

I Zeydel's CV

- A. Vanity = his undoing
- B. Mental Curriculum
 1. All mind, no body
 2. No sexual identity, masculinity
 3. No marital/conjugal life
 4. No social life
 5. hoarding knowledge
- C. 1st exchange w/ Evil One: Heresy
Zeydel wins easily

II The Temptation: Devil's Command Performance

- A. Trumpets his greatness, erudition
"a pearl lost in the sand"
- B. Diatribe against Jewish leaders, law
- C. In praise of Christian majesty
- D. 1st Crisis: cannot grasp truth thru reason
 ∴ reason ≠ guiding principle of life
 ∴ Zeydel loses his faith
 ungrounded in love, emotion, or intuition
- E. Conversion → fame & power

III Zeydel's Rise & Fall: Devil absent until the end

- A. Becomes Benedictus Janowski
- B. Turns against the Talmud
will write ultimate pro-Christian tract
- C. 2nd Crisis: Their Torah = lly false
 their world = lly corrupt
 no truth or falsehood → back to Talmud!
- D. His blindness → becomes a beggar
all reality = illusion
- E. Final Revelation
finds truth/fate

" the other
robbed of his only solace: books
creates nothing
total self-involvement
loses interest in material world

7. The Ending

Z.'s epiphany = deus ex machina
totally independent of his lifelong pursuit of the truth
But Z. finally affirms faith in God!

8. Problem of Evil

enlivened, psychopathology of evil
man's infinite capacity for self-delusion
response to Stalinism

9. Intertextuality

The Jewish Pope
rabbi's son kidnapped
does teshuvah
happens in Mainz
Reb Nahman's KHOKHEM
FAUST

10. Devilspeech

learned speech,
profusion of Polish-Yiddish idioms,
consistent with Bashevis's call to return Yiddish prose to a former time
and place,

lehavdil-loshn, word-substitutions that create a semantic barrier
between the Jewish and Christian world.

differentiates between a Jew, who, when he dies, is placed in an *orn*
and buried in *beys-oylem*, *beys-hakvores*, or *dos gute ort*, as opposed to a
Christian, who is placed in a *trune* and buried in a *tsvinter*.

As master of blasphemy, he consistently **substitutes sacrilege for
Christian sancta.**