

THIS IS A BLANK PIECE OF PAPER, on which can be written anything. This is both the joy and the terror of writing, the source of possibility but yet also the infamous “curse of the blank page” of which writers speak. On this page may be written grand visions or bitter curses. It is up to you. This page is your assistant: it yields and suggests, provides both opportunities and limits. You can write anything on it, but only so much. At once this page seems less vast, less imposing, in fact your time is running out with every letter you write. The page, the duty, immediately becomes terrifying in the opposite direction. “How much more can I write before I disappear from the page, my words exhausted?” But do not give in to the terror of possibility or limit! Walk the tightrope of your creativity. Do not become distracted and fall to the floor very far below as the audience gasps at your feat of focus. You will make it, as long as you concentrate on the prize: the arrival at the end of your tale intact. The only danger is that of losing your way. This is, of course, the worst of all dangers, not to be mocked. Lives have been lost over this issue . . . when focus has been lost . . . where was I? Oh, yes: first find, then pursue rigidly, mercilessly, your vision. Do not sacrifice it for any reason, any person, any cause. Only your vision must survive if you are to survive. If you sacrifice your vision you will suffer the fate of a living death, walking the streets undead, incomplete until you resuscitate your vision. That is another beauty: your vision cannot die as long as you live to preserve it. It is never too late. Remember this, no matter how bleak your circumstance. You can make it right. The blank page may mock you, but you have the pen, and the mocking page fears you. You will defeat it, with your vision. Apply it now!