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## EXTERMINATING ANGEL)

A dream essay on petty folly and repressed eroticism. "I have not introduced a single symbol," declares Bunuel. Ostensibly about a group of bourgeoisie and aristocrats who become chaotic when they discover that they mysteriously cannot leave a dinner party,

The Exterminating Angel is rightly considered to be one of Bunuel's peak achievements. When pressed for an explanation of the films "symbolism," Bunuel replied: "People always want an explanation for everything. It's the logical result of centuries of bourgeois education. And when they can't explain something, they end up by turning to God. But what good does that do them? They then have to explain God. As for myself, I simply cannot change the way I am. I have not been blessed with the faith. I'm afraid that a life that includes ambiguities and contradictions interests me. Mystery is beautiful. I can't see anything wrong in dying and disappearing from the face of the earth. The idea that I might be eternal fills me with horror. For example, if my best friend, who died a long time ago, appeared before me and touched my ear with his fingers and immediately set fire to it, even then I wouldn't believe that he had just come from Hell. Nor would I have any greater belief in God, or in the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin; nor would I think that the Virgin could help me pass my exams. I would simply say to myself: 'Luis, look, this is just another mystery that you can't understand.'"