

Gullibility and Medicine: Insights from Moliere

By: Sean

Humans are very gullible creatures who like to blame unfortunate events on others ... and demand easy cures from doctors. In *A Doctor in Spite of Himself* by Moliere, people are easily convinced that Sganarelle is a real doctor, Geronte wants Sganaralle to cure his daughter for him and Geronte blames nature and life for a problem caused by himself.

Geronte's daughter, Lucinda, could not speak so Lucas and Valere, his servants, were sent on a quest to find a cure. They met Martine, Sganaralle's wife, and she lied to them by claiming that her husband is a doctor and could revive the dead. Lucas and Valere believed her, and forced Sganaralle to help Geronte cure his daughter. When he was told multiple times that he was a doctor, he believed what they were telling him. This proves that Geronte, Lucas, Valere and Sganarelle are all gullible people. In the real world, there are many gullible people as well. For example, Bill Gates has no medical training at all and yet represents the WHO and gives medical advice to governments around the world. Surprisingly, people believe and support him. This proves that *A Doctor in Spite of Himself* is very relevant.

Geronte could have avoided the scam, but he was too lazy and careless. For example, he didn't even do any research about his daughter's sickness. He sought easy medical solutions like relying on Sganarelle, a fake doctor, to cure his daughter. Geronte didn't ask for any evidence that can prove that Sganarelle was a real doctor either. This allowed Sganarelle to scam Geronte's money. Similarly, in the real world, instead of doing any research on COVID-19, people wear masks instead. They believe that this prevents people from spreading the disease, because this is an easy solution to the problem. The government tells everyone that masks and social distancing are solutions to the virus, and so many believe them because they are gullible..

Geronte didn't want to take any responsibility for Lucinda's "sickness", so he decided to blame it on nature. In reality, Lucinda couldn't speak because her father wouldn't let her marry the man she wanted to. Instead of reflecting on himself, Geronte decided to blame life for giving his daughter the disease. The truth is, humans like to blame their unfortunate events on others. For example, no one claims to be responsible for the coronavirus. People decided to blame this virus on nature, other people and other countries. There are so many accusations and rumours that no one can be certain how the virus was created. In the past, this has also happened to other diseases.

People always want to take the easy path; they blame their problems on others and never take any responsibility for their actions and furthermore, they are extremely gullible. There are gullible people who like to blame others and seek easy solutions in both the book and in real life. I think that *A Doctor In Spite of Himself* perfectly describes people in the current situation.