

The exchange between Dr. Rieux and Father Paneloux parallels the earlier exchange between Rieux and Rambert on pages 160-164. In that earlier exchange, the novel invites the reader to ponder the idea that there is no heroism in dying for an idea and that “common decency” might be enough of a rationalization to sacrifice for an idea.

The third paragraph on page 219, however, shifts the focus to another concept all together. According to Paneloux, the conclusions one should draw from the event in Oran, in 194-, revolves around the question of “grace”. What does this term mean in the context of this conversation and the assertion Paneloux is making?