

APPENDICES

Synopsis of V.S. Naipaul's A Bend in the River

The story is told by Salim, a Moslem Indian trader who immigrates to a small town at the bend in the great river of a newly independent African nation. Although he is an Indian, his family has been living in Africa for centuries. He comes to the town to start a new business by opening his own shop. The town at the bend in the river is more than half destroyed after the independence. Moreover, Salim does not know that he will be trapped in many troubles that will come to the town.

After the independence, the town becomes crowded. People from the village come to the town and they have their own activities, like trading, studying, and many more. Then, from the unknown outside of the town comes the rumour of a war. People in the region have to face many troubles. There is a tribal war which causes death among the Arabs, Africans, and the Europeans. The Africans start to kill everybody who gets involved in slave-hunting tribe. Besides, the town has to get another destruction. Liberation Army, which is established by African people from their own tribes, is against the new government, which is mostly dominated by the Europeans.

Then the new government decides not to involve European people in the new government. The Belgian president's adviser finally has to leave the domain house, which is once built by the president for his special people and state guests. The rebellion continually happens. There will be a big rebellion when the president comes to the town. But Salim leaves the town before the rebellion happens. Ferdinand, the native African who is from another tribe in Africa, gives a steamer ticket to him so that he can run away from the town that will be destroyed by the rebels.

Biography of V.S. Naipaul

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul was born in Chaguanas, Trinidad, on August 17, 1932. His Hindu grandfather immigrated there from West India as a servant and his father, Seepersad, was a journalist. Naipaul's family moved to Port of Spain, where he attended Queen's Royal College. Moreover, he travelled for long periods in India and Africa. It was a time of decolonization, when so many people had to find their own identity. On these travels, he explored the meaning of culture and history.

In 1948, he received a Trinidad government scholarship, which he used to study literature at University College, Oxford. After four years at Oxford, he began to write. Naipaul married an English woman, Patricia Ann Hale in 1955. Since then, they resided in Wiltshire England, travelling extensively and writing many critical novels, short stories, and essays. His wife died in 1996, and he was remarried shortly thereafter, to a Pakistani woman named Nadira.

Naipaul is the author of more than twenty five books of fiction and nonfictions. He also has received many awards, including the Nobel Prize in 2001, the Booker Prize in 1971, and knighthood for services to literature in 1990. Furthermore, he has been called "the world's writer". His journey in India and Africa had many influences to his works, like in his major novels A House for Mr. Biswas (1961), The Mimic Men (1967), In A Free State (1971), Guerrillas (1973), The Enigma of Arrival (1987), and A Bend in the River (1979). Naipaul addressed violence and despairing of life in the Third World countries, from India, Africa to Carribean.