

[http://penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia\\_romana/miscellanea/cleopatra/bust.html](http://penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/miscellanea/cleopatra/bust.html).

## SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

The story begins when the Roman comes to Egypt. Cleopatra who is afraid of the Romans searches for protection between the Sphinx's paws. An old man comes to her and she tells him her huge fear. Then he tells her that she will be eaten by the Roman's leader, Caesar, unless she can behave as a queen, mature woman. Finding a bright idea, she invites the old man to the palace with her and begins to act like a queen which makes her nurse, Ftatateeta surprised. When the Romans arrive, she finds out shockingly that the old man who helps her is actually Caesar himself.

Caesar tells his purpose of coming to Egypt to ask for a duty which has been promised by the previous King. Unfortunately, Pothinus, the young king's guardian, tells them that the kingdom treasury is too poor to pay that much debt. The negotiation does not work well. The Egyptians announce war. Their soldiers attack Roman soldiers and burn their ship in the harbor. It causes the great Alexander to be burnt. Caesar and his officers take refuge in a dangerous position on the Pharos lighthouse.

Cleopatra who misses Caesar, cannot go anywhere as the palace and the lighthouse is highly secured by many sentinels. She suddenly got an idea when Apollodorus comes to sell Persian carpets. She wraps her body in a carpet

and asks Apollodorus to deliver it to Caesar in the lighthouse without telling him that it is Cleopatra inside the rolled carpet .When it is delivered and opened by Caesar, Cleopatra appears. Caesar is not really surprise and his officers dislike her coming into the lighthouse. After that, the Egyptian soldiers move closer. Trapped in the lighthouse, Caesar and his officer except Britannus, jump to the sea to the nearest boat. He carries Cleopatra who is thrown by Rufio as she does not want to jump at first.

Almost a year after that Pothinus knows about Cleopatra's ambition despite of her nice behavior towards Caesar. He tells Caesar about it. Unfortunately, Cleopatra appears while he is telling it. As Caesar suddenly changes and lose his trust to Cleopatra, she becomes so furious and order Ftataeeta to kill Pothinus. It creates another bad impact to Cleopatra as the Egyptians become so angry and attack the palace right after they find the Pothinus' death body. Caesar blames Cleopatra for this chaotic situation. He and the Roman officers now busy preparing for the battle. Becoming scared and left alone, she calls out Ftataeeta. She is shocked finding Ftataeeta is lying death. It is Rufio who kills her as a revenge of justice for killing Pothinus.

In the end, Caesar wins the battle and succeeds drowning the king Ptolemy into the Nile River. Feeling that the Roman's position in Egypt is secured, he decides to go back to Rome. Right before his departure, Caesar chooses Rufio as a governor in Egypt. Finding Cleopatra mourns because of the death of Ftataeeta, he promises her to send Mark Anthony to her.

## BIOGRAPHY OF BERNARD SHAW

Bernard Shaw was born in Synge Street, Dublin in 1856, in a lower-middle class family of Scottish-protestant ancestry. Actually his complete name is George Bernard Shaw, but he hated using "George" and never used it, either personally or professionally. Bernard Shaw's father was George Carr Shaw (1814-1885). His father was an unsuccessful grain merchant and sometimes civil servant. His mother was Lucinda Elizabeth Shaw (1830-1913) who was a professional singer. He had two sisters. They were Lucinda Frances (1853-1920) and Elinor Agnes (1854-1876).

In 1876, Shaw left Dublin and his father and moved to London with his mother. There, he became involved in progressive politics. Together with his friends, Shaw found the Fabian society, a socialist political organization dedicated to transforming Britain into a socialist state. Here Shaw declared himself as a socialist. He was most angered by the exploitation of working class.

The Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen had a great influence on Shaw's thinking. In 1890, he wrote *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*, in which he considered Ibsen as a pioneer.

Before becoming a playwright, Shaw had worked as an artist, musician, and theater critic for Saturday Review. In 1891, he wrote his first play entitled *Widower House*. For the next twelve years, he wrote close to a dozen

plays. A few of them were produce abroad. His first success came on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1894, when *Arms and Men* was performed at the Herald Square Theatre New York. It continued with *The Devil's Discipline* (1897)

As his popularity increased, several of his works, such as *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1901), *Man and Superman* (1903), *Major Barbara* (1905) and *The Doctor's Dilemma* (1906) displays his matured views as he was approaching fifty when he wrote them.

Unfortunately, Shaw popularities decreased once when he published a series of news paper articles under the title *Common Sense About the War* in 1914 which represens his critics about the bankruptcy of the capitalist system caused by the war. During this period, he wrote *Heartbreak House* which represents his bitterness and despair about British politics.

After the war, Shaw tried to rebuild his reputation. He wrote *Back to Methuselah* (1923) and *Saint Joan* (1923) which considered as his best work. The climax of his career as a playwright was when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925. Later, Shaw play's were regularly produced and revived in London. He was regarded as 'a second Shakespeare' who had revolutionized the British theater.

Shaw died in 1950 from complication of injuries, while he was trimming a tree at his house at St. Lawrence in Hertforshire. He had written about 63 plays, several number of novel and a thousand of articles during his life. Several of his major plays such as *Arms and Man*, *Major Barbara*, *Caesar and*

*Cleopatra, My Fair Lady, Saint Joan, and How He Lied to Her Husband* were adapted into films.

## CÆSAR AND CLEOPATRA

### PROLOGUE

*In the doorway of the temple of Ra in Memphis. Deep gloom. An august personage with a hawk's head is mysteriously visible by his own light in the darkness within the temple. He surveys the modern audience with great contempt; and finally speaks the following words to them.*

Peace! Be silent and hearken unto me, ye quaint little islanders. Give ear, ye men with white paper on your breasts and nothing written thereon (to signify the innocency of your minds). Hear me, ye women who adorn yourselves alluringly and conceal your thoughts from your men, leading them to believe that ye deem them wondrous strong and masterful whilst in truth ye hold them in your hearts as children without judgment. Look upon my hawk's head; and know that I am Ra, who was once in Egypt a mighty god. Ye cannot kneel nor prostrate yourselves; for ye are packed in rows without freedom to move, obstructing one another's vision; neither do any of ye regard it as seemly to do ought until ye see all the rest do so too; wherefore it commonly happens that in great emergencies ye do nothing, though each telleth his fellow that something must be done. I ask you not for worship, but for silence. Let not your men speak nor your women cough; for I am come to draw you back two thousand years over the graves of sixty generations. Ye poor posterity, think not that ye are the first. Other fools before ye have seen the sun rise and set, and the moon change her shape and her hour. As they were so ye are; and yet not so great; for the pyramids my people built stand to this day; whilst the dustheaps on which ye slave, and which ye call empires, scatter in the wind even as ye pile your dead sons' bodies on them to make yet more dust.

Hearken to me then, oh ye compulsorily educated ones.