

THE RUTHLESS REVENANT

Scene:

On a snow covered mountain. Remains of a crashed plane is in the background, as two persons, A and B, in large coats stand in centre stage arguing. On stage left lies an unconscious person, C.

A: Hey, do you think C will survive his wound?

B: Not too sure, he looks like he's almost out.

A: We've been out of food for a couple of days now, even if we survive starvation... with a wound like that C needs food to recover.

B: Well... I don't think he'll make it.

A: What are we gonna do?

B: Yeah, what now?

A: *(grabs hair with both hands)* We can't even guarantee our own survival!

B: *(secretively)* Well, what if... C solves our problem for us?

A: But he's dying! He's in a far serious "problem" than our "problem"!

B: That's what I'm saying. *His* problem is he can't be saved. So he can solve ours. We just need food.

A: Exactly, we just need food! How is that- oh... wait... what? What, are you implying tha-

B: Yes I am. *(pointing to the C lying on stage left)* Here's the food.

A: *(shocked)* You're joking.

B: Why not?

A: *(in shock and quivering)* What do you mean? Isn't that... like... cannibalism?

B: *(grinning)* Yes, exactly like cannibalism.

A: *(hesitantly)* But... I'm a utilitarian... I don't believe that we should eat that man even if it means... *(melodramatically)* our survival!

B: *(chuckles mirthfully)* Oh! But even if we don't kill and eat him right now, he's going to die of his wounds in a few days anyway... C'mon it makes zero difference if we kill and eat him now.

A: I believe that if we kill and eat that poor man it will create far more misery than happiness in this world!

B: A utilitarian *could* argue that by ensuring our survival there'd be more happiness than misery in the world.

A: You're a utilitarian?

B: Let's say I am.

A: As a utilitarian surely you will believe that killing a fellow human will create misery rather than happiness!

B: Aha! But the misery created for our fellow *human* here (*glances pitifully at C*) is far less than the happiness created... Our happiness!

A: (*frustrated*) But C is our friend!

B: What has that got to do with happiness? His unit of misery is the same as any living being.

A: (*increasingly frustrated*) But B, what if he doesn't want to die this way? Doesn't he have the right to say "no, I don't want to be murdered"?

B: Oh c'mon we need set aside our morally relativistic viewpoints and think about our own lives right now! C couldn't feel that much pain anyway, he is half delirious from his wound.

A: (*with anger*) Ok... even if he can't feel the pain from murder... eating meat is wrong! I can't believe you would ask me to kill and eat one of our friends when you know I'm a vegan!

B: (*groans*) Oh no, not again! I can understand you only eat the airline vegetarian meals... But now your life is at stake!

A: Do you really think arguing that C feels no difference suffering from his wound and a murder will convince me to change my vegan ways?

B: (*composed*) But C lived a good life to the very end... He fulfilled all of his dreams and goals. I don't think he will mind if we kill and eat him now since his life is coming to an end anyway.

A: (*doubtful*) You sound like you're trying to convince me to eat meat.

B: Isn't it the same?

A: Wait, are we arguing whether we should eat meat or whether we should eat C?

B: But I've already shown you C is no more than meat!

A: If that is the case... then if help doesn't arrive... wouldn't we all become no more than meat?

B: Well, may the best man survive.

A stands still in silence for a long while. A's stomach lets out a loud growl.

A: May the best man survive.

B picks up an axe and moves towards C lying on stage left... Stage lights dim.

The End.