

5504640896

Onnalin Kajornklam

Albert Camus

Word count: 1234

What would the kids be like when their childhoods are surrounded by such miserable distresses? Albert Camus, an Algerian boy, was one of those who had been through a lot of tragedies for his whole life. His father died before he had a chance to know him which is when he was just at age of one due to the war of Marne, the first war at Marne River in France during the World War I.¹ His mother, later, moved their little family which consisted of Camus, his mother, his brother Lucien and his selfish grandmother who kept complaining of his mother to the Belcourt district which was a working-class area.² It seemed like just growing up saw this annoyingly painful conflict everyday was not enough, his childhood was also suffered by extremely poverty. Yet, Camus was a good clever kid who had no clue how big the impact of his work would be. And through his works, Albert Camus has caused the first time awareness of the perspective on what is right or wrong should really be.

Throughout his life, Albert Camus had been using his incredible writing talent to do a lot of things. His early interests in politics were initiated from discussing about social problems in his age within his small group of friends. The Algeria, at that time, was colonized by France which brought about the oppression of Arabs who were truly

¹ BBC officers. "Battle of the Marne: 6-10 September 1914." *BBC News*. 5 Sep 2012.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/battle_marne.shtml>

² Bree, Germaine. *Albert Camus*. 1964. p.5.

native Algerians.³ As graduated in philosophy field, Albert Camus seemed to see those kinds of circumstances and realized what was right or wrong through the eyes of the philosopher. His first salaried employment was in a journalist field. In October 1938, He worked for a recent left-wing newspaper in Algeria at that time, Alger républicain.⁴ Working there gave him a number of political opportunities. Since Alger républicain was a mightily anti-colonialism newspaper, Albert Camus reflected his compassion resulted from his childhood for the oppressed poor. Moreover, He also had an opportunity to write a political forum where he had his political opinions broadcasted publicly. Regardless of what his society had been told to be by French, he wrote against social obvious injustices about discrimination against Arabs who was put under-industrialized and, therefore, stravingly unemployed.⁵ Not just his journalism works that showed how much he cared about social politically, but also his play, *Révolte dans les Asturies* inspired by Spanish revolutionary, that presented his view. Even, sadly, *Révolte dans les Asturies* was not banned for political reasons of French authorities in Algeria, it was published as ‘*essai de creation collective*’ (an attempt at collective creation).⁶ Nevertheless, *Révolte dans les Asturies* was not an only work of his that was banned; he was also blacklisted from any kind of works in Algeria owing to the politics and maybe because Camus opposed to government too apparently much.⁷ And the paper was closed down respectively in 1939. However, the political barriers could not prevent him from pointing out the justice and standing up against the unfair violence in society. During the World War II, Albert Camus had no choices but moving to Paris. Albert Camus finally came back to Algeria in 1941 and

³ Thody, Philip. *Modern Noverlist Albert Camus*. 1989. p.2-17

⁴ Imagi-nation writers. “Albert Camus.” *Imagi-nation.com*. 7 Sep 2012. <<http://www.imagi-nation.com/moonstruck/clsc40.html>>

⁵ Cruickshank, John. “Albert Camus.” *SCCS, Swarthmore College Computer Society*. 7 Sep 2012. <<http://www.sccs.swarthmore.edu/users/00/pwillen1/lit/indexa.htm>>

⁶ Thody, Philip. *Modern Noverlist Albert Camus*. 1989. p.4-5

⁷ Todd, Olivier. *Albert Camus: a life*. 1999. p.11-25

his motivation in political activities never left him. He joined French resistance newspaper *Combat* in 1943 as a, again, journalist.⁸ Writing many articles criticizing French policies was quite an indication that he, by then, completely resisted communism. Although there was finally liberation of Algeria from France, There still were inequitable legal policies.⁹ All of the previous political contributions combine with the fact that even during the time he had been attacked from the serious illness, Albert Camus still fought for the justice in society continuously through his works ,such as protesting the prohibition of working in East Berlin, calling for the truce in Algeria and appealing to the French government to release Algerian liberal nationalists who were arrested implied that he was not afraid to do anything out of frame that most people considered to be a wrong thing.¹⁰ And all of those his actions were partly affected by the absurd theory that played a significant role on his other work.

It was at his age of seventeen that the tuberculosis attacked Albert Camus for the first time and it was so severe that he had a year of school break.¹¹ That was the cause of his first confrontation with death which was one of the stimulations, which caused him to think about starting to write, apart from indifference of his mother and the isolation resulted from his family. Since he was just a little boy, Albert Camus found physical pleasures such as playing soccer and swimming are the way to escape from all those ill environments.¹² The combination of those stimulations reflected and had such obvious impact on many of his major works. Furthermore, they could even

⁸ Thody, Philip. *Modern Noverlist Albert Camus*. 1989. p.6-10

⁹ Globalsecurity contributors. "Algerian National Liberation." *GlobalSecurity.org, Reliable Security Information* . 3 Sep 2012.

<<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/algeria.htm>>

¹⁰ Thody, Philip. *Modern Noverlist Albert Camus*. 1989. p.49-65

¹¹ Imagi-nation writers. "Albert Camus." *Imagi-nation.com*. 7 Sep 2012. <<http://www.imagi-nation.com/moonstruck/clsc40.html>>

¹² Petersen, Carol. *Albert Camus*. 1971. p.3-11

be the origin of his view about absurdity. Through his early collection of essays, such as *L'Envers et l'endroit* (The Two Sides of the Coin) and *Noces* (Nuptials) published in 1937 and 1938 respectively, were where the absurd was shown on his works for the first time but they did not mainly provide about absurd itself, rather about what their author has undergone.¹³ However, there were a lot of his works presented more about absurd after that. Many of them share one evident thing in common which is discussion about the unfair judgment. For example, The *L'Étranger*, the literature won the Nobel Prize in 1957, was the story about main character, Meursault whose actions were out of the acceptance of society based on traditional beliefs and he was judged to be wrong, as murdered an Arab, by his inappropriate manners and disposition rather than the fact that he killed someone and the plot even also implied the resistance of death penalty.¹⁴ Absurd through the aspect of Albert Camus indicated that the existential is meaningless without the physical pleasures due to the inevitable mortality. Discussing about his works, there were questions about that if life was so senseless, should we rather suicide? Albert Camus answered those questions philosophically through his later work such as *Le Mythe de Sisyphe* (*The Myth of Sisyphus*) and *The Myth* that we have to value the absurd in our lives otherwise our lives have no value.¹⁵ It is palpable that Albert Camus reminded the world of the value in oneself and that it also exists in others as well.

Not only just his works that impacted people, but also the works after that which his works have influences on. Even in Thailand, There is a quite famous novel called

¹³ New World Encyclopedia writers. "Albert Camus." *New World Encyclopedia*. 7 Sep 2012. <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Albert_Camus>

¹⁴ The Nobel Foundation. "The Nobel Prize in Literature 1957." *Nobelprize.org*. 13 Sep 2012. <http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1957/camus-bio.html>

¹⁵ Albert Camus. *The Plague, the Fall, Exile and the Kingdom, and Selected Essays*. 2004. p.1-696

The Judgment (คำพิพากษา) which is about the watchmen who lived with frantic stepmother after his father died.¹⁶ And the society judged him as an unreliable poor man who had a love affair with his stepmother. This story is just one of the evidences that how Albert Camus affected worldwide.

Albert Camus stood up against the injustices in his country and opposed to the unfair biases in his society toward Arabs. Moreover, he used his talents to spread out this idea through his works. He told us what he realized that life is nothing but the free time period and to live our lives judge the others based on our beliefs is wrong because everyone has their own beliefs. So that the world was reminded of what is right or wrong should really be by his absurd theory.

¹⁶ Wikipedia contributors. “คำพิพากษา(นวนิยาย).” *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. 7 Sep 2012. <[http://th.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E0%B8%84%E0%B8%B3%E0%B8%9E%E0%B8%B4%E0%B8%9E%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%A9%E0%B8%B2_\(%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%A7%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%B4%E0%B8%A2%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A2\)>](http://th.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E0%B8%84%E0%B8%B3%E0%B8%9E%E0%B8%B4%E0%B8%9E%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%A9%E0%B8%B2_(%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%A7%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%B4%E0%B8%A2%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A2)>)