

SOLDIER2: [slaps SOLDIER3 on the back and winks] Ready for that tavern?

SOLDIER3: I'm telling you. These Jews are really something special. They're always so forthcoming and generous.

ENOCH: [returns, expressionless] Its open. [Takes out a Tehillim and stands on the side davening fervently]

[SOLDIER2 and SOLDIER3 each go behind the curtains, carrying out loads of gold and jewelry.]

SOLDIER2: You've got some good stuff here.

SOLDIER3: [sarcastic] You're too kind for sharing it.

SOLDIER1: [jumps up] He's sharing it! Well, why didn't you say so before? I want some too! [Pushes his way inside. Calls out from offstage] Wow! There's gold and silver and diamonds and... wait, whats that? [runs back out on stage] Come quick! Come quick! You won't believe it.

SOLDIER2: [irritated] We know. We've already seen what's inside.

SOLDIER1: No, no! It's the curtains!

SOLDIER2 and 3: The curtains?! [rush in, return holding the curtains]

SOLDIER3: You filthy Jewish thief! Did you really think you could get away with this?

SOLDIER2: [handcuffs ENOCH] Let's go! [SOLDIER2 and 3 lead ENOCH off the stage.]

SOLDIER1: [shakes his head] And he didn't even offer me a drink! [runs to catch up]

Lights, curtains.

Scene 7

Setting: Governor's mansion. RUDOLPH is pacing angrily up and down. SOLDIER2 and 3 enter, pushing a handcuffed ENOCH in front of them

SOLDIER2: Sire, we've found the thief!

RUDOLPH: [pivots] You have? [looks carefully] An old Jew! [laughs softly] Perfect! [to SOLDIERS] Very well done. Go to my secretary. He

will pay you for your hard work. [SOLDIERS salute and exit. RUDOLPH slowly circles a calm ENOCH] So. Its you. [Slams down whip and yells] Where did you get the curtains?

[ENOCH remains calm and unaffected, staring straight ahead quietly]

RUDOLPH: [screaming, red in the face] You filthy Jew! Answer when you are asked a question!

ENOCH: I gave my word of honor to a most noble member of your court. Unless he himself grants me permission, I am not able to explain the presence of these curtains in my house.

RUDOLPH: [screaming. ENOCH remains calm and silent throughout] You insolent knave! You rotten dog! You sniveling creep! You worthless excuse for a human being! How dare you? You will answer! [ENOCH is silent. RUDOLPH screams even louder] ANSWER!

ENOCH: I cannot.

RUDOLPH: WE'LL SEE IF THE WHIP WON'T MAKE YOU TALK! TAKE HIM AWAY!

[ENOCH is dragged away. Lights fade and curtains close. Spotlight on ENOCH in front of curtains]

ENOCH: Hashem, please help me. You know I'm trying to do the right thing. Please Hashem, have mercy!

[Sounds of steel clinking and muffled screams are heard. Curtains reopen to RUDOLPH. ENOCH is dragged in, clothes torn and bleeding.]

RUDOLPH: Now will you talk?

ENOCH: I can't. I gave my word. Unless he gives me permission, I cannot reveal his secret.

RUDOLPH: [screaming] YOU DIRTY PIECE OF FILTH! [takes a few shuddering breaths in and out to calm himself] You have until tomorrow morning. If you don't talk by nine o'clock, not only will you and your family hang from the highest tree that can be found in all of Prague, but my people will be given permission to storm the Ghetto. No Jew will be safe! Take him away!

Lights, curtains

Scene 8

Setting: Dark stage. A single bed in the center. ENOCH lies tossing and turning. After a while, he gets up and paces.

ENOCH: Oy Ribono Shel Olam! What can I do? [wrings hands] When it's just my life on the line, I know what I must do. But what is there to do now? Do I owe my allegiance to that man? He pretended not to recognize me just now when I was brought before the governor! Must I honor the oath I made to him? How can I break an oath? I swore! But the whole Kehilla is in danger! How can I take responsibility for so many lives? Ribono Shel Olam! What can be done? [sits down on the bed, buries face in hands and cries. Eventually, ENOCH slumps over into an uneasy and uncomfortable sleep.]

NIGHTMARE DANCE

MAHARAL DREAM DANCE

ENOCH: Oh, what a wonderful dream! I know everything will be okay! [takes out Tehillim and begins davening until soldiers come to take him away].

Scene 9

Setting: Governor's Mansion. As many people as possible are gathered around, arguing and gesturing. All fall silent as RUDOLPH enters, followed by HRADEK. RUDOLPH sits behind the desk, HRADEK stands behind him. A loud hissing starts as ENOCH is led, shackled, onto stage.

RUDOLPH: Good morning. I hope you had a pleasant night. [ENOCH is silent. RUDOLPH gets angry] Still silent? Let me remind you that right outside this window is an angry mob of people, just waiting for my signal to attack the Ghetto. All I need to do is wave my hand like this [walks teasingly towards the window] How easy it can be. [ENOCH stares ahead, silently. RUDOLPH stalks towards him, stopping just inches away] Well? Do you have anything to say? [ENOCH is silent] Interesting. [Starts to walk towards window]

HRADEK: [runs in front of RUDOLPH] Wait!

RUDOLPH: Hradek? What happened to you? Calm down!

HRADEK'S SONG