Dialectical Journal: *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus

Part 1, Chapter 2

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| Note Taking | Note Making |
| Meursault spends Saturday at the beach with Marie having a great time. When they are dressed Marie “seemed surprised to see I was wearing a black tie and she asked me if I was in mourning. I told her Maman had died. She wanted to know how long ago, so I said, ‘Yesterday.’ She gave a little start but didn’t say anything. I felt like telling her it wasn’t my fault, but I stopped myself because I remembered that I’d already said that to my boss. It didn’t mean anything. Besides, you always feel a little guilty” (20). |  |
| “I didn’t feel like having lunch at Celeste’s like I usually did because they’d be sure to ask questions and I don’t like that. I fixed myself some eggs and ate them out of the pan, without bread because I didn’t have any left and I didn’t feel like going downstairs to buy some” (21). |  |
| “It occurred to me that anyway one more Sunday was over, that Maman was buried now, that I was going back to work, and that, really, nothing had changed” (24). |  |
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Dialectical Journal: *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus

Part 1, Chapter 3

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| Note Taking | Note Making |
| Meursault’s boss “also wanted to know Maman’s age. I said, ‘About sixty,’ so as not to make a mistake” (25). |  |
| “Before leaving the office to go to lunch, I washed my hands. I really like doing this at lunchtime. I don’t enjoy it so much in the evening, because the roller towel you use is soaked through: one towel has to last all day. I mentioned it once to my boss. He told me he was sorry but it was really a minor detail” (25). |  |
| “Salamano, my neighbor…was with his dog. The two of them have been inseparable for eight years…After living together for so long, the two of them alone in one tiny room, they’ve ended up looking like each other…They look as if they belong to the same species, and yet they hate each other…You can see them in the rue de Lyon, the dog pulling the man along until old Salamano stumbles. Then he beats the dog and swears at it. The dog cowers and trails behind…Then they both stand there on the sidewalk and stare at each other, the dog in terror, the man in hatred” (26-27). |  |
| “My other neighbor came in. The word around the neighborhood is that he lives off women. But when you ask him what he does, he’s a ‘warehouse guard.’ Generally speaking, he’s not very popular. But he often talks to me and sometimes stops by my place for a minute, because I listen to him. I find what he has to say interesting. Besides, I don’t have any reason not to talk to him” (28). |  |
| Raymond Sintes describes a scene in which he beats another man bloody. “It’s not that I’m a bad guy, but I have a short fuse…I said to him, ‘I think you better stop right there or I’m gonna have to teach you a lesson.’ And he said, ‘You and who else?’ So I let him have it. He went down…His face was all bloody…So you see, I wasn’t the one who started it. He was asking for it” (29).  Meursault tells the reader, “It was true and I agreed” (29). |  |
| Raymond Sintes describes his treatment of his mistress when “it was clear that she was cheating on me…I told her: ‘You don’t realize that everybody’s jealous of how good you have it with me” (30-31).  Meursault narrates, “He’d beaten her till she bled. He’d never beaten her before. ‘I’d smack her around a little, but nice-like, you might say. She’d scream a little. I’d close the shutter and it always ended the same way. But this time it’s for real. And if you ask me, she still hasn’t gotten what she has coming” (31). |  |
| Meursault agrees to help Raymond write a cruel letter to his mistress: “I did it just as it came to me, but I tried my best to please Raymond because I didn’t have any reason not to please him” (32). |  |
| “Raymond told me not to let things get to me. At first I didn’t understand. Then he explained that he’d heard about Maman’s death but that it was one of those things that was bound to happen sooner or later. I thought so too” (33). |  |