

The King Who Had No Children [105]

מבן שכולו מאבנים טובות

I. 1st Prayer/Intercession

Lack: King is childless

Zaddik #1 forced to pray for a CHILD

Zaddik promises a child & returns home

[shevirah]

II. 2nd Prayer/Intercession

LL: child is born, daughter not a son

[partial tikkun]

Lack: King insist upon a son

Zaddik #2 forced to find a remedy

Administers the drink of ground gems

Promises a son of gems & returns home

III. Complication

LL: son is born, but not of gems

[partial tikkun]

Sister greatly jealousy—feigns illness

Sister finds sorcerer who charms her brother into becoming scabrous

Sister throws charm into the water

IV. 3rd Intercession

Lack: Brother scabrous

Zaddik #2 forced to pray—prayer is unanswered

Zaddik learns of the charm:

King decrees that all sorcerers be thrown into the water

Princess tries to retrieve the charm & drowns

Zaddik promises a cure

LL: Transformation: scabs become jewels

[complete tikkun]

Archetypal **folktale plot:** Childless king/father; 3/13 tales

Despair of a man that his name will die with his death

Or: struggle of bequest/inheritance

Maasiyot she-haolam mesapper

Righteous son victorious over evil sister

Judaization

Jewish prayer = esp. efficacious

Zaddik vs. sorcerers

focus on Zaddik, not on royal intrigue

VI. Veiled AB: Where's Waldo?

- A. From Nosh on: main disciples insist upon multivalent reading
 - 1st to equate Nahman = all 7 beggars
 - Particular: Nahman-as-Hero
 - Transtemporal: The Listener-as-hero
- B. Inaugural Tale
 - Nahman as the Viceroy
 - Nahman as the King

VII. Orality & Textuality

- A. Shivhei ha-Besht
 - 55 time-lag
 - circulated orally & in MS
 - "rogue" editions made Shneur Zalman see red
- B. Sipurey maysey
 - 5-year time lag!
 - accurate transcription of early 19th-century Yiddish
 - attempt to render Yiddish idiom as exactly as possible into Hebrew
 - as a way of communing w/Reb Nahman's spirit
 - dem rebns moyakh un mayn moyl (Reb Nosh)
 - cf. Band's trans. w/Neugroschel's
 - cf. Nosh's titles w/Band's
- C. Live Performance
 - "on the way..."
 - summer 1806: ushered in a cultural revolution

The King & the Wise Man
ממלך עניו / The Humble King

I. Initial Situation

The courageous, true & humble king has hidden his face
No way of reaching him ZIMZUM, HESTER PANIM
A land in need of Tikkun

II. The Wise man & his Mission

To discover the essence of the kingdom
" " " " " their jokes
by finding the one who contains the all

III. The Wise man & the Kingdom of Falsehood SHEVIRA

A. In commerce
B. In the courts
C. In senate
Meets the king
Reveals the falsehood / praises the king
The king is reduced to nothingness
King peeks out & his portrait is taken TIKKUN?

FT pilgrimage / QUEST
Weird episodes; highly idiosyncratic
"New stories"
complex symbols that cry out for explication

Allegory

Wade thru lies to reach the Truth
Drama of God/Israel

Kabbalah

AB Where's Waldo?

Simple allegory: efficacy of prayer [more central than prince himself]
Kabbalistic: process of tikkun

AB: Nahman as childless father

AB: Nahman as leprous prince; victim of incurable TB
Punished for sexual transgression?

AB: Nahman as wise zaddik

Character & struggle of the Zaddik
Only the true zaddik can heal