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THE
NAPOLEON
OF
NOTTING
HILL

G.K. Chesterton

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CHESTERTON

The Napoleon of Notting Hill

by G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

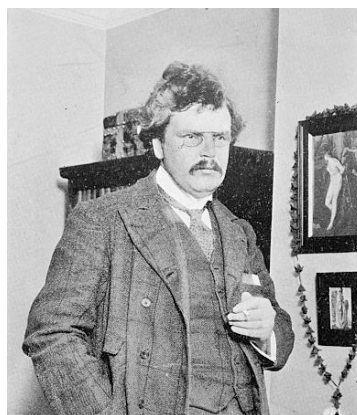
Published in 1904, *The Napoleon of Notting Hill* is set in a nearly-unchanged London in 1984. Though the novel deals with the future, it concentrates not on technology nor on totalitarian government but on a government where no one cares what happens.

The dreary succession of randomly selected Kings of England is broken up when Auberon Quin, who cares for nothing but a good joke, is chosen. To amuse himself, he institutes elaborate costumes for the provosts of the districts of London. All are bored by the King's antics except for one earnest young man who takes the cry for regional pride seriously – Adam Wayne, the eponymous Napoleon of Notting Hill.

While the novel is humorous, it is also an adventure story: Chesterton is not afraid to let blood be drawn in his battles, fought with sword and halberd in the London streets, and Wayne thinks up a few ingenious strategies; and, finally, the novel is philosophical, considering the value of one man's actions and the virtue of respect for one's enemies. (Wikipedia)

Total running time: 5:56:47
Read by Ray Clare

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Illustration by W. Graham Robertson,
"King Auberon descended from the omnibus
with dignity", from the first edition.



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