

If Humanism involves structures, how does Camus “deconstruct” them in Part II?

- In prison he “deconstructs” the idea of imprisonment because he likes being there for the most part
- Later on, when he knows he will be executed, he is almost excited for it (which goes against the idea of it being a punishment)

an outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems.

Consider each of the following and provide a quotation where his narrator addresses each one, either directly or indirectly.

1. Legal/penal “I said I thought my case was pretty simple. He smiled and said, “Thats your opinion. But the law is the law”” page 63. In part two Meursault shows that he doesn't agree with the structure of the law. Although he is respectful and does what he is told by the authorities, he doesn't understand why the government makes situations so complicated.
2. Legal/financial/political- Meursault hadn't hired an attorney after being arrested saying “I admitted I hadn't (hired one) and inquired whether it was really necessary to have one...I thought my case was pretty simple” pg 63
3. Marital- Marie asks if Mersaut wants to get married and he says it doesn't matter to him and they can if she would like to. “i explained to her that it didn't really matter and that if she wanted to, we could get married” pg41
4. Familial- when Mersaut learns of his mother's death he seems very indifferent. "Maman died today. Or yesterday maybe, I don't know. I got a telegram from the home: 'Mother deceased. Funeral tomorrow. Faithfully yours.' That doesn't mean anything. Maybe it was yesterday" pg. 3
5. Filial “The director then said that I hadn't wanted to see Maman that I hadnt cried once, and that I had left right after the funeral without paying my last respects to her grave.” He doesn't feel bad for not crying even though he is her son and he should cry or at least have some sort of emotion.
6. Religious-The Chaplain “asked me if I believed in God. I said no. He sat down indignantly. He said it was impossible; all men believed in God, even those who turn their backs on him. That was his belief, and if he were ever to doubt it, his life would become meaningless. "Do you want my life to be meaningless?" He shouted. As far as I could see, it didn't have anything to do with me, and I told him so.” pg 69.... The Chaplain even tells him that all men sentenced to death turn to God, but he doesn't feel like he needs to at all.

7. Cultural/ethnic?-cultural prejudices

Referring to the man that Meursault killed as “the arab” instead of ever referring to him by name. Breaks up and divides society into racial groups.

“The prosecutor has his back half-turned to me, and without looking at me he stated that, with the court’s permission, he would like to know whether I had gone back to the spring by myself intending to kill the Arab” page 88.