

"THE FALL"

Adapted by
DANIEL NAGRIN

From the novel by
ALBERT CAMUS

Translated by
JUSTIN O'BRIEN

Please note: A line of dots enclosed by quotation marks indicates speech by Clamence's interlocutor and is used in this acting text to clarify pauses for the stage manager and prompter.

CHAPTER I

Setting: Two small tables with chairs, Clamence seated at one of them.

May I, sir, offer my services without running the risk of intruding? I fear you may not be able to make yourself understood by the worthy ape who presides over the fate of Mexico City.

"....."

That's the name of this bar. In fact, he speaks nothing but Dutch. Unless you authorize me to plead your case, he will never guess that you want gin. Ober, dese herr, zou garg, un yenever willen heben. There, that nod must mean that he yields to my arguments. You are lucky; he didn't grunt. When he refuses to serve someone, he merely grunts. No one insists. Being the master of one's moods is the privilege of the larger animals. Happy to have been of help to you.

"....."

Thank you; you are too kind. (Moves to neighboring table with his drink)

"....."

You are right. His silence-- the silence of the primeval forest, heavy with threats. He goes his own sweet way and nothing touches him. Anyone who has