

THE STRUCTURE OF THE MAN FROM BUENOS AIRES

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- going home
- unknown age
rich but
raised himself
from poverty
- train as foundation I
- ① Narrator-unnamed. 3rd class train traveler
 - ② Companion character-unnamed Man from Buenos Aires
 - ③ Train-facilitates interaction b/w unlikely personalities, esp. in cheaper section
 - ④ Buffets/excessive eating-thematic thread, facilitated by wealthy man
-alcohol loosens up passengers leading to conversation
- Companion's story of path to B.A. II
- ⑤ Mordechai's wealth-came by wealth through business / commodity
 - ⑥ Soshmakin-hometown → leaves mother's house poor, hungry, abused
 - ⑦ Mitava-learns from blind cantor whom he works for to lie
 - ⑧ Group of emigrants-going to Buenos Aires, convinces emigration committee to pay his way to B.A.
- Arrives in
- establishing himself in B.A. III
- ⑨ Buenos Aires-hard labor, comparison to slavery in Egypt-Jewish identity
 - ⑩ Return to B.A.-tries his hand in lots of work → what does B.A. mean as a character itself
 - ⑪ Idea of making your own world = central to the plot
 - ⑫ Emphasizes being "square in business"
 - ⑬ Travels for work-his success relies on his innate skill
- position of leadership IV
- ⑭ The partners-their role, his joining as a partner based on threat
 - ⑮ ~~wealth~~ wealth of partners-excessive spending including charity
 - ⑯ Paralleled by size & growth of Buenos Aires as a city
- going back to roots V
- ⑰ Returning on train to visit Soshmakin-~~now~~ circles back to his roots for the first time since his departure
 - ⑱ Imagining his reception in Soshmakin as hero
 - ⑲ Even with all he's seen, he just wants to return to Soshmakin & despite his former misery
- Reason for Return VI
- ⑳ Shift in man's appearance once he talks about returning
 - ㉑ Love-visiting graves
└ seeking wife
 - ㉒ Wife of good character & same Jewish upbringing
 - ㉓ Gets caught up in fantasy for first time
- Back to train as focus VII
- ㉔ Ticket collection-back to reality of train
 - ㉕ Man decides to move to 2nd class (repeated wealth trope)
 - ㉖ Narrator finally asks his trade
 - ㉗ Man from B.A.-doesn't answer, only says-not Handkerchiefs
└ deals in prostitution / gang life = not said └ duplicity

Parallel structure

Train (I & VII)

Story of why he travelled (II & VI)

Establishing himself in a new place /

✓ Returning to establish himself @ hometown
(III & V)

His wealth/importance (V)