speak about Him?"

RELIGION: "Though I have not seen God myself, I can repel base attacks on Him."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Nothing that we cannot see exists."

RELIGION: "So, since I cannot see your brains, sir, may I take it that you have none?" (*Laughter.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Don't you think that by concentrating on the other world we have lost this world?"

RELIGION: "I am not for concentrating on the other world alone. Indeed, my coming here to give evidence against this accused will show that I am quite keen about this world."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Do you think that God can be killed by the most death-dealing discoveries of Science?"

RELIGION: "No, any more than a man can be killed by spitting on him. But, we have to punish spitting all the same."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Don't you know that the right kind of reverence comes only from knowledge and Science?"

RELIGION: "No. This is news to me. The right kind of reverence is that for the mysterious and the unknown."

*(The last witness for the prosecution is the  
Investigating Officer)*

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "What are you, please?"

INVESTIGATING OFFICER : "I am the Inspector-General of uncommitted crimes."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Please tell the Court the circumstances in which you arrested the accused."

INVESTIGATING OFFICER : "My good aunt !"

JUDGE CULTURE : "Don't use such slang expressions in court, please."

INVESTIGATING OFFICER : "Your Lordships, what great troubles I experienced in arresting this here accused! I chased him in a motor-car. He took to a junker aeroplane. I pursued him in a U. S. A. Tomohawk Fighter. Then he got into a U-Boat. I pursued him in a fast destroyer. Then, he got into a rocket plane, and I brought him down by well-directed anti-aircraft fire. When I arrested him, he disappeared before my very eyes;"

*(Sensation in Court)*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "That is strange. There is nothing in the charge to show that the accused is capable of becoming invisible."

INVESTIGATING OFFICER : "But, he did become invisible, my lords. Only, he could not escape from my clutches. I held on to him firmly till his meal-time came, and he had to become visible in order to eat. Then I took him to the Clerk of the Crown."

JUDGE CULTURE : "That's interesting."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : *(cross-examining)* "Officer, did he try to escape?"

INVESTIGATING OFFICER : "How could he ? I held him fast."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Are you sure that he became invisible ? Then, what did you hold?"

INVESTIGATING OFFICER : "He became invisible, and I held him."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Did you close your eyes, and thus merely fail to see him?"

INVESTIGATING OFFICER : "No, my eyes were open all right. But, as he become invisible, they were as good as closed regarding his being there, till meal-time when he resumed his body."

*(The Public Prosecutor closes his case)*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "Prisoner at the bar, what have you to say?"

THE ACCUSED : *(gives the following statement)* "I have been trying to help humanity to the best of my ability. In the course of such activities, I have incurred the enmity of several persons, like Superstition, Ignorance, Prejudice, Vested Interest, Fanaticism and Rascality. The case against me is wholly misconceived. It is not only false, but is brought with *malice prepense*. I request your lordships to consider the case as a whole, and to let no irrelevant consideration enter your minds. My discoveries were made honestly, and with the sole intention of benefiting mankind. But, interested and unscrupulous persons stole and misused my discoveries. Just as a bill-hook is primarily intended to cut wood, but can be used for murder, my great discoveries have been misused by people, like the Politician, who, pretending to be friends of humanity, are really its worst enemies. Careerists of all kinds use my discoveries for their own ends and blame me when they fail or are exposed. I submit that I could never have intended to murder humanity, as all scientists come only from among human beings, and not from animals."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "Have you got any witnesses?"

ACCUSED : "Yes. Medicine, Knowledge, Transport and Electricity."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : *(opens his case)* "My lords besides the points elicited by me in the cross-examination

of the prosecution witnesses, to counteract their evidence, I am letting in evidence of the concrete benefits conferred on humanity by my client. It is the rule of law that the prosecution must prove its own case. But, I do not rely merely on that. I am going to prove positively that the accused, far from intending to murder humanity, is the benefactor of humanity. Now, I shall call my evidence."

*(The first defence witness called is Medicine.)*

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "What do you know about this accused?"

MEDICINE: "Owing to the beneficent activities of the accused, the death-rate among babies below one year has been reduced by 75%. The deaths from diseases like Cholera, Plague, Influenza, Typhus, Yellow-fever, and Malaria have fallen by 50%. Ugly diseases, like Elephantiasis, which make life a life-long misery, have been mitigated by discovering their sources and taking proper precautions. People live longer, and feel younger. Surgery has saved many thousands of lives."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: *(cross-examining)* "Do you know that, often, an operation is successful, but the patient dies?"

MEDICINE: "That is very common. But, there are far more people saved by doctors than killed by them."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you know that there is a school of thought which holds that so many babies are not necessary, and that the reduction in the death-rate of babies may not be to the advantage of humanity?"

MEDICINE: "Even if this pernicious doctrine is correct, the right babies were not those killed out before the activities of Science began."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you know that there are, even now, many thousands of people in Madras, Calcutta, Cochin, Trivandrum, and other places, afflicted with Elephantiasis?"

MEDICINE: "Yes. But, there were many more thousands before. The number has been reduced by the protected water-supply, and other benefits conferred by Science."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Some say that these old men living longer and feeling younger are going to be a menace to humanity, like putrid dishes re-heated and served. What do you say to that?"

MEDICINE: "The old folk in question don't think so."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Are you a doctor?"

MEDICINE: "Yes"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Don't you think that you, doctors, are interested in keeping illness alive in order to make your living?"

MEDICINE: "We are no more interested in doing so than the midwives are in going about and encouraging the birth-rate."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "What will happen if you doctors, cease to exist?"

JUDGE INTUITION: "People will have to die a natural death, I suppose."  
(*Laughter.*)

(*The next defence witness is Knowledge.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Sir, what do you know about this accused?"

KNOWLEDGE: "Before this accused began his activities, the world was full of darkness, ignorance, prejudice and superstition. The accused held up the torch of knowledge in the midst of darkness, and made people use their eyes which were as if they were shut. Millions lived without seeing the next village; millions did not know the names of the stars, or even of other countries; millions did not know anything about other religions. Misunderstandings, wars, enmities and factions were the result. Now, the accused's labours have made it possible,

for us to have cheap and excellent text-books about other countries and religions. The world is a better, wiser, and more enlightened place to live in."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you say that there are less deaths by factions and wars now than before the accused began his discoveries?"

KNOWLEDGE: "I never said that."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Then, what good did the accused's activities have in reducing wars?"

KNOWLEDGE: "Deaths in private quarrels are less in number now, but public deaths, in wars, have become more numerous."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you mean to say that knowledge of another country or village or creed or race has led to happiness? Is it not the case that it has led only to friction?"

KNOWLEDGE: "At present, there is some friction, just as there will be when handling a new machine. It will disappear with time."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Will it? Have not the accused's discoveries enabled the spread of racial arrogance, mass lootings, and wholesale deportations and massacres of peaceful populations?"

KNOWLEDGE: "For the time being, that is so."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Have you improved your knowledge by the accused's activities?"

KNOWLEDGE: "His activities were well advanced even by the time I arrived at my age of discretion. So, almost my whole knowledge is due to him."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "So, how can you compare what existed before with what exists now?"

KNOWLEDGE: "I can only say what I think."



JUDGE CULTURE : "What you *think* does not matter. Confine your evidence to what you *know*, from your own personal experience."

*(The next Defence witness is Transport).*

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "What is your opinion about the accused's activities, sir?"

TRANSPORT : "Before the days of the accused, it was impossible to go to distant places, either on business, or for pleasure, or on pilgrimage, or even to visit dying parents and relatives. Now, owing to motor-cars, steamships, trains, and planes, we can do all these things with ease. The jolting of the bullock-carts is over, and the exhilarating travel in aeroplanes has taken its place. Those slow motion activities have been replaced by delightful quick motions. London can be reached now in 24 hours, whereas it took 24 years in the days of the bullock-cart and the canoe."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Are you aware that aeroplanes are daily taking germs of Yellow-fever and other deadly diseases to new countries?"

TRANSPORT : "But, there is the quarantine."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Is it completely effective?"

TRANSPORT : "I do not know, and I do not care. It is far better to enjoy life for a short time than to live like stones for ages."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Do you own a car?"

TRANSPORT : "Yes."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "At what rate do you drive it?"

TRANSPORT : "Never at less than 60 miles an hour"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Is it not dangerous?"

TRANSPORT : "I have not died yet."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Have you killed any persons?"



TRANSPORT : "Yes. Seven."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Have you never been convicted ?"

TRANSPORT : "No. All the magistrates who tried me owned motor-cars, and understood my difficulties."

JUDGE CULTURE : "Don't talk irrelevantly. Say, 'I was not convicted.'"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "You can also travel in these fast conveyances to attack and kill others, and not merely to visit dying parents and relatives ?"

TRANSPORT : "That is so. But, I must add this, Formerly, millions used to die of famine; but, owing to fast conveyances transporting food, nobody dies now. Ten million people died in the Bengal famine of 1770. Six millions died in the Orissa famine of 1866, and half a million in the great famine of 1896-97. Not even a thousand died in the 1911 famine."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Are you aware that the transport of foodstuffs from places of plenty to places of scarcity has resulted in chronic starvation and malnutrition all over the country, and that we are living corpses owing to lack of sufficient nourishing food ?"

TRANSPORT : "I am not aware."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Do you know whether your neighbours have enough food ?"

TRANSPORT : "I don't know even whether the other members of my family have enough food. I fill my belly first." (*Laughter*).

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Quite worthy of a witness for the accused."

*(The fourth witness for the defence is  
Electricity)*

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Tell the Court what you know about this accused."

ELECTRICITY : "Before the accused began his activities, people were troubled with candle lights that went out, with oil lamps and hurricane lanterns which emitted a bad smell, and country torches which set fire to thatched sheds; but, after the accused began his activities, clean and beautiful electric torches and lights came into vogue. Nights were converted into days, by electric moons, and people could work all through the nights, as they are doing now for manufacturing munitions. Rocks, which could not be blasted by thousands of men, were blasted by a single electric machine. Hidden things in the human bodies which could not be seen by the most powerful eye, are exhibited clearly by X-Ray. The Telegraph, the Radio, the Telephone, and Television have made human lives enjoyable and pleasant. Refrigerators have made it possible to eat fruits all through the year. Even corpses can be kept well preserved for 30 or 40 years, like Lenin's in Moscow. The bottom of the sea can be explored by the latest inventions of the accused. Deep ships, sunk in fathomless depths, can be hauled up again, and trains, submarines and air-ships kept in contact with places thousands of miles away from them."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "What good is it keeping corpses for 30 years? Is it not better to bury or burn them and be finished with them?"

ELECTRICITY : "Corpses like yours, of course, had better be disposed of at once."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "Don't mention personalities, please."

ELECTRICITY : "Very well, my lord. I only meant to say that corpses like those of your lordships, the Public Prosecutor, and others, need not be preserved. But, what will we not give to have the bodies of the prophets and benefactors of mankind always on view, for us to see and draw inspiration from?"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Are not attacks in wars organized by telegrams, telephone and the other devices you mentioned?"

ELECTRICITY: "Yes. I say that they are merely an abuse of good things."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Speaking of these 'good things', have you done anything to popularize television in India?"

ELECTRICITY: "No."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Why are you withholding a good thing from this great and ancient country?"

ELECTRICITY: "Because I am not supplied with the necessary funds."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "May I take it, then, that you are a mercenary, and not a champion of human happiness, as you pretended a while ago?"

ELECTRICITY: "I submit that I am not a mercenary. But I require funds just as much as you do. Before and after this accused began his operations, nothing was done for nothing."

*(The case is closed.)*

DEFENCE COUNSEL: *(to the jury)*: "Gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the evidence. This case is frivolous in the extreme. Humanity is not dead. Far from it! It is not only living in you, and in the Judges, but also in the witnesses and the counsel on either side, and the numerous advocates and spectators assembled here, let alone the teeming millions outside. Certain obscurantists, like the Zamindar, certain timorous persons, like Old Thought, certain hypocrites, like Religion, certain busy-bodies, like Politician, and certain hide-bound bureaucrats, like the Investigating Officer, find the beneficent activities of the accused highly disturbing. They will find their occupations gone, if my client succeeded in his efforts in ridding the world of out-worn men like

obscurantist thinkers, interested investigators, ignorant priests, and professional politicians. Respectable witnesses, like Medicine, Knowledge, Transport and Electricity, all well-known citizens of the greatest repute, have given evidence on behalf of my client. I ask you to ring out the old, ring in the new, and return a unanimous verdict of 'not guilty' and ensure mankind's progress."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: (*to the jury*): "Gentlemen of the jury, the case against the accused, I submit, has been fully proved by the disinterested evidence of respectable witnesses, like the Zamindar, Old Thought, Religion, and Politician, let alone the Investigating Officer. What is there in rebuttal except the evidence of the creatures of the accused, like Medicine, Transport, Knowledge and Electricity, all of whom depend on him and derive their sustenance from him? The fact that humanity is not yet dead is no more proof that it will not die out by 2000 A.D. than the fact that you and I are alive today is proof that we will not die by 2000 A.D. I would request you to return a unanimous verdict of 'guilty', and ensure the punishment of this criminal."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY (*summing up to the jury on behalf of the Full Bench*): "Gentlemen of the jury, this case is a rather difficult one. But, you have heard the evidence carefully, and are in as good a position as the Judges to arrive at a conclusion. The witnesses on both sides are, I am sorry to say, interested, and, to a certain extent, not wholly reliable. Politician, is by nature and training, an opportunist; the Zamindar is a conservative; Religion is hidebound by tradition, and afraid of change; Old Thought is static, and dreads New Thought. The Investigating Officer is always out to prove a case against the man he arrests. On the other hand, Medicine, Transport, and Electricity are wholly dependent on the accused. Even Knowledge is largely dependent on him. As for humanity, though it is not yet dead, yet, one can never be sure whether it will die by 2000 A. D. or not. But the point is

not very material. We are concerned here with an *attempt* to murder humanity, and not with a *successful attempt*. I may tell you, that, under our law, an attempt to pick-pocket is proved even though it could never have succeeded owing to there being nothing in the pocket to pick. So, what you are concerned with in this case is the truth or otherwise of the alleged attempt by the accused. You are free to return three kinds of verdicts, 'guilty', 'not guilty', and 'not proven'. The accused is entitled to the benefit of the doubt. Gentlemen, please retire and consider your verdict carefully, and try, as far as possible, not to be unanimous, but to give your own independent verdict according to your conscience."

*(The jury retire for five minutes, and then come back,)*

THE CLERK OF THE CROWN *(to the foreman)*: "Has the jury arrived at its verdict?"

FOREMAN: "Yes "

CLERK: "Is the verdict unanimous?"

FOREMAN: "Yes "

CLERK: "What is the verdict?"

FOREMAN: "The case is 'not proven'."

*(The Judges consult together.)*

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: *(delivers the Judgment of the Bench)* "We accept the jury's verdict, and acquit the accused, but accord permission to the Public Prosecutor to bring a fresh case on proper evidence, provided that the same Judges and Jury shall not try the case, that the same Public Prosecutor and Defence Counsel shall not appear, and that the same witnesses shall not depose again."

*(Science is set at liberty-The Court rises.)*

—o—

THE END.

