

# The Theology of the Cross in Simone Weil

(An abstract)

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Simone Weil (1909–1943) developed her theology of the Cross out of her experience of the immense sufferings in Europe in the first half of the 20th century. She was a Marxist who fought against the dehumanization aspects of factory work. She was actively involved in the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War. These experiences convinced Weil that human sufferings cannot be explained exclusively on a secular basis. For her, the Christian faith is the faith *par excellence* of a suffering age.

Weil believed that God has abandoned the world to blind necessity in the act of creation. God has hidden himself from our world, so that it can have its autonomy. This abdication of divine power is an act of love. The Cross is the apex of divine abdication, where God submitted himself to the fate of blind necessity. Affliction, or extreme sufferings, is always a product of blind necessity. In affliction, we discover that our autonomy is only a mirage. If we persist in love, we shall also discover the presence of the Crucified God in our affliction. For Weil, only the presence of God can resolve the riddle of affliction.