

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Caesar and Cleopatra

The play starts with a prologue by Ra, an Egyptian god, who addresses his speech to the audience. In the prologue, Ra explains about Rome and its condition, and he also tells about Julius Caesar and how he wants to change the old Rome. The first act starts with Caesar's first meeting with Cleopatra, a young queen who wants to be the sole ruler of Egypt but who is very incompetent and full of fear of the Romans. After that, Caesar meets other Egyptian characters including Ptolemy, the king, and Pothinus, his guardian; he states his purpose of coming to Egypt, which is to collect taxes, and the Egyptians get angry and suddenly Caesar is besieged and has to go to Pharos for further strategy. In Pharos, Caesar waits for backup army while protecting the rest of the soldiers in the island. Cleopatra visits him there, which ends with them swimming back to Alexandria.

Caesar eventually captures Alexandria and Cleopatra invites him and several other people to celebrate, but Pothinus warns Caesar that Cleopatra is only using him to be the sole ruler of Egypt. Cleopatra feels threatened and has Ftateeta kill him, which results in Rufio kill the Ftateeta. The play ends with the scene when Caesar is about to leave Egypt; he appoints a governor for Egypt, bids his goodbye to Cleopatra, and finally sails to Rome.

Biography of George Bernard Shaw

George Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 26 July 1856 to George Carr Shaw and Lucinda Elizabeth Shaw. He was known as a playwright, a critic, and a political activist. He was also an amateur photographer. He was awarded Nobel Prize of Literature in 1925, an Oscar in 1938, and Academy Award for Writing Adapted Screenplay for his *Pygmalion*. He was best known for his plays, which concerned about education, marriage, religion, government, health care, and class privilege. He felt angry with the exploitation of working class and wrote much about that. Shaw married Charlotte Payne-Townshend and they lived in Ayot St. Lawrence, a place which was later called “Shaw’s Corner”. His education was irregular, due to his dislike of organized learning. He quit school and began to work as a clerk in a public office (1876), and then he went to London and continued his study by reading and exploring in British Museum and public libraries. He started to write since then. He produced 63 plays, some of which are *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* (1898), *Pygmalion* (1914), *Man and Superman* (1903), and *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1901). His plays were first performed in 1890s. His novels, *Cashel Byron’s Profession* (1886), *An Unsocial Socialist* (1887), *Love among the Artists* (1900), *The Irrational Knot* (1905), and *Immaturity* (1931) were not as successful as his plays. His later plays would never be as good as his earlier ones, but some of them are also noticeable, like *St. Joan* (1924). He sometimes wrote a very long preface for his plays, which contained his own thoughts about the issue appeared in the play. He died on 2 November 1950.

Source: “George Bernard Shaw-Biography”