

***You said you were nurtured on Biblical texts. Did you have a Jewish education?***

No. I was brought up in a very assimilated family. Only late in my life was I was reborn, to Judaism. I believe one can be reborn several times in his life. At the age of 30, I started to acquaint myself with Jewish texts I had been unaware of in my youth. This was the fruit of a personal, adult, and philosophical reflection.

***Has Judaism influenced your literary work?***

Yes, of course, including in books that don't mention Judaism at all. The novel *The Last Days of Charles Baudelaire*, which was a romanticist fantasy about the French writer, exempt of any reference to Judaism or Jews, was a Jewish book, flooded with Jewish metaphysics.

***Could that be a step towards a more enriched Judaism?***

Since *The Testament of God*, reflection on Judaism has been a main theme in my work. But it's not the central thread. I hardly see myself making Judaism the heart of my thinking, especially because I am not sufficiently knowledgeable on the subject. The issues I address in France are far from focusing only on Israel or Judaism. I don't think I am perceived in France primarily as a *Jewish* intellectual, given the diversity of my preoccupations.

***Is it due to your faithful attachment to universalism?***

To universalism and to literature. A writer carries the nationality of his language. I write in French, therefore I am, above all, a French writer. ◆