

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Notes from Underground

Notes from Underground is about a man who lives alone in the little corner in St. Petersburg, Russia. The protagonist of the novel has no name and is called the Underground man. He is forty-year old man and has been living in the underground for a long time. In the underground he likes to read books and write to omit his boredom. Then he starts to write about his life. He describes himself as a sick person because of liver problem. He is an orphan and he likes to live alone. In his childhood, he has no friends at school because his appearance is untidy and nasty, different from others. He is always silent when his friends humiliate him, and he feels angry but it is only in his mind. In fact he cannot get angry at them and he cannot do anything.

One day his friend wants to make a farewell party, but they do not invite him. The Underground man believes that he should come to the party so he invites himself. After that, he and his friends go to a brothel where he meets Liza. He falls in love with her but then he thinks that Liza has a bad intention. As he is highly imaginative, he thinks negatively about her and makes her upset. In the end she leaves him forever. He regrets what he has done, but he still chooses to stay in the underground alone.

Biography of Fyodor Dostoevsky

Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky was born in Moscow, Russia on October 31, 1821. Growing up in a relatively happy home, he probably felt closest to his elder brother, Mikhail. By the age of 18, both of his parents died. His father was supposedly murdered by one of his serfs. Soon Dostoevsky was sent to an engineering school in St. Petersburg, the setting of most of his future novels.

Dostoevsky graduated from the St. Petersburg Military Engineering Academy at the age of 22. Soon afterwards, he became a government employee, working as a draftsman of sorts. He quickly joined a socialist organization. His participation in the group led to his arrest in 1849. Sentenced to death by a firing squad, Dostoevsky firmly believed his life to be over. Then at the last moment, his sentence was changed to four years at the Siberian prison, followed by another four years of military service.

By 1858, Dostoevsky was finally released from service, and it was at this time that his famous works, including Notes from Underground and Crime and Punishment, were written. Yet the famous Russian author's hardships were far from over, for he found himself in an incredible amount of family debt which eventually led to a gambling problem. When first wife died, Dostoevsky fell in love with and soon married the nineteen-year-old Anna Grigorevna Snitkina, a stenographer. Before he died, however, Dostoevsky, probably for the first time in his life, finally experienced the material success he had earned over the years through his writing. Dostoevsky died in the winter of 1881, having been plagued his entire life by severe health problems.

Source: < "Notes from Underground analysis" >