



## The Pere Lachaise cemetery

### Historical Background in a nutshell

The Revolution coming to an end, the First Republic were proclaimed and a group of men, forming the **consulate**, were provisionally appointed to rule the country while organizing the election for a president.

Napoleon Bonaparte took advantage over the other consuls and turned the Republic into a Empire later on.

Consulate declared that cemeteries should be outside the town for sanitary reasons and that **anyone** has right to a burial according to the new declaration of the human rights.

The Pere Lachaise cemetery is created in 1804 in the village of Charonne, on a hill ,on the spot of a former Jesuit house where dwelt Father Lachaise: King Louis the XIV<sup>th</sup>'s confessor.

A too poor and too high place , too far from Paris, too much .. anything ! So ..Nobody wanted to be buried there.

The *transfer of the remains* of famous people such **Moliere** ,playwright and actor at Louis XIV 's court (1643 -1715) **La Fontaine** ,fabuliste , contemporaneous with Moliere **Heloise and Abelard** a mythic couple from the XII<sup>th</sup> century *primed the pump and the high society rapidly invested the cemetery.*



However, this eastern poor suburb remained a place of contest and revolutionary acts with consequential effects in the very bosom of the cemetery later on.

### Nowadays

The cemetery is stil a peaceful place although it is included in Paris city . Besides its graveyard function, it is a park, an ornithological reserve, an open air museum, an history book and a source of legend.



So « Wandering around the Pere Lachaise cemetry », is symphonic poem depicting an unceasing transformation scene with references to those different eras and various cultures in such way that the visitor could percieve .



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