

Did Oscar Wilde in 1888, accidentally channel Trump 135 years in the future?

By Wayne Visser

Let me explain ...

Last night, I was reading one of Oscar Wilde's fairy stories called The Remarkable Rocket. It's a tale about a boastful firework ("Rocket") who thinks he is superior to all other fireworks. Spoiler alert: he turns out to be a damp squib who fails to ignite at the Prince and Princess's wedding, so he is discarded into a mud ditch, still under the delusion that he is the best firework ever. The weird thing was that, when I was reading Rocket's boasts, I couldn't help but hear an echo of Trump's voice. Here is a sample of extracts. See what you think:

Extract 1: [Rocket] "With me it is different. I am a very remarkable Rocket, and come of remarkable parents ..."

Extract 2: [Rocket] "What was I saying?" [Roman Candle] "You were talking about yourself." [Rocket] "Of course, I knew I was discussing some interesting subject when I was so rudely interrupted. I hate rudeness and bad manners of every kind, for I am extremely sensitive. No one in the whole world is so sensitive as I am, I am quite sure of that. ..."

Extract 3: [Rocket] "What are you laughing at? I am not laughing." [Cracker] "I am laughing because I am happy." [Rocket] "That is a very selfish reason. What right have you to be happy? You should be thinking about others. In fact, you should be thinking about me. I am always thinking about myself, and I expect everybody else to do the same. ..."

Extract 4: [Bengal Light] "That is only common sense." [Rocket] "Common sense, indeed! You forget I am very uncommon, and very remarkable. Why, anyone can have common sense, provided they have no imagination. But I have imagination, for I never think of things as they really are; I always think of them as being quite different. ..."

Extract 5: [Rocket] "The only thing that sustains one through life is the consciousness of the immense inferiority of everybody else, and this is a feeling I have always cultivated. ..."

Extract 6: [Rocket] "You are a very irritating person and very ill-bred. I hate people who talk about themselves, as you do, when one wants to talk about oneself, as I do. It is what I call selfishness, and selfishness is a most detestable thing, especially to anyone of my temperament, for I am well known for my sympathetic nature. In fact, you take example by me: you could not possibly have a better model. ..."

Extract 7: [Duck] "I don't think much of that as I cannot see what use it is to anyone."
[Rocket] My good creature, I see that you belong to the lower orders. A person of my position is never useful. We have certain accomplishments, and that is more than sufficient. I have no sympathy myself with industry of any kind ... Indeed, I have always been of opinion that hard work is simply the refuge of people who have nothing whatever to do. ..."

Maybe we should start calling Trump "The Rocket" (Elon Musk would be pleased). This is just a bit of fun. But is there truth in jest?

Source:

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