



Albert Camus

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“You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life.”

Background

- Born on November 7, 1913 in Mondovi, French Algeria
- His Father died during WWI
- Grew up in the neighborhood of Belcourt in Algiers
- He began school in 1923
- He was an enthusiastic and bright student, and his teacher encouraged him to seek the scholarship that allowed him to go to high school
- Camus caught tuberculosis in 1930 and was unable to return to school. He also had to move out of his apartment for fear of him infecting his brother. Instead, he moved in with his aunt and uncle.
- Enrolled at the University of Algiers in 1933
- Studied for two diplomas and received an honorable mention in History of Philosophy and Logic in 1935



Spiritual beliefs

What started as a young man brought up under the faith of strong Catholicism, soon turned into what is referred to as a “naive atheist”. This transition could have something to do with being raised under harsh poverty with no father. Or many factors such as acquiring tuberculosis, being apart of the communist party for a brief amount of time, or living as an outsider in a muslim community. He claimed to be an atheist until after Fascism, Stalinism, and Hitlerism where he “matured” in his philosophy and recognized as an unbeliever. He tolerates the belief of other religions, and respects them but does not believe they are true. He does not pity nor sympathize with believers, he is essentially a neutral pessimist. Although a lot of his work has spiritual references, he thinks that we “are trying to rationalize an irrational universe.” This is evident when he says, “We turn toward God only to obtain the impossible.”

What fueled his belief?

Although he studied the bible and was raised as a Catholic, Camus showed no belief in supernatural. This was pushed by studying Kierkegaard which influenced his pessimism and atheism. Other people that influenced him were Spinoza, Melville, Kafka, Descartes, Bergson, and Stendhal. Although he was very unlike Sartre because he didn't claim to be an existentialist.



Camus Existential POV

- Denied that he was an existentialist despite him being labeled as such
- Had an intense interest in the active human psyche
- Had a personal commitment to values of individualism, free choice, inner strength, authenticity, personal responsibility, and self determination
- He believed that a true existentialist had to commit to the entire doctrine of existentialism, and he was unwilling to do so.



Camus Ethical POV

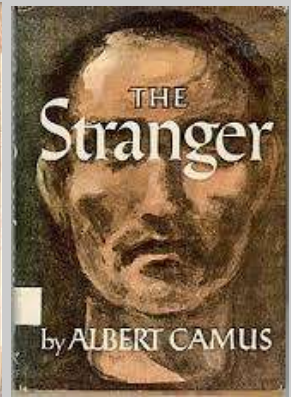
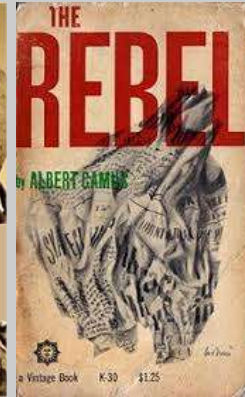
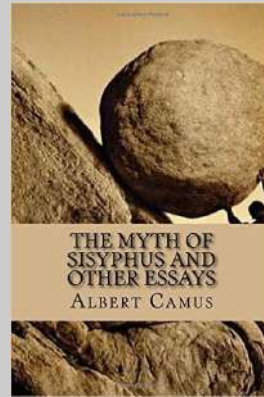
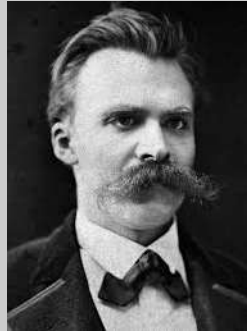
“I was born poor and without religion, under a happy sky, feeling harmony, not hostility, in nature. I began not by feeling torn, but in plenitude.”

-Albert Camus believed that everyone has to find what they want in life on their own. He thought that we'll find this by a leap of faith, putting all of our faith in God, or by coming to the conclusion that life is meaningless. We just have to find our way through life on our own.



Philosophers influence on Camus

Writers such as Pascal, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche inspired Camus in regards to their writing style. Camus writing style was very simple but also concise and specific. He followed the writing style of Kierkegaard and Nietzsche when he wrote *The Myth of Sisyphus*, *The Rebel* and *The Stranger*. It is believed the Camus would have kept in the tracks of them if his Tuberculosis hadn't caused him to focus more on fiction and journalism.



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