

## APPENDICES

### Synopsis of The dream of Scipio

The Dream of Scipio is a majestic, tri-partite, historical novel which introduces many philosophical values. The three major characters in this novel are Manlius Hippomanes, Olivier de Noyen and Julien Barneuve. Manlius is a 5<sup>th</sup> C Roman patrician living in the Provence who has studied with the wise, reclusive Sophia. He combines his understanding of her teaching with the Greek philosophies and his personal thoughts which is corrupted by the needs of his body; then, he writes his Neo-Platonism essay, The Dream of Scipio, which trades on an essay by the great Roman orator, Cicero. Sensing that his estate and properties is gravely threatened, he makes a pact with barbarians, sells out his neighbours, slays his adopted son, and becomes a bishop of Vaison (the Christian religion), which he has long despised. Late in this ruthless and doomed attempt to salvage what he values most in his world, Manlius is not satisfied with the result of his acts. He does not realize that his mind is corrupted by the shadows of the world or the needs of the body that is possession and physical comforts; consequently, his soul cannot see the reality of life because it is tainted with the shadows.

Olivier is an astonishingly gifted 14<sup>th</sup> century Provençal poet whose intolerant

father tries to stifle his love of philosophical words related to wisdom and humanity, among which is Manlius's "Dream"; his father destroys the manuscript, but Olivier recopies it from memory. When he was just fourteen years old, Olivier was taken on by Annibaldus di Ceccani, who is bent on keeping the papacy in Avignon. When Olivier knows that his patron, Ceccani, plans to destroy Jews as symbolic expiation for plague, widely construed to be a form of divine punishment. Olivier befriends a Jewish scholar and falls in love with his beautiful heretic servant called Rebecca. Later, The 'Dream' and the imprisonment of Rebecca lead Olivier to contemplate all philosophical words written by Manlius. It is told at the beginning of the story that Olivier is mutilated; his tongue and hands cut off to rob him of speech and writing. Actually, the torture that Olivier experiences is caused by his corrupted mind of the body. He loves Rebecca and he betrays his master, Ceccani, to save Rebecca's life. His love for Rebecca is pure but his betrayal to his master happens because his mind is tainted by the shadows of the world or evil thought.

Julien is a French historian who has studied the poet, Olivier, and the rendition of Manlius' manuscript. He finds solace in his erudition as his country falls to the Nazi occupation. An old school friend, Marcel, whose organization is against Bernard's, forces Julien to choose between saving Julia or Bernard, Julien's friend who is a member of the Resistance (a French organization whose aim's to rebel against German occupation). However, Julien chooses Julia; still, he loses her anyway, and commits suicide in desperate attempt to leave out Julia from his mind. In his case, Julien cannot see the reality that he is addicted to Julia. His love for Julia is

not wrong but his mind is poisoned by the shadows or evil thought when he thinks to exchange Bernard's life for Julia's safety.

### **Biography of Iain Pears**

Iain Pears was born in 1955. He was educated at Wadham College, Oxford, has worked as a journalist, an art historian and a television consultant in England, France, Italy and the United States. He is one of Francis Haskell's student who has written a doctoral thesis on interest in the arts in 18<sup>th</sup> C England. Pears is also the author of seven highly praised detective stories set in Italy featuring Jonathan Argyll, an art historian, and The Rome Art Theft Squad. Besides, Pears has also written countless articles on artistic, financial, and historical subjects. He edited The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and The Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes for Penguin Classics. In 1997 he published An Instance of the Fingerpost (an international bestseller) which is a multi-viewpoint historical novel set in Oxford in the 1660s. His other novels which have been published are The Portrait and this last one, The Dream of Scipio for which he received high praise when it was published in mid-2002. Today, Pears lives in Oxford with his wife, Ruth Harris.