



0. TIMELY WRITING; UNTIMELY DEATH - Story Preface

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Dostoevsky, the famous 19th-century Russian novelist, is buried at Trinity (*Tikhvin*) Cemetery in St. Petersburg. On his tombstone are these words, translated into English: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, unless a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it remains alone; but if it die, it brings forth much fruit." Not only is this a quote from the Bible (John 12 verse 24), it is the epigraph that Dostoevsky penned for his last novel, *Brothers Karamazov*. The words on Dostoevsky's tombstone mean, essentially, that Dostoevsky believed that his death would not be the end for him. Rather—like a seed when it is planted in the ground—he would have a different kind of life after his earthly death.

With Anna's help, *The Gambler* took shape.

Always more practical than her future husband, Anna gave Fyodor Mikhailovich good advice. Stellovsky didn't want the book on time—he wanted unfettered rights to all Dostoevsky's work for the next decade. Would the publisher anxiously await the manuscript—or—would he close his shop on November 1st so no one was there to receive the book?

A rogue is a rogue, especially when the deck is stacked in his favor. Stellovsky left town. No one was in his office to receive the manuscript.

Anticipating the publisher's real intent, Anna convinced Dostoevsky to deliver the book to the police station where he would receive a time-dated receipt. He met the deadline with two hours to spare.

Anna Grigoryevna and Fyodor Mikhailovich were married (the link depicts their published correspondence from 1867) soon after *The Gambler* was finished. They had four children; two ("Fedya," a son, and Lyubov, a daughter) survived.

Another son, Alexei, inherited his father's epilepsy. Called "Alyosha," by his family, the little boy died after a two-hour seizure. Inconsolable, his parents sought the help of Ambrosius, a Russian Orthodox monk. Here, too, reality was incorporated into Dostoevsky's fiction. Ambrosius later became Father Zosima in *Brothers Karamazov*.

Dostoevsky continued to play the roulette wheel during the early years of his second marriage. Love of family, however, helped him to nurture his extraordinary writing gift.

He finished the epilogue of his masterpiece, *Brothers Karamazov* (which is still widely studied and has been filmed, at various times, both in English and in Russian), two months before his death on January 28, 1881.

Three days earlier, he had fallen ill at his St. Petersburg apartment. No one expected him to die. But on the morning of the 28th, the writer told Anna that day would be his last. She didn't believe him—perhaps he was hallucinating. But at his insistence, Anna (who survived him by many years) summoned the children. He told them good-bye.

Not long before midnight, resting on the sofa in his study, he was gone. (This is his death mask.) His beloved copy of Raphael's "The Sistine Madonna," looked down on him. The immediate cause of death was hemorrhage of the throat.

Thousands of people came to his funeral. He is buried in the Trinity (Tikhvin) Cemetery at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery in St. Petersburg. His final resting place is not far from that of the composer Tchaikovsky (1840-1893). People from all over the world still visit his grave (as they do for another great nineteenth-century

Russian writer, Leo Tolstoy, who survived Dostoevsky by nearly thirty years).

Perhaps it is his main subject which continues to draw people to his stories. Dostoevsky's skill in penetrating the oft-impenetrable—the depths of a person's soul—endeared him to nineteenth-century Russians. And it is that unusual ability to understand—and then to articulate the human condition—which helps to explain his popularity today.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Nineteenth-century, public-domain images of Dostoevsky and his life are available in many books written by scholars. The most extensive source for such images, which we relied upon for this story, is the following Russian-language book: *Dostoevsky*, by Yury Seleznev, published by Molodaya Gvardiya in 1985.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/TIMELY-WRITING-UNTIMELY-DEATH-Dostoevsky>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/TIMELY-WRITING-UNTIMELY-DEATH-Dostoevsky>

Media Stream



[Anna and Fyodor Dostoevsky - Letters](#)

Image online, courtesy the Russian Antique Books website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Anna-and-Fyodor-Dostoevsky-Letters>



[Dostoevsky Children - Fedya and Lyubov](#)

Image online, courtesy the Fyodor Dostoevsky Literary Memorial Museum [website](#).

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[Alyosha - Deceased Son of Dostoevsky](#)

Image online, courtesy the citytomb.com website.

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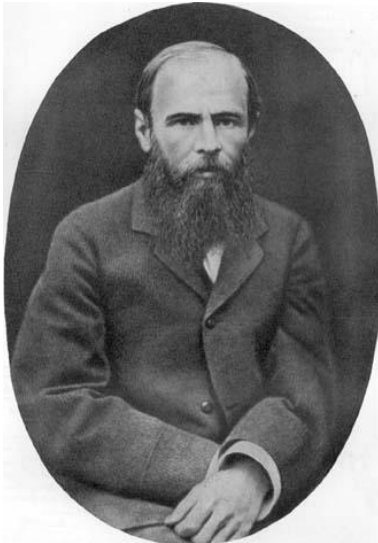


Ambrosius - Russian Orthodox Monk

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky - Portrait

Image online, courtesy the pavlopoulos blog site.

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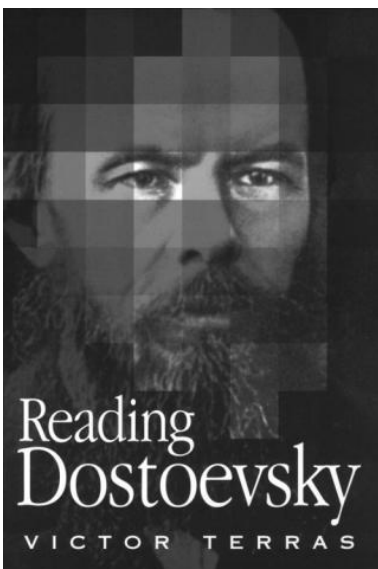


St. Petersburg Monastery - Alexander Nevsky

Image online, courtesy the [Tickets of Russia](#) website.

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Reading Dostoevsky - by Victor Terras

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Dostoevsky's St. Petersburg Apartment

Image online, courtesy Saint-Petersburg.com [website](#).

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Anna Dostoevskaya

Image online, courtesy Dartmouth College [website](#).

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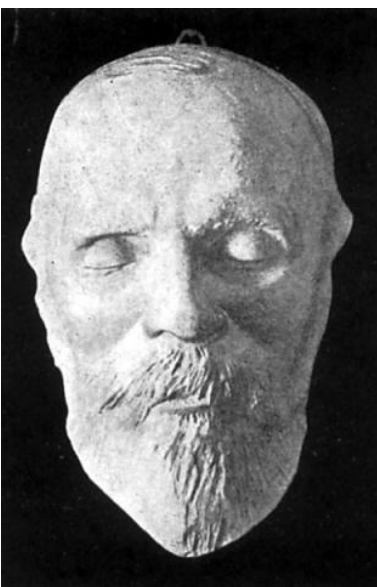


Copy of Raphael's Sistine Madonna

Image online, courtesy Profilib.com, a Russian Language [website](#).

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Death Mask of Dostoevsky

Image contained in Leonid Grossman's book, "Dostoevsky: A Biography," translated by Mary Mackler (London: Bobbs-Merrill, 1974), online via Dartmouth University's [website](#) on [Dostoevsky and The Brothers Karamazov](#).

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Dostoevsky Burial Site

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Dostoevsky Children

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Dostoevsky Grave

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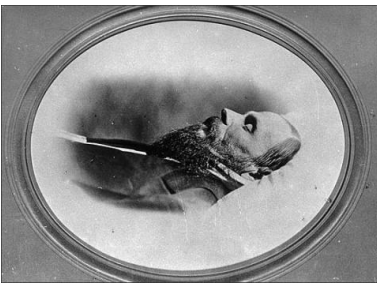
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Dostoevsky Grave Site

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Dostoevsky Photo at his Death

Image online, courtesy Dartmouth College website.

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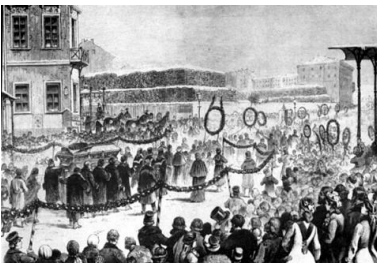
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dostoevsky-Photo-at-his-Death>



Dostoevsky's Study

Image online, courtesy the Dartmouth College website.

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Funeral of Dostoevsky

Image online, courtesy the smolgazeta.ru - a Russian Language website.

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Tchaikovsky

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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The Sistine Madonna - by Raphael

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Tikhvin Cemetery

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Tikhvin Cemetery - St. Petersburg

Image online, courtesy the subscribe.ru website.

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View of St. Petersburg

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Brothers Karamazov

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky



Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 2

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 3

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 4

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 5

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 6

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 7

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

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Distributed by:

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 8

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 9

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 10

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 11

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

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Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 12

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

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Distributed by:

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 13

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
Philip G. Epstein
Richard Brooks

Starring:

Yul Brynner - Dmitri Karamazov
Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

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Distributed by:

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 14

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
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Richard Brooks

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Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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Brothers Karamazov, Part 15

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Director:

Richard Brooks

Producer:

Pandro S. Berman

Based on:

Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Screenplay:

Julius J. Epstein
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Richard Brooks

Starring:

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Maria Schell - Grushenka
William Shatner - Alexei
Lee J. Cobb - Father Karamazov

Music:

Bronislau Kaper

Cinematography:

John Alton

Editing:

John D. Dunning

Distributed by:

MGM

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