



Hotel "Chez Pierre"

This document is a cartoon. The scene takes place in a dead-end street of what appears to be a very poor district of a big city, probably Paris, given the name of the hotel.

In the distance we can see factory chimneys belching a black smoke and in the background are some old buildings looking like slums, as well as wooden scaffoldings.

In the foreground, on the right, we can notice a group of tourist just getting out of the bus parked in this cul-de-sac. The driver is still unloading the luggage from the roof rack. Nothing can tell where these tourists are from but they all seem to be wealthy, well dressed and well fed. They're all startled and stunned at the sight of the hotel they've booked in while some other ones rejoin the group.

On the left of the picture, we can see the hotel called "Chez Pierre". In the entrance, three people are welcoming the group: a sleeping waiter, a fat lady who could be the landlady and a fat man with open arms and an apron on who looks like the manager of the place, undoubtedly M. Pierre. They have rolled out a worn red carpet for their guests.

A little behind, we can spot a group of four people (two women and two children) near an old car and an old TV set on the pavement. They're looking at this unusual scene in their district.

At the front of the picture, on the left, three emaciated and starving dogs are searching an old rubbish bag while on the left five skinny little children dressed in rags are observing the whole scene, talking to each other.

The funny side of the situation is the contrast shown between the group of holiday-makers and the inhabitants of the district. On one hand, the tourists are all well fed and dressed with vibrant coloured cloths, they all look clean and rich while on the other hand, the people of the district look miserable, starving and poor. Every detail in the setting shows the extreme poverty and the misery in which those people live.

The cartoonist wants to point to the problem of certain package holidays. Some tour operators do not hesitate to organise very cheap trips with the sole aim in earning money. In these situations, the tourist are very often discovering problems in the organization of their stay, whether for accommodation and lodging, catering, transports or fares.

I very much like this cartoon because of its composition and the contrasts shown. There seems to be a spot light on the group of tourists as if to say that they stand out clearly against the setting. We may assume that these people are not going to stay in this hotel which was not exactly what they had been expecting and they will probably contact their tour operator to demand a quick change in the accommodation. But they will have to act fast because the bus driver seems to be in a great hurry to leave this place.