

3. Fyodor Dostoevsky – The Explorer of the Human Soul

Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: November 11, 1821, Moscow. • Strict religious upbringing. • Graduated from the Military Engineering Academy in St. Petersburg, pursued a literary career. • “Poor Folk” - debut, then arrested for participating in a radical intellectual group. • Sentenced to death, at the last moment his punishment was changed to a four-year Siberian labor camp. • Exile experience shaped his worldview and writing. • After his release, traveled through Europe, struggling with poverty, epilepsy, and gambling addiction. • Despite hardships created some of the most profound psychological novels in world literature. • Died: 1881, left a legacy to challenge and inspire.
Main Literary Works	<p>Most significant works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor Folk” – a powerful novel, a heartbreaking exploration of love, dignity and survival. • “Crime and Punishment” – the psychological journey of a young man who seeks redemption after committing a murder. • “The Karamazov Brothers” – a philosophical novel about faith, doubt, morality, and family conflict. • “The Idiot” – a portrait of a pure man whose goodness is tested by a corrupt society. • “Demons” (also translated as “The Devils” or “The Possessed”) – a critique of political extremism and nihilism in 19th-century Russia.
Screen Adaptations and Theatrical Productions	<p>Numerous adaptations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Crime and Punishment” - adapted over 20 times for the screen, including international versions in Japan, France, and Hollywood. • “The Karamazov Brothers” - a Broadway play and an Oscar-nominated film. • His stories regularly performed in Russian and international theaters for their deep psychological drama and philosophical weight. • Directors like Akira Kurosawa and Andrei Tarkovsky were influenced by Dostoevsky’s themes in their work.
The Significance and Contribution to Russian Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the greatest figures in Russian and world literature. • Wrote about the spiritual and ethical struggles of humanity. • Elevated the Russian novel to global prominence. • Influenced psychology, theology, and philosophy. • Writers like Kafka, Camus, Sartre, and Freud acknowledged their debt to his insights into the human condition. • Shaped Russian national identity by exploring its moral and existential dilemmas.