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You deserve the lockdown, my brethren



Father Paneloux, a stockily built man of medium height, had a powerful, rather emotional delivery which carried to a great distance. In clear, emphatic tones, he launched forth at the congregation: "Calamity has come on you, my brethren, and, my brethren, you deserved it." There was a flutter that extended to the crowd massed in the rain outside. "If today the plague is in your midst," he continued, "it is because the hour has struck for taking thought. The just man need have no fear, but the evildoer has good cause to tremble." Unlike Father Paneloux, who is the moral authority of Albert Camus's *The Plague*, Col. Roman Prymula doesn't blame the congregation for the calamity. He does, though, blame it for the need for the wise-like cure. You aren't doing what we didn't ordain you to do, he tells his brethren, and the evildoers among you are causing everyone to suffer. As Father Paneloux himself died of the pestilence, he clutched the crucifix that protected him from the flail of God.

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