

# 'Pacifying' Algeria

Jérôme Ferrari,  
*Où j'ai laissé mon âme* (2010) 2/2

FR325 Week 9

- Interview with Jérôme Ferrari
  - summarize and discuss key elements

# Note on Tahar and Degorce

- Tahar: Larbi Ben M'hidi (FLN chief captured February 1957 during Battle of Algiers)
- Tahar/Degorce: reference to Bulgakov epigraph (Pilate as fascinated by Christ figure)
  - ['Jérôme Ferrari : la torture en Algérie, métaphore du mal', an interview by Marie Chaudey](#) (*La Vie*, 19 August 2010)

# Formal features

- epigraph (Bulgakov, *The Master and Margarita*, 1967) – why?
- Introduction (Andreani) + 3 main sections over 3 days
- Biblical section references *but* no quotations
  - third day's epigraph embedded within the text: 'Je sais ce qu'il y a dans l'homme' (147)
- use of italicized parentheses?
  - note in particular during torture of Clément (147-50)
  - and in the non-dialogue with Jeanne-Marie (149)
  - the fragmentation of Degorce's voice and self

# Variability of narrative perspective

- no real exchange between Degorce and Andreani in this book
- communicational disjuncture: no single shared memory of the conflict?
- contrast narrating voices of Andreani and Degorce
  - irrational, nostalgic and emotional / cold, rational and ‘mathematical’?
  - are there other differences? which?

# Student presentation

Read Todorov's article and discuss in relation to key episodes or ideas from the text.

# Discussion questions

1. How effective a technique does the text suggest torture to be?
2. What are the effects of having tortured on (a) Degorce and (b) Andreani? How does the text stage a comparison between the two in this regard?
3. How do these two principal characters differ in the way they relate to family and friends?
4. Discuss the thematization of language, truth and lying in the text.
5. Consider the function(s) of religion and religious discourse in the text.
6. How do you account for the title?

# Screening of a short clip from:

Patrick Rotman, *L'Ennemi intime: violences dans  
la guerre d'Algérie*

(3-part TV documentary, 2002)