



# ALBERT CAMUS AND THE MORAL EXILE OF BELIEF

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# OUTLINE FOR TODAY

- Camus—life, writings, and basic themes
- Camus and religious longing
- Camus and Christianity
- The moralist as artist
- Concluding comments and questions

# OPENING QUOTE

- “...there is only misfortune in not being loved; there is misery in not loving. All of us, today, are dying of this misery.” (Camus, “Return to Tipasa”)

# CAMUS—AN ALL-TOO-HUMAN LIFE

- Biography and key writings
- The absurd and rebellion
- Moral challenges



# CAMUS AND RELIGIOUS IMAGERY

- Exile and Alienation

- “In a universe suddenly divested of illusions and lights, man feels an alien, a stranger. His exile is without remedy, since he is deprived of the memory of a lost homeland or the hope of a promised land. This divorce between man and his life, the actor and his setting, is properly the feeling of absurdity.”

- Guilt

- From *The Fall*: “...puisque nous sommes tous juges, nous sommes tous coupables les uns devant les autres...” — “...since we are all judges, we are all guilty before one another...”.

# THE LONGING FOR FAITH AND INTEGRITY

- “I can negate everything of that part of me that lives on vague nostalgias, except this desire for unity, this longing to solve, this need for clarity and cohesion....I don’t know whether this world has a meaning that transcends it. But I know that I do not know that meaning and that it is impossible for me just now to know it....And these two certainties—my appetite for the absolute and for unity and the impossibility of reducing this world to a rational and reasonable principle—I also know that I cannot reconcile them. What other truth can I admit without lying, without bringing in a hope I lack and which means nothing within the limits of my condition?” (Camus, The Myth of Sisyphus, p. 38)

# THE RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE OF ETHICAL ACTION



“Seven Acts of Mercy” --  
Caravaggio

# CAMUS AND CHRISTIANITY

- “I shall never start from the supposition that Christian truth is illusory, but merely from the fact that I could not accept it.”
- “I share with you the same revulsion from evil. But I do not share your hope, and I continue to struggle against this universe in which children suffer and die.”
- “...I, and a few others, know what must be done, if not to reduce evil, at least not to add to it. Perhaps we cannot prevent this world from being a world in which children are tortured. But we can reduce the number of tortured children. And if you [Christians] don't help us, who else in the world can help us do this?”



# THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

[Airplanes were] “elements of modern negation and abstraction. There is no more nature; the deep gorge, true relief, the impassable mountain stream, everything disappears. There remains a diagram—a map. Man, in short, looks through the eyes of God. And he perceives then that God can have but an abstract view. This is not a good thing.” --Camus, Notebooks

The background is a solid teal color. In the corners, there are decorative white lines that resemble a circuit board or a network diagram, with lines connecting to small circles. In the top-left corner, there is a small yellow speech bubble icon.

# THE MORALIST AS ARTIST

- "Our great and glorious masterpiece is to live appropriately..."  
(Montaigne)
- Return to Tipasa

# SUMMARY

- “The designs of the universe are unknown to us, but we do know that to think with lucidity and to act with fairness is to aid those designs (which shall never be revealed to us).” --Jorge Luis Borges, “A Prayer”

The background is a dark teal gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns resembling circuit traces or neural network connections, with small circles at the end of the lines.

# COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS