

CONCEPTS OF "LIFE" (11-14)

I. Maskilic-Rationalist Phase

cosmic-theological realm

ahistorical

Chain of Being: hierarchy of life forms

man situated between plants / angels

II. Critical Realistic Phase

the Odessa School

life = dialectical historical development

sociohistoric or socioeconomic realm

generational conflict: fathers & sons

Hato'eh bedarkei hahayyim

panoramic-typological approach in fiction

psych understood in terms of interaction between indiv

and socioeconomic determinants

III. Emotive Phase 1890s

the Warsaw School

life = psych-biological category

the flow of creative enrgies emanate from

1) Nature

2) Humanity

3) Nation

4) Individual

together they forge indiv identity

space & time now understood as categories of individual

perception

Prose: Peretz, Feilerberg

Poetry: Tschernichowsky, Peretz

effects literary criticism and Hibbat Zion journalism

Ahad Haam vs. Lilienblum

" " vs. Berdicehwsky et al.

BIALIK & BERDICHEWSKY AS CONSERVATIVE REVOLUTIONARIES

Bialik

seemed to belong to both camps

heir of Yalag

Berdichowsky

rebel from the start

yet began with phase I

Both

1st to realize that the new "life" also unleashed

irrational forces

all was not "light"

THE FORCES OF NIGHT

Tschernichowsky

Nocturno: open embrace of nocturnal forces or total rejection
an either/or proposition

Bialik

rejects myth as purely external, destructive force
see it as mediator between inner reality / Nature
tried to synthesize that which Tscher. dichotomized

Berdichevsky

when hero discovers the psych. reality of the myth --
he's destroyed
victim of intellectual hubris
lives the Oedipus myth: kills father-tradition/ sleeps
with Hedvig's mother

DEFINITION OF MYTH 21-22

as implicit in the works themselves
psychoanalytic approach

not Levi Strauss's cognitive-structuralist

"a story that confronts us with gods and spirits,
forces and fates that are identified with organic, external
'nature' and with hidden internal forces that arise from the
organic 'natural' strata of man's psychological & biological
being." (22)

not merely discovering something already there
but also something strange, external, frightening or
consoling

THE PLACE OF FANTASY IN HEBREW HASKALAH POETRY

1. Bialik's reinvention of himself (86-88)

a) earliest stratum: product of spiritual & economic
privation

letters from Volozhin: 4 stumbling blocks of my life

1) diminished self-esteem

2) arrogance

3) tendency to slough

4) allows imagination to rule the intellect

fantasy as root of his fallenness

b) reinvention after 1900

childhood & fantasy = source of poetic inspiration

longing to return to lost childhood

search for surrogate father: Ahad Haam

2. Place of Fantasy in Haskalah Literature

Hibbat Zion gave past a new lease on life

Abramovitsh

Mishpat Shalom: logic, morality & grammar must rule
over fantasy

legitimate so long as it's kept in check

Mapu

false vs. true fiction

Hasidism purveyor of false fiction
only legitimate contexts
nighttime dreams or prophetic dreams
usually interpreted allegorically
only biblical miracles can be credited

YALAG

only in poems of the 50s would he allow for biblical
supernaturalism
in later poems, the very absence of divine intervention
is the whole point

3. Rediscovery of Midrash

Haskalah legacy

embarrassed

Shatzkes's allegorization in Hamafteah

Werbel's Hulda vabor (1853) = exc.

Blood of Zechariah motif: Y. Rabinowitz
miracle undermined with moralistic disclaimer
K. A. Shapira on David asleep in the cave
finds analogue to Barbarossa!

Distancing techniques

story told by naive folk raconteur (92)
something heard in childhood

Peretz

Manginot hazzeman (1887)

critique of the Haskalah

chap. 10 burts the rationalistic bounds

intro. haggadat gadmonim

very uneasy w/this material

cf later Yoykhenan melamed

4. Historical-Legendary & Demonological Poema

S. L. Gordon

Kinnor Yeshurun (1894)

rebuttal of Yalag

here God intervenes on every score

Peretz

the demonological Folk Ballad: Monish

5. Dreams & Visions

day & night dreams

usually pressed into allegorical scheme

straight prophetic vision

Frug

covered all bases

his Meshiekh ben David: progenitor or the prophetic
mode