Sholem Asch

FARN MABL/ DRAY SHTET

Peterburg [1929]

Varshe [1930]

Moskve [1931]

Peterburg

Part I:

Chap. 1-5. *In medias res*: In Galperin's Apartment, the lawyer, his wife Olga, daughter Nina, son Misha. Dinner with Jewish magnates: Gabriel Mirkin [timber] and his son, Zakhari Mirkin etc. Meet Senator Akimov, the antisemite who needs lawyer's skills. Refused.Dinner discussion: Jews, Russia and Revolution.

Chap. 6-11. Analepsis: upbringing of Gabriel Mirkin and his son, Zakhari's non-Jewish

upbringing.

Chap. 12-22. *Present*: Zakhari's love interest in Nina and attraction to her mother, Olga. Zakhari as lawyer visits poor Polish Jews without city pass hidden in brothel of Mme Kvasnitsova [Jewess], and discovers ethical concerns. Especially Rokhl Leah Hurvitz whose son is revolutionary sent to Siberia and Chomsky, Khasid, who comes to save his evicted shtetl.

(Chap. 18-22) The Engagement scenes: Zakhari and Nina. Wild night at Gypsy nightclub with antisemitic incident. [Beilis Affair time]

Part 2:

Chap. 1-10. Unhappy Engagement. Zakhari declares real feelings for Olga, she yields.

Guilt. Zakhari contemplates suicide. Too weak.

Chap. 11-15. At Kvasnitsova's, Zakhari finds comfort and meaning with Polish Jews. Chap. 16-20. Zakhari evades Nina. Misses theater date. Watches Nieva in thaw. He breaks off engagement. Father slaps Zakhari and swears inheritance for Nina. Misha a thief. Olga feels guilty.

Varshe

Part I:

Chap. 1-8. A day in the life of Rokhl-Leah Hurvitz in poor Jewish Warsaw Apartment overlooking courtyard. She finds room for student. We meet poor Warsaw Jewish types in courtyard: baker, sausage maker, carpenter, etc. Zakhari arrives.

Chap. 9-11 Zakhari via Vilna pro-Zionist but Hurvitz household socialist. Zakhari sees poor Warsaw Jews, alienated from them. His father marries Nina. Breaks with family. Chap. 12-20. Zakhari enters Warsaw Jewish revolutionary underground and possibilities. Becomes teacher of Russian in Old Hurvitz's school. Learns about poverty first hand. Soup Kitchen experience. Zakhari starts relationship with Helenke, oldest daughter of Rokhl-Leah.

Chap. 21-24. Warsaw in economic crisis. True misery. Conflict between Jewish elite and workers. Their helplessness.

Part II

Chap. 1-3. Zakhari meets Comrade Anatol: Zakhari sent on mission to Lodz. Chap. 4-11. *Lodz*. In Jewish home weavers setting in Balut. Misery. Tries to learn why Jewish factory owners do not hire Jews. Get father to set up plant. Nyet! No profit. Chap.12–20. *Back in Warsaw*. May Day Parade and violence. Prison scenes. Father and son David arrested. Son shot. Summer swim. World War I breaks out.

Moskve

Part I: [25 Oct.-28 Oct., 1917]

Chap. 1-8. Revolution in Moscow. Geographic precisions: Bolsheviks in Governator's Palace led by Ryshkov and supported by Sofia [Zoshke Hurvitz! the youngest daughter],

Provisional Gov't in Kremlin [Comrade Anatol], Magnates including Gabriel Mirkin, Galperin etc. in Hotel Metropole facing Bolshoi Theater on Theater Square. Chap. 9-11. Zakhari now pro-Bolshevik. Sent to roof of Bolshoi Theater with machine gun trained on Hotel Metropole. *Analepsis*: Zakhari reviews his life from Warsaw to present.

Chap. 12-18. Zakhari lead charge and takes hotel, dispersing all within. No blood. 28 Oct. 1917.

Part II:

Chap. 1-8. *Petrograd*. After Bolshevik Revolution, scene at Constituent Assembly, democracy mocked and assembly closed. Zakhari disturbed but returns to Moscow. Gabriel Mirkin stays but other magnates leave. Galperin and Misha set off for South. Chap.9-19. *Moscow*. Apartment Building of former Boyar family. Zakhari and Zoshke in one aprtment. Ryshkov in his own. Zakhari debates meaning of Revolution and violence. Disgusted. Seduction of boyarin by Ryshkov. Zakhari sees father loyally working for railroad. Father tells him to flee.

(Chap. 13-19) *Civil War*. Ryshkov wants Zakhari in military. Refusal. Workers set off to fight. Zakhari wanders in Moscow. Old Mirkin and son have reconciliation. Father arrested and shot in Lubianka directed by Conrade Marek.

Chap. 19. *Ironic Epilogue*. Olga and Nina with old Mirkin's child flee Caucasus to Paris. Nina becomes dress designer and marries Russian manager. Olga moves to Nice. Meets Senator Akimov, now owner of new Russian delicatessen.

Chap. 20. Zakhari saved from death at border where caught . He arrives at Hurvitz household in Warsaw. Rokhl-Leah dead. Helenke teaching. Reunion, they will marry and start again.







