

*When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi

Prologue

1. Before Paul's trip, what did the replacement primary care doctor do for Paul and why?
2. What were Paul's symptoms before he was diagnosed with cancer?

Part I

In Perfect Health I Begin

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3. While Paul was a child, what kind of father did he have?
4. What are "country facts"?
5. What expectations did Paul's parents have for his future?
6. How did Paul's mother make sure Paul had this future?
7. What two things did Paul pursue in college at Stanford?
8. Where did Paul work one summer during college?
9. What were some of the activities Paul did while working this job?
10. Who introduces Paul to the idea that we are never so wise as when we live in the moment? (Similar philosophy found in *Goodbye, Vitamin*)
11. What was the experience Paul had in his senior year of college that he wrote about?

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12. What is "human rationality"? What else did Paul want to study?
13. How did Paul come to study medicine?
14. What did Paul study in Cambridge, England?
15. How does Paul feel about dissecting a human cadaver?
16. Where do cadavers come from?
17. What did Paul do wrong dissecting his donor's diaphragm?
18. Why is Paul pursuing medicine?
19. What kind of person is Lucy?
20. Where did Paul begin his first practical medical experience (his first rotation)?
21. What kind of birth was his first?
22. How did the second birth Paul attended differ from the first?

23. What made Mari in surgical oncology feel bad enough to cry?