

'Patafyzika - výměna dat / 'Pataphysik - Datenaustausch/ 'Pataphysics – Data Exchange

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'Pataphysics is a philosophical alternative to rationalism, an absurdist science of the exceptional, of the particular, of imaginary solutions to crazy problems. It is also, in its own terms, rigorously rational, scientifically unimpeachable and the solution to everything.

'Pataphysics is to metaphysics what metaphysics is to physics. The person in the street, the physical thinker, says "I have a brother who likes cheese". The metaphysician says "Perhaps I have a brother, and maybe he likes cheese". The pataphysician says with complete certainty "I don't have a brother; and he likes cheese".

There are over 125 definitions of 'Pataphysics. It lightens the darkness with its green candle. It considers the humorous and the serious as equal and equally useful. It takes the virtual and imaginary as real, and the real as often hilariously stupid. It is not relativistic in some post-modern way, but transcends the modern, the post-modern and the pre-modern. Invented by Alfred Jarry at the end of the 19th century, it is "Closely observed firemen", and "The train's balls".

(Original movie titles: "Hoří, má panenka", and "Ostře sledované vlaky").

Jarry's texts are said to have made a deep impression on the underground philosophy in Czechoslovakia during Communist times.

'Pataphysics is the ultimate defence. Against what? Do you really have to ask? We are all pataphysicians, it's just that some of us know it, and some don't. To wonder about that is to be a pataphysician, to deny it, even more so. 'Pataphysics decides the undecidable, being both true and false, yes and no, 0 and 1. In this sense it is a quantum philosophy whose waveforms remains uncollapsed. Schroedinger's Cat is alive, dead, in and out of the box and busy doing philosophy as well as catching the scurrying mice of unimaginative sorrow. Those who know that they are pataphysicians are the luckiest people on earth, for they shall inherit the kingdom of the usefully absurd.

To know that the Collège de 'Pataphysique in Paris, and the various worldwide institutions in England, Sweden, Switzerland, Holland, Italy, South America and elsewhere are home

to scientists, artists, brain researchers, writers, musicians, philosophers, actors, engineers, comedians and those from many more disciplines, is to understand that even if it's all a bit crazy, it is a useful and indeed rigorous craziness. 'Pataphysics helps all of these areas, by letting, or making, people think differently. It gives a permission or perhaps a command, to think sideways, "out of the box". It's results can often usefully feed back into the ordinary, vulgar, mundane world.

Every pataphysical day is a saint's day in the pataphysical calendar, many of the saintly being obscene, obsessed or obtuse. Every unnameable thing has at least one name. The anarchic is made normal, the normal becomes anarchic. Members of the Collège have ranged from the Marx Brothers to the philosopher Jean Baudrillard, from Marcel Duchamp to Louise Bourgeois, from mathematicians to psycho-geographers. The vice-Curator of the Collège de 'Pataphysique used to be an African crocodile called Lutembi. It is now Tanya Peixoto a real, live woman living in London.

Applied to the sciences of, to give two real examples, exo-planetary exploration and paleobotany, everyone can see that it might be a helpful stimulus to the jaded imagination. The same goes for the invaluable help it can offer to the artist. Here, though, there is a difference. Much art is crazy, much sideways thinking goes on. You might think art does not need 'Pataphysics. Nothing could be further from the truth. As Bosse de Nage, baboon and fictional assistant to the equally fictional yet unmovable Curator, Dr. Faustroll, says (and can, or will, only say): "ha ha". This tautology, when examined deeply enough, can not only be seen as an answer to life, the universe and everything, but as a guiding principle to the art made by, with, or despite 'Pataphysics. One "ha" would be too few, and "ha ha ha" far too many. "Ha ha" would be just right, except that to say the same thing twice might be thought redundant. Yet does a farmer plant only one seed? Is there only one Queen of England? Oh, in fact, yes, there is. What I said before must be wrong.

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