Journal entry 2/19/18

Zagreus is a character I can relate to, while I didn’t lose my legs I do understand loss. His views of embracing life and not regretting the past is something I aspire to. Mersault also understand loss but only in the temporal sense, which he made clear by saying “Now I know that acting and loving and suffering is living, of course, but it’s only insofar as you can be transparent and accept your fate…” I also connected with Zagreus when he said “I don’t like talking seriously. Because then there’s only one thing to talk about-the justification you can give for your life.” Its hard for me to hold serious conversation about any other subject because there is nothing more important. Politics and gun control are irrelevant compared to my personal motivations for continuing life and I don’t want to waste my life discussing something not worth my time. I don’t believe making money to be an entirely wasteful endeavor, which seems to be at odds with a fair number of philosophers. I do understand what Camus is driving at when he hints to the lack of access by some to money can eternally deprive them of any chance to escape the grasp of money. Zagreus tells mersault “Don’t think I’m saying that money makes happiness. I only mean that for a certain class of beings happiness is possible, provided they have time, and that having money is a way of being free of money.” I took that to mean that if you make enough money then and only then can you escape its necessity.

During our discussion I noted a classmate’s distain for the use of social media as a performance piece to show others how happy we are. While popular use of social media usually disheartens me, but I would argue that it’s a lack of immersion or embracing the moment. For me I have all the same tools as everyone else, but I live for the moment. This mentality allows me to live a fuller life but often blinds me to think of capturing the moment because I don’t want to waste it. I really think philosophers would have a hard time understanding why someone would waste a precious moment in time by taking a dozen or so selfies.