

ERIK

IV is canonized version (1909/10)

II introduces Reb Mendl, the oldest link in the chain

Acts 1-2 of I → Act 2 of II (great improvement)

Yisroel gabai = unbroken inertia of the golden chain

main idea of I-II is decline of the family

from III onward - dialectic of rebirth

Pastor Adolf Sang of Beyond our Power (1883) dies trying to force the hand of God; his two children → Leah & Jonathan

Act III → pedestal for Jonathan's rise; synthetic character who ends play

Jonathan, not truly synthetic, always vacillating between Shloyme &

Pinkhes → ultimately we return to V'G'V-1211

Structure of each act identical

1. Intro: dialogues among characters to establish the atmosphere and tempo of the act

2. Enter - chief character (Shloyme - Pinkhes - Moyshe)

3. External force disrupts the chief character's idea and course of action

Each of the patriarchs has a nemesis except Pinkhes because Dr.

Bergman is too ~~exaggerated~~ caricatured to be believed; Peretz couldn't get rid of him, hence the impossibly weak 2nd act