

SHEYDIM (1918)
Maaseh Yerushalmi Revisited

I. 2 demons in a cave; older one goaded by the younger into telling a story; what happens to their skin after death; storytelling the last act before skinning.

A. When I was still young, commanded to waylay a traveler. Works in tandem with a still younger lets.

B. Confuse his horses who run off; turn themselves into people & lead him to a hut, then disappera.

C. An old lady & a forest-keeper live inside; no sooner does the keepr crawl down from the stove & is ready to lead the man than the light goes out, the hut disappears & the man is alone outside.

D. Spits in anger into a well & is dragged inside by the demons

E. Holds his own.

F. Wall of the well opens into a tavern; Man takes 3 drinks

G. The lets & he exchange places; Man assumes claws/horn; lets delighted w/result

H. Lets orders more demons onto the scene; great revelry; khoyzek un khalyastre (97); parody of Noah's ark; breyt un badkhonish, fray un freylekh

I. Man forced to regale the crowd:

a. Show your nakedness! Spit into your own face!

b. Take off your skin!

c. Do something quintessentially human

J. Man sets conditions:

a. total freedom for himself

b. they must swear to listen in silence

c. he will swear by his horns

K. Man calls for a MIRROR

1st Mirror Image

1. An old lets sees a geyer in the distance

2. Offers his daughter to him in marriage for the sake of loving the grandchildren

3. enter a Night Palace where they find her praying to icons

4. Man & demoness alone in the room (---)

[Demons angry; He's laughing at us! Reminds them of their oath]

2nd Mirror Image

1. Old lets w/his grandchild
 2. child desires to see something the old demon reluctant to show him
 3. opens the wall to reveal roomfull of demons whose horns terrify the child
 4. grandfather assures him the horns have no real power
 5. about to reveal their secret (---)
- [Outrage. The original lets holds them back from lynching him. He'll say that demons display no unity. Calms them.]

3rd Mirror Image

1. Intimate scene between Man & demoness; she is totally ruled by his love.
 2. Wants to know how to be freed of their demoniacal powers.
 3. A: power of human love; demons rendered powerless in world above
 4. she destroys the barrier
 5. reveals the Waylaid Man on the table showing signs of fatigue
 6. Man-in-the-Mirror mindful of Waylaid Man's plight
 7. Demonness now brings out something
- [Assembled demons very nervous. Whore! they shout at her; ROOSTER begins to crow]

L. Man-in-the-Mirror rescues the Waylaid Man & pulls him through the mirror

M. Demons shout: He will reveal our shame! He will tell it all!

II. Back to outer frame. Young demons asks: And the man? Old demon replies: The man told all and kept his word.