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An Analysis Of Albert Camus' Vision Of The Absurd As Realised By John Green In Fault In Our Stars

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Abstract

This paper examines Albert Camus' vision of the absurd as reflected through John Green's character Augustus Waters in *The Fault in Our Stars*. The issue of the absurd, as exemplified by Albert Camus in his article *The Myth of Sisyphus* and by John Green in *The Fault in Our Stars*, has been conceptually analysed via the use of descriptive and qualitative methods. By putting together different pieces of literature, we can see that Augustus Waters is a great example of a modern man who struggles to find meaning in his life.

Keywords Absurdism, Theatre of the absurd, Myth of Sisyphus, *Fault in Our Stars*,

Introduction

John Green's *Fault in Our Stars* is a coming-of-age novel. It is a sensual romance between two cancer patients with an excellent narrative. The narrative reveals the fragility of life and the wisdom of death. Hazel Grace Lancaster, the novel's sixteen-year-old narrator, has thyroid cancer that has spread to her lungs, requiring her to carry an oxygen cylinder in order to breathe. A smart girl who constantly considers her existence she refers to herself as a grenade that might explode at any moment, so she must maintain a safe distance from others in order to limit casualties.

Augustus Waters, a seventeen-year-old with osteosarcoma, lost his leg. Augustus is equally nervous about his existence in the world, but his worry stems from a dread of forgetfulness after death. Augustus yearns to accomplish something heroic to avoid the dread of vanishing into nothingness. They find comfort in each other's affection. Augustus' love saves Hazel's soul, which was lost in the ocean of existence. At the same time, Augustus' courage and bravery are shown through his love for Hazel.

A philosophical concept that claims a separation between man and the world is absurd. The universe is illogical and chaotic, and man's search for a purpose in it is absurd. Despite the fact that there is no intrinsic purpose in the universe, man is always in search of it. "Man is confronted with the irrational." He has a longing for happiness and logic inside himself. "The absurd derives from the conflict between human yearning and the world's irrational stillness." Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*

Discovering the Absurd

Accordingly, Camus asserts the following principle: "Everything that is perishable desires to remain." This unquenchable need to persevere "This mortal and finite world in which time binds us." where everything is given and then taken away. "Love does not endure, nor does labour, nor does life." In his book, *L'Éte*, Camus indicates that man is an alien to unity. Life seems cohesive, but as soon as intelligence attempts to

comprehend it, it crumbles apart. "This world fractures and falls apart. One becomes aware of the infinity of glittering but perishable lights."

Augustus Waters is in remission; by having his leg removed, he has survived osteosarcoma. He is in the literal heart of Jesus in order to encourage people with his survival tale. As he states that he is on a roller coaster that only goes higher, his environment seems consistent and structured. He is courageous and desires to achieve something heroic like his namesake, the legendary King Augustus. He imagines himself leaping over a grenade to save lives while playing video games. However, as soon as he emerges from his ordeals, life strikes him with a relapse of cancer, and everything crumbles. the absurd

"Perishable things want to endure." Albert Camus, L'été

Camus refers to this stage as the "hour of consciousness," or the realisation of the meaninglessness and futility of existence. and acquiring understanding from it.

Camus says that the heroic thing about Sisyphus is that he knows it is pointless to keep rolling the boulder up the hill, but he does it anyway because he knows he must.

Similarly, Augustus recognises the absurdity of his circumstance and is aware of its repercussions. He is self-aware; he realises that his existence is pointless, that everything he tries is doomed to fail, and that, in the end, oblivion is inevitable. Nevertheless, he must also find some kind of self-validation; he must find a way to be satisfied with himself when his short, useless life is finished. Because this is all he has. This is his infinite. As some infinities are greater than others, he accepts that he has a limited amount of time left on earth, but he intends to make the most of it.

Embracing the Absurd

According to Camus, after having witnessed the absurdity of the world, one may make a decision among three viable answers. One may commit suicide, either bodily or intellectually, or one can preserve the absurd. Camus dismisses the first two options and promotes the third one. As he explains, "What fascinates me the most are not the discoveries of the absurd but their repercussions." If one is convinced of these facts, what must one infer in order to avoid evading anything? Is it essential to die deliberately or to stay on hoping in spite of everything? It is vital to find a solution that "Sisyphus' discovery of the absurd does not impair his ambitions." As the rock slides back down, he is eternally ready to roll it back up. "The effort alone towards the height is enough to fill a man's heart." One must imagine Sisyphus happy. " Albert Camus, The Myth of Sisyphus. It signifies that the act is not what is significant; it is the tenacity while completing the deed.

Similarly, Augustus is sustaining the absurd by not succumbing to the fears of the gloomy facts of life. He wants to accept the oddities of his existence and not deny himself "the simplest joys of living." He desires to be a super hero, a vigilante roaring through, righting wrongs, defending the vulnerable, saving the endangered. He wants to make an impact on this planet. "The stories of our adventures will live as long as the human voice itself." And even after that, when the machines recollect the human absurdity of sacrifice and compassion, they will remember humans." John Green, The Fault in Our Stars

Absurd And Revolt

"The final conclusion of absurd reasoning is the rejection of suicide and the maintenance of absurdity, despite the confrontation between man's questions and the silence of the world." Suicide would symbolise the conclusion of the conflict, and illogical reasoning contends that suicide would only be supported by contradicting its own premises. Such a judgement would constitute an escape or a rescue. Consequently, suicide resolves the ridiculous in its own manner by submitting it to death. To live in a state of resistance against absurdity, on the other hand, would be to pay the whole price of existence. Existence would regain its majesty if individuals were to live with clarity. Only through the game of consciousness can I turn what was a call to death into the rule of life, so I won't kill myself. Albert Camus, The Rebel

Camus believed that by committing suicide, one could not succumb to the meaninglessness and stillness of the universe. Suicide may signal the conclusion of the conflict between man's need for meaning and the stillness of the universe, but it is an escape from, not a solution to, the absurdity dilemma. On the other hand, with the help of consciousness, we must keep moving forward and fight against the world's stillness.

Augustus Waters, like Sisyphus, is a conscious creature rebelling against a universe that is mute and has no answers to his inquiries, revolting against time; and revolting against the atrocities imposed on him by the world. As his body succumbs to disease, he declares his love for Hazel: "I am in love with you, and I am not in the business of denying myself the simple joys of expressing the truth." I am in love with you, and I know that love is nothing more than a scream into the emptiness, that oblivion is inevitable, that we are all doomed, and that there will come a day when all our labour has been returned to death, and that the sun will consume the only earth we will ever have.

Conclusion

In light of Absurdism, the novel's author, John Green, highlights two major themes: factuality and mortality. The novel's main protagonists, Augustus Waters, is immersed in day-to-day life with their families. Cancer, discovers the purpose of his existence towards the conclusion of the book. He offers us wise life lessons such as: we should embrace the absurdities of life, and embark into the quench for happiness. Despite the defect in our stars, Augustus had a joyful life. Because we only have a limited amount of time, we should enjoy the simple pleasures of life while we can. "No matter how little time we have, there is always something to do. We may affect the lives of others and the society in which we live.

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