

Author: Fyodor Dostoevsky

Crime and Punishment

Life of author

- Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky (Dostoyevsky)
- He was born in Moscow.
- His father was a successful doctor
- His parents were devout Orthodox Christians
- At age 12 he went to school in Moscow and then to St. Petersburg
- His father was murdered by his serfs, when he was attending school.

Life of author

- He worked as engineer after graduating
- He got into gambling and lost most almost all of his money
- In late twenties, he befriended a group of radical writers
- Government – sentenced to be shot
- Though order was taken and they were forced labour in Siberia for four years, it made an over-lasting impact on his mind

Life of author

- On return he became a writer
- For him: “Man is extraordinarily, passionately, in love with suffering: that is a fact”
- He was man of his age
- He died on 9th feb, 1881 (59 yeas old).

Important works:

Notes from Underground (1864)

Crime and Punishment (1866)

The Idiot (1869)

Demon (1872)

The Brothers Karamazov (1880)

■ His writings are mainly:

Dark , violent, tragic, complicated, very long

Other works :

☐ Novels and novellas

- (1846) *Poor Folk* (novella)
- (1846) *The Double* (novella)
- (1847) *The Landlady*(novella)
- (1849) *Netochka Nezvanova*(unfinished)
- (1859) *Uncle's Dream* (novella)
- (1859) *The Village of Stepanchikovo*
- (1861) *Humiliated and Insulted*
- (1862) *The House of the Dead*
- (1864) *Notes from Underground* (novella)
- (1866) *Crime and Punishment*
- (1867) *The Gambler* (novella)
- (1869) *The Idiot*
- (1870) *The Eternal Husband*(novella)
- (1872) *Demons*
- (1875) *The Adolescent*
- (1880) *The Brothers Karamazov*

☐ Short stories

- (1846) "Mr. Prokharchin"
- (1847) "Novel in Nine Letters"
- (1848) "A Jealous Husband"
- (1848) "Another Man's Wife"
- (1848) "Another Man's Wife and a Husband under the Bed" (merger between "Another Man's Wife" and "A Jealous Husband")
- (1848) "A Weak Heart"
- (1848) "Polzunkov"
- (1848) "An Honest Thief"
- (1848) "A Christmas Tree and a Wedding"
- (1848) "White Nights"
- (1849) "A Little Hero"
- (1862) "A Nasty Story"
- (1865) "The Crocodile"
- (1873) "Bobok"
- (1876) "The Heavenly Christmas Tree"
- (1876) "A Gentle Creature"
- (1876) "The Peasant Marey"
- (1877) "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man"

What made “Crime and Punishment”

- Gambling losses
- His dominant father who was most of the time drunk
- In 1861 (just five years before the novel’s publication), the Russian capital saw a massive influx of people seeking work. Severe overcrowding and limited opportunities for employment left many in a state of desperation.
- Corruption
- Dostoyevsky wanted murder to provide the most compelling lens through which one can understand a human being’s capacity for both destruction and redemption.

About "Crime and Punishment"

- Raskolnikov the protagonist, considers him as Napoleon.
- "Leaders of men, such as Napoleon, were all without exception criminals. They broke the ancient laws of their people to make new ones that suited them better, and they never feared bloodshed"
- He has aristocratic superiority in mind.
- He murders old pawnbroker, to steal her cash
- According to him pleasure is a delusion and suffering always pursues us.
- He guides to humane darker truths.
- Nietzsche's Superman

Title:

- Main character Raskolnikov follows the exact cycle of committing a crime and the facing punishment.
- How your conscious haunts you
- Mental agony, greater punishment than physical one
- Does crime always lead to punishment?

Characters

