

THE MAN FACE TO FACE WITH DEATH IN PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERALY TRADITION OF PLATONISM AND EXISTENTIALISM

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The urgency of the problems caused by the aggravation of metaphysical human needs related to adaptation in the world that has become more complicated. The circumstances of our time (such as virtualization and desacralization of culture and values, the rapid dynamics of social changes and the ultimate stress situation of contemporary historical choice) are the social and cultural background for questioning about death. Universality and inevitability of death is not a reason to ignore it. In contrast, only unraveling the knot, one can gain some confidence in the future and go to their final consciously and courageously.

The motive of death is not a new one for philosophy. Death was always referred as the main life event that helps to comprehend the sense of existence and to identify its content and direction. Philosophy has extensive experience in solving key problems of human, and if one could combine ancient wisdom with modern observations, it would be possible to synthesize a new approach to these eternal questions.

The aim of our work is to analyze the existential situation of "face-to-face with death" in terms of two literary and philosophical traditions - Platonism and existentialism of Albert Camus. In the first case the attitude to death is represented by Socrates as a character of Plato's dialogues "Apology of Socrates" and "Phaedon", in the second – by Meursault, Camus' character of "The Stranger".

Our selection of philosophical examples was determined by similarity of plot circumstances: in both cases the reason for meditation on death are trial and death sentence, in both cases the death of a character became the result of his own choice and life strategy; both Plato's and Camus' personas treated with a daring philosophical message to all of mankind, explaining their position and forcing everyone to thought.

In the concepts, that we have chosen, there were represented two approaches to the problem of death as an existential problem: the *heroic* and *absurd*. Fictional Socrates chose an approach that was mentioned as "heroic". In this case heroism refers to the ancient idea of freedom as human's confrontation to fate. Socrates in Plato's writings accepts his destiny and, at the same time, overcomes it. The thinker sees the positive meaning of death in liberation of soul. Death for him is not a fact but an act, that lets a wise man be free. Meursault, Camus' character, on the other hand, denies the sense of life and considers death to be both the apotheosis and the end of total absurdity. Border situation for him is a reason to make a reader accept his own finale and to leave him provocatively face to face with unanswered question.

Man of the XXI century lives in alternating states of sleeping routine and borderline situations. The only possibility to overcome the fear of death for him is to make his existence the subject matter of philosophical reflection and try to make sense of the fact of his mortality.