

MEURSAULT IN ‘THE FOREIGNER’-VICTIM OF THE TRAGIC HUMAN FATE IN A HYPOCRITICAL SOCIETY NOT ABLE TO INTERPRET THE TRUTH

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Abstract

Anything is permissible in the world of absurdity. This is the world presented by Camus in his novel “the foreigner”, the feeling of loneliness brought about by this world , “disgusting “,superficial, artificial and stifled in convention, still remains equally unfamiliar for today’s readers. This approach to universal direction is evident in this novel. Meursault can be literally regarded as” romantic existentialist” a character typology unknown earlier in literature, and therefore innovative and self-sufficient. Its actions and conduct, seemingly paradoxical, in fact signify the opposite standpoint of two different ways of thinking: the freedom of individual self-expression and social self restraint imposed by historical anachronism and beyond. The confrontation of the common man with the society, which catalogues and engulfs violently rigid rules for every individual. This “strange “individual in the eyes of the world had violated some unwritten norms, immortalized in traditional moral codes. Meursault is accused of insensitivity to his mother’s death as he had not wept, as if he had been pleased for his mother to have died although Meursault had aimlessly killed a man by the seashore. The absurdity of this suing him did not have to do with Meursault’s condition for murder, but with his conviction for lack of love for his mother. The tiring slander of such a society castrated by social anachronism seems to brainwash Meursault. Such a mechanism of thinking under pressure reveals the manipulation of mind as well as the profound human alienation. The Sun of Alger shines upon our hero’s acts. This source of life in the “Foreigner”, is nothing but a lot spring of emotions which Meursault can’t with stand. The semantic overlaps that the symbol obtains in this case are an expression of the author’s thriving artistic thinking. The dimension of such a figure goes further. Camus builds up a metaphorical temple, the Sun escalating up to humane madness. The symbolic Sun renders Meursault conscious, as the life rules cannot be changed. When Meursault realize this, the motif of the Sun has already waned, but his blind Sun in the human image makes man chase after life, love.

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