

## **APPENDICES**

### **SYNOPSIS OF *THE FALL***

Jean-Baptiste Clamence, a wealthy and well-educated man, has become a great Parisian lawyer in Paris. He is always honored by other people. He likes giving alms to the poor and doing good deeds, such as helping blind men cross the street. He always wins his cases in the court. Clamence likes to talk about his past events in his life to “someone” in Mexico City, at one of the bars in Amsterdam. At that time Clamence feels that this person, who always listens to the stories of his experiences, is his only friend. In fact, this person is only a figment of his imagination, a mere imaginary description of someone who likes to listen to Clamence’ story.

In the middle of the story, Clamence tells about an incident that changed his life. When he is still in Paris, he walks alone one night crossing a bridge over The Seine. Accidentally, he sees a woman who stands at the side of the bridge. The woman looks down at the river. Clamence does not give any attention to her. After he walks a few miles away he hears a woman’s scream and then the sound of a body hitting the water loudly; then these sounds suddenly disappear. Clamence does not do anything because his fears paralyze him.

After this incident, Clamence always feels that he has become a witness of a woman committing suicide by jumping off the bridge. This makes him feel guilty. Clamence also often hears people laughing near him but he never finds out who they are. The feeling of guilt and the laughing sounds seem to haunt him every day. He begins to feel guilty because he has not done anything to save the woman's life.

The Seine tragedy develops Clamence's characteristics. Clamence is now described as a person without hope, and he no longer respects himself. He always gets drunk at night, and he often sleeps with prostitutes. Furthermore, he realizes that he has a problem with his liver. However, he does not want to be cured; instead, he would prefer to just allow his illness to end his life.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF ALBERT CAMUS**

Albert Camus was born in Mondovi, Algeria, in 1913. His father died one year after his birth, and his mother raised him alone. His mother was poor and nearly deaf. Camus wanted to prove that he was an excellent student and an admirable competitor. After his graduation, he continued his studies in School of Philosophy at the University of Algiers.

In 1938 Camus became a journalist for an anti-colonialist newspaper named the Alger-Republicain. Camus left Algiers in 1940 to go to Paris, where he hoped to work as a reporter for the leftist press.

During the World War II, Camus published a number of works which became associated with his thought of the absurd. His idea was that it is impossible to make rational sense of one's experience, and human life is made meaningless by mortality.

He writes: "This heart within me I can feel, and I judge that it exists. This world I can touch and I likewise judge that it exists. There ends all my knowledge, and the rest is construction."

In 1956, Albert Camus published his novel entitled *The Fall*. In 1957 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Throughout his life, Camus continued working for the theatre, taking on the various roles of actor, director, playwright and translator. The themes of his theatrical works are primarily related to the human desire to understand, which is contradictory with the absurd nature of existence.

On January 4, 1960, Camus died in a car accident near Seins in France when he was returning to Paris with his friend and publisher, Michel Gallimard.

Source: "Albert Camus Biography"