



Identifying the Absurd during the COVID-19 Pandemic through the Lens of Albert Camus' *The Plague*

Sneha Talwar

Abstract

In a situation put forward by the novel Coronavirus where the masses are forced to confront the vulnerability of their lives, *La Peste* or 'The Plague' by French philosopher Albert Camus, written in 1947, urges people to re-think their choices as a society and the safety measures taken by the authorities. The novel also issues warnings for its readers on one of the greatest flaw of humankind – unpreparedness – to take home and contemplate about. This paper, through a critique of the novel, establishes parallels between *The Plague's* events and the material and metaphysical problems we face as a society today. Moreover, this paper also explores Camus' philosophy of the Absurd and how, through its lens, one can identify and overcome the struggles of existence when a populist threat like the Coronavirus pandemic emerges.

Keywords: COVID-19, Coronavirus, Pandemic, The Absurd.