Abstract: This paper discusses existential revolt in Albert Camus’s short story “The Renegade”, showing the stages that pushed the protagonist of the story to the rebellious edge where he was desperately searching for “a happy death” to add a meaning to all his sufferings and misfortune. We aim at examining the existential death wish as an escape from the world of meaninglessness in Camus’s fictional work. The Missionary in the story finds closure through death like a martyr who saved the savages from turning into “good people.” The story explicates the absurdity of religious faith by linking religion to suicide and death, and thus meaninglessness and suffering. The story, we argue, dramatizes Camus’s philosophical engagement with the question of death in terms of a rejection of philosophical death as religion, a rejection of physical death as suicide, and then an embrace of rebellion, revenge, and revolt leading to a happy death. This way, meaning is found not in religion as a leap of faith or in passive suicide but rather in a happy acceptance of suffering and destructive behavior as revolt against meaninglessness.

Keywords: Existentialism, Death Wish, Camus, "The Renegade", French Literature, Religion, Suicide, Revolt, Defiance

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