

quotes letter to Ravitsh 24 March 1936; but in last letter of 3 May 1940, asks Ravitsh to stop writing

The humor magazine, "The Seder of Miss Judea," which appeared in April, 1929, contains cartoon illustrations of the four sons, though as contestants for the pageant as if chosen by the Literatn fareyn. This fact references the participation of writers considered to be "Yiddish" authors in the pageant, an issue which provoked the ire of the Yiddish press. In order to mock their participation in what was perceived as a frivolous event, the heads of well-known writers were drawn onto women's bodies. Each writers' comments begin with the original haggadic text and then devolve into self-serving and satiric reference to the literary works of each respective writer.

Ethnographer, music columnist and well-known singer Menakhem Kipnis, serving as the wise son, comments, "what are the opinions and laws and cases, what value could all the questions, contests and juries have if they cannot hear my voice? You want me for a Miss Judea? Please come back tomorrow. Today I'm busy with Pan Metsenas." This quote references the popular series of stories Kipnis published in Haynt concerning an anti-Semitic (and often luckless and stupid) Polish lawyer he called "Pan Metsenas" (Mr. Barrister).

The writer Zusman Segalovitsh, portrayed as the wicked son, says "what is this work to me? Why are you working so hard to drag me into this Miss Judea ordeal. No! I will not be a Miss Judea. And as long as I'm alive, I will stand up and protect the honor of our women." This comment plays on the double irony of Segalovitsh's renown as a writer whose novels focused on problems of the modern Jewish woman and the fact that he was involved in the event as one of the judges in what was seen as an exploitative pageant. Writer and photographer, Alter Katsizne, seen carrying his camera, is portrayed as the simple son, saying, "What's this? A Miss Judea? I think I've heard of that... What? You like me? Yes, I'm just young and delightful enough? You want me to be Miss Judea? To put a crown on my head? That's something I'm already used to. For years the "Spirit of the King" has swept around me." "The Spirit of the King" was the title of Katsizne's first major Yiddish work and that which made a name for him in Yiddish letters.

The son who cannot even ask a question is portrayed by three stars, the pseudonym of writer Yehoshue Perle. His head is planted on a ballerina's body in a transparent tutu with six locks around his waist. About Perle it is written, "knows nothing, has nothing to say." In a heavy Warsaw dialect which references the speech of characters in his pulp novels - the text continues, "I am as you see me. You want I should be a Miss? Alright. But I'll have to change the name of my novel - it'll be called, "Miss Six Locks." This satirizes the publication of a shund roman entitled "The Seven Locks" that had appeared under Perle's pseudonym a

few months previous.

This parody of the four sons needed specific writers and literary issues connected to them by using the structure and thematic of the original to assign the attributes of the original four sons to them. The parodic material relating to Miss Judea serves as an example of how Yiddish writers creatively exploited current events and scandals to create humor and social commentary on a wide array of issues. The diversion created by Miss Judea helped provide the fodder for the mechanism of humorous cultural parody during a period in Jewish life that was better known for political, economic and cultural adversity.