

PLASTIC MAN

The most famous plastic man was Michael Jackson, the only black — oops, I mean "Afro-American"—, handsome male who managed to turn himself into a white — oops, I mean "Caucasian-type" — ugly female. (S)he gave me the creeps (what the f... did he do with his *nose?*). Was anything "human" left in the spooky figure that sneaked from his hideout to hotels worldwide? The performer was a genius but where was the *man*?

Well, the American icon had a fierce contender, another Plastic Man who is still with us today. Dead as Jackson. Dead for 90 years, lying in his mausoleum, but kept as if asleep.

Lenin.

The empty corpse lies there underground, in semi-darkness, a pale yellowish mummy that millions have visited since 1924. In the 1950s, the wait could last hours. Once inside the mausoleum, armed guards would briskly nudge you along, commanding utter silence, making sure no one lingered around the Holy Father of the Revolution. If one wished to stand there and pay tribute or have a closer look at the body, they would firmly be ushered out.

In 2014 nothing had changed (save the guards, who no longer carry guns) : "shshsh!" is the rule... in case human voice would wake the puppet up. And you are clearly required to stride on towards the exit. Is it because hundreds are queuing outside — or because examining the mummified face is considered morbid curiosity — or because no chance can be taken in having some Red-hater attempt some insulting or damaging gesture towards the glass coffin?

What's left of the legend is only about 10% of the whole man. The brain was taken out and chopped in hope of finding the spot that would explain his political genius. The bowels have long been sucked out as well. Here we are, with a fragment of human body dumped in polymer paraffin every 6 weeks and getting a face-wash with a secretly kept preservative solution every Friday to prevent Vladimir Illitch from becoming moldy.

And you wonder : is this a "religious" compound or a sheer touristic attraction? If Red Square's stuffed figure is a devotion object, then why rush the visitors through? If it is a tourist trap, then why shush the visitors as if they were idling through a cathedral?

When the last Soviet freaks will be gone, will the new generation care about Lenin? Do they already care? I doubt it. So, you know what should be done?

Bury the remains — that cost the Russian nation 300,000 dollars a year in "maintenance" — as Lenin himself and his widow and many others wished.

Dump the carcass !