

TALES OF 1001 NIGHTS (1915)

1. Folk monologue

narrated "live" on board ship to America
addressed to SA; intimate interlocutor
both refugees
digressive; ironic;
tag-line: If you see what I mean
pub. the moment SA arrived here

2. Yankl Yunever = EveryJew

traditional education
widower
2 sons: one drafted; another inducted as mayor
personal/collective tale of woes

3. The Shtetl Jew caught between warring sides

can speak "German"
their cruelty & incorruptability
betrayed by native Poles: 1648/49 Redux
suspect in eyes of the Russian military

4. Yankl as Bearer of Traditional (i.e. "Shtetl") Responses

ironic speech
countercommentary
archetypal imagination
Jewish collective memory: Krushnik vs. Kishinev
Q: What is the rabbi's role? How does he conf. to Reb Yuzifl?

5. A monologue about LANGUAGE

the failure of traditional strategies
intercession
eloquence
prayer
theodicy
rabbi's sermon
the energy of his own narrative
where language fails
war destroys human communication
but what else is there?

REAL

SYMBOLIC

[Jewish homes]

social integration
even goyim become Jews

House of Study

Scene of strife

Makar Kholodni's house [?]

Marketplace

Mordecai Nosn's Store [113]
nothing of value bought or sold
meeting of Jews/Gentiles

Cemetery: Old & New

TOMB
Martyrology & Ecology
life-in-death
mock Land of Israel

Bathhouse

WOMB
Mock Eden; Reb Yuzifl
Adam & Eve

Mountain

[Buried treasure]

Parish school

Poorhouse/hekdesh

Post Office

Bad news, antisemitic papers

Railroad

venue for historical forces

River

Shul