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Aristotle And The Paradox Of Tragedy

John Morreall
St. John Fisher College

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"The paradox tragedy in simple terms may be stated thus: human misery is repulsive to us in real life, yet it somehow pleases us in tragedy. Indeed, tragedy is considered by many to be man's highest art form, and to classify a play as a tragedy is to predicate value of it. Why do we get pleasure from reading or watching drama in which our fellow human beings are portrayed as suffering? If anyone would object that we do not take *pleasure* in tragedy as in a sizzling steak, let him substitute some other word. Why do we receive *satisfaction* from tragedy, or why do we *want* to see tragedy?"

Cover Page Footnote

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