Word of the Day for Toastmasters everywhere

Friday 5th January 2024 - Contributed by at easy-Speak.org

tisible
risible
risible
(adjective) RIZ-i-bul

Ludicrous, able or inclined to laugh.

The chances of any of her acquaintance passing at this moment and noting that she, Phoebe Petherington, was entering the evil portals of a private hospital, were, she admitted, so small as to be risible, but that did not allay her shame.

Sara Maitland, *Three Times Table*.

Younger audiences were apt to believe that Fletcher started his Odd Odes on Esther Rantzen's That's Life when, wearing a too elegant, green satin smoking jacket and sitting in a deep armchair as if it were a throne, he declaimed them to an audience of millions, getting further laughs by reading snippets of the more risible misprints and other gaffes in newspapers.


The point made, again and irrefutably again, whether in discussing Bush's sickening exploitation of the Terri Schiavo case, the smears directed at John Kerry or the risible bullshit dreamed up to excuse the invasion of Iraq, is that America is being run by a gang of near-criminal hypocrites who, if not stopped, will do incalculable, possibly terminal harm to civilised society and, indeed, the world.


Tertuliano Maximo Afonso is the novel's protagonist. A character burdened with such a risible name (which, we are told in the opening line, has "a classical flavor that time has staled") is bound to be made the butt of misfortune, and so it will prove.