

Rosencrantz (Guildenstern)

Ros. Do you ever think of yourself as actually *dead*, lying in a box with a lid on it.

Guil. No.

Ros. Nor do I, really.... It's silly to be depressed by it. I mean one thinks of it like being *alive* in a box, one keeps forgetting to take into account the fact that one is *dead*... which should make all the difference... shouldn't it? I mean, you'd never *know* you were in a box, would you? It would be just like being *asleep* in a box. Not that I'd like to sleep in a box, mind you, not without any air—you'd wake up dead, for a start, and then where would you be? Apart from inside a box. That's the bit I don't like, frankly. That's why I don't think about it.

Because you'd be helpless, wouldn't you? Stuffed in a box like that, I mean you'd be in there for ever. Even taking into account that you're dead, it isn't a pleasant thought. *Especially* if you're dead, really... *ask* yourself, if I asked you straight off— I'm going to stuff you in this box now, would you rather be alive or dead? Naturally, you'd prefer to be alive. Life in a box is better than no life at all. I expect. You'd have chance at least. You could lie there thinking—well, at least I'm not dead. In a minute someone's going to bang on the lid and tell me to come out.

(*Banging on the floor with his fists.*) "Hey you, whatsyername! Come out of there!"