

cutting at my forehead...The scorching blade slashed at my eyelashes and stabbed at my stinging eyes...The trigger gave”.

By using the sun as a symbol outside of Meursault’s consciousness and a carrier violent power, Camus reduces Meursault’s role as a human to an irresponsible slave to his objective correlative. However, this attitude dominates Meursault only in the first part of the novel. Prior to imprisonment, Meursault is a slave to the heat of the sun and, in turn, he suffers. Although he never explicitly reveals a certain emotion, his attitude to the strength of the sun reveals the inner turmoil of his physicality. A moment before killing the Arab, Meursault reveals,

The sun was the same as it had been the day I’d buried Maman, and like then, my forehead especially was hurting me, all the veins in it throbbing under the skin. It was this burning, which I couldn’t stand anymore, that made me move forward.

For Meursault, the sun does not shine; it burns. His prescribed symbol defeats him. As he walks towards the Arab in order to get closer to the spring, and quench his thirst, the sun transforms him into a beast seeking his needs. Here, the sun acts as an symbol for Meursault’s lack of satisfaction, a symbol that results in the turmoil of his incapacity.