

Bruno Schulz

The Street of the Crocodiles (1934)

① AUGUST

Saturday afternoon walk in heat of summer

- (i) pseudo-panorama : Market, suburbs
- (ii) half-wit Tonya in the rubbish heap = wild center
- (iii) Aunt Agatha : Cousin Emil : fertility : sexual desire

② VISITATION (36-44) 1st weeks of early winter

- (i) Father's illness → biblical prophet
- (ii) shrinking, removed into own realm ; = stuffed vulture

③ BIRDS (45-50)

winter crows ; father's bird's-eye perspective
father / Adela : ticklish to point of madness
hatching eggs ; the condor = father ; Noah's Ark
Adela's dance of destruction

④ TAILORS' DUMMIES (51-71)

father = hero fighting boredom (winter)
mendo = zodiac sign of the day
the 2 seamstresses & their female Moloch
father studies the seamstresses like exotic birds
father as Heresiarch

Treatise on Tailors' Dummies, or Genesis 2

- (i) matter pulsates w/ infinite possibilities
temp. creations
- (ii) pain of imprisoned matter
- (iii) richness of strictly defined environments

⑤ NIMROD (72-76)

experiencing the wisdom of generations - August
sights & cockroach

⑥ PAN (77-96)

bad end → overgrown garden
epiphany of Pan in noon-hour crazy w/ heat summer

⑦ MR CHARLES (81-84)

rising from his vegetative stupor → occupying the silence - summer

⑧ CINNAMON SHOPS (85-98)

father studying secret life of the floor
hero's mission -

the streets of one's imagination (88)

the cinnamon shops (89)

Prof. Arendt's art classes → night imitating his art
intruding in headmaster's apt

ecstasy of a Dec. night : redemptive moment outside of time

⑨ THE STREET OF CROCODILES (99-110) - no time given

father's old map of the city

Old vs. New

El Dorado for moral deserters

paper facade : visit to an outfitter's shop

cabs, trams, trains (everything pseudo!)

the fermentation of desire (109)

a 2nd 12th conversion to modernity

⑩ COCKROACHES (111-116) (back to earlier narrative)

father's death; son confronts mother

condor = father

⑪ THE GALE (117-124)

saucipno, bottles attack the city - winter

attempt to rescue father at the shop

Aunt Perazina enters

⑫ THE NIGHT OF THE GREAT SEASON (125-

Time beyond time

on the art of writing → recenter Time

father's creating "octaves of color" in his shop

the great Autumn night

father faces the mob → sounds the shofar

birds arrive & are destroyed

the awakening