

PARALLELS BETWEEN *THE PLAGUE* AND 2020

- 20 Bureaucracy snarls—who's in charge?
- 35 Case #s grow when added together
- 36, 47 Don't name it or you will cause panic
- 36 First time it's named: plague (vs. Pandemic)
- 38-40 History of Plague
- 47 No serum at the depot==out of supplies
- 51 Post small notices re plague so not to alarm the populace
- 60 Regulations are inadequate to control the plague
- 61 Hospitals are filling up
- 78 No one acknowledges to him/herself what the disease means
- 79 Rationing of food supplies and gas [not in 2020]
- 79 Many, not all, shops and offices closed; movie theatres open (we have tv and internet)
- 80 Heavy drinking, bars full
- 80 Focus on one's personal feelings and not on the big picture as its too alarming
- 93 Many turn to religion
- 115 Ruin of tourist trade in a town where most inhabitants care about making \$
- 120 Restaurants thrive but plague spreads
- 127 Bubonic plague→Pneumonic (different strains and different symptoms)
- 131 "the most incorrigible vice being that of an ignorance that fancies it knows everything"
- 132 Plague becomes "the concern of all" [not in 2020]
- 133 "Many were "proclaiming there was nothing to be done about it and we should bow to the inevitable."
- 149 Short of equipment and of manpower (doctors and trained assistants)
- 157 We "can't make more stringent measures than ones that we have now."
"No, but every person in the town must apply them to himself."
- 168 Only essential service workers could move about
- 169 Jails=death sentences for prisoners and for guards
- 171 Violence, looting, Curfew imposed
- 173 Funerals are small and speedy, no church services permitted
- 175 So many dead that coffins needed to be reused over and over [morgue trucks in US]
- 175 No relations of the deceased allowed at interment [not yet in 2020]
- 176 Many essential workers—grave diggers, stretcher bearers, volunteers—die
- 176 Fear of poverty is stronger than the fear of plague
- 178 Streetcars used as morgues and transportation to interment [not 2020]
- 194 All are becoming "slack" about hygiene and disinfecting
- 235 Although case levels are way up, deaths are leveling off, reassuring [less reassuring now]
- 236 Workers were masks made of sterilized muslin
- 237 "The result was that poor families were in great straits, while the rich went short of practically nothing. Thus, whereas plague by its **impartial ministrations** should have promoted equality. . .it exacerbated the sense of injustice rankling in men's hearts."
[Do we have impartial ministrations of COVID19 today?]