The Semi-Lucretian Camus

Abstract: Scholars have noted that Lucretius's *De Rerum Natura* influenced Albert Camus's philosophical ideas. Allusions to the *DRN*, which dot several of Camus's works, demonstrate this. Scholars have not sufficiently addressed, however, what this paper will argue: Camus ultimately believed that Lucretius's ideas were not universal enough for identifying the general feeling of insecurity and absurdity which he felt characterized the human experience.

In order to trace Camus's initial attraction to, and eventual distancing from, Lucretius's tenets, this paper will have a threefold objective: it will first provide a brief overview of the suffering in Camus's life that drew him toward Lucretius's text. Next, it will identify Camus's allusions to Lucretius by comparing excerpts from Camus's French writings to those of Lucretius's Latin poem. Finally, it will show why, despite these allusions, Camus did not fully embrace Lucretius's philosophy.

No audiovisual aids would be required for this presentation.

Selected Bibliography

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