

The Dream Of The Golem

By H. Levik

Play no. 30

Opening show: 1/1/1935

Hebrew by: A. Shlonsky

Staged by : I. Steinhard

Music by: S. Rosovsky

Conductor: Fordhaus Ben Zissi

Cast

Yehuda, the Dreaming Golem: A. Meskin

Hanina, Messiah Ben-David: H. Rovina

Devorah'le a descendant of the Maharal A. Govinska

Messiah Ben-Josef: S. Finkel

Lilith, wife of Messiah Ben-Josef: F. Lubitch

Armilus, the Prophet: Z. Friedland

The Old Blind Man , the Prophet Eliahu: B. Tchemerinsky

Executioner: I. Bertonov

Clown: A. Kutai

Gog: } The Kings Ch. Amitai

Magog: } Of Evil S. Brooki

Crowd: I. Avital, Ch. Amitai, Ben-Chaim, M. Benjamini, S. Brook, A. Baraz, Bat-Ami,

S. Doar, H. Hendler, L. Hariel, A. Warshawer, R. Klatzkin, N. Shein.

Scene 1 In The Attic

The action of the play takes place at the time of the Messiah, during the Wars of Gog and Magog. Many centuries after the destruction of the Golem by his creator, the Maharal of Prague, the world is suffering from the vicissitudes of Messianic age. Magog is victor. Gog is vanquished and Messiah Ben-Josef (the forerunner of Messiah Ben-David) is in distress. He and his wife, Lilith, together with the other fugitives, hide from Magog in the attic of the house of Devorah'le, a descendant of the Maharal of Prague. Here the Golem, forgotten by the world, has been lying lifeless for many generations. He is dreaming of the future, of the coming of the Messiah Ben-David, when he dimly hears the voice of Ben-Josef enjoining the aid of Ben-David from the desert. He awakens and is no longer lifeless clay but a renewed and purified being. His dream was a dream of the world, of the oppressed peoples, of those hungering for deliverance at the coming of the Messiah.

Scene 2 In The Desert

Upon seeing Devorah'le, the Golem falls in love with her, just as in his former existence he had loved the granddaughter of the Maharal. This time, however, his love is a pure one. He decides to go to the desert and bring the Messiah to Devorah'le's house. He finds Hanina (Ben-David, the savior) in fetters, waiting for the sign that his time had come. The Golem brings him this sign, breaks his fetters, and the Messiah accompanies him.

Scene 3 Armilus

Armilus, the prophet at the time of the Messiah, was a "prophet of the present", knowing that everything that happens in the world – whether for good or for evil – is preordained and is part of the world scheme. This is why he is first the friend of Ben-Josef, then of Magog, then again of Ben-Josef, and later of Hanina, - as the compulsion of events dictates.

Scene 4 The Moon At The Window

Armilus companion – his friend and at the same time his enemy – is the Executioner. Armilus alone is unafraid of the Executioner. The Executioner's axe is the inescapable fate of all the heroes of the Messianic scene.

However, while Armilus undergoes great suffering, the Executioner remains calm and impassive while carrying out his mission.

Magog's victory is nearly complete. Armilus senses that something important is about to happen though he is not yet aware of the coming of Hanina.

Magog is already doomed. His last order – to have Ben-Josef executed – is not to be carried out. Hanina blocks the path of the Executioner and Golem wrests the axe from his grasp. Again with an axe in his hands, as in the Tower at Prague, the Golem envisions the blood ahead by his hands at that time.

Hanina at the same time perceives the new bloodshed which is to take place. Hanina interprets the Golem's surprise as an ill omen – a sign of the future hatred which the former will come to bear towards him.

Scene 5 In The Dungeon

Ben-Josef and Lilith are in prison, sentenced to death. Ben-Josef's only hope is that Ben-David will rescue him, but Lilith, confident in his strength and hating Ben-David, persuades him to break his fetters with his own hands. At the same time, the voice of the revolting people on their way to rescue him is heard.

Scene 6 Ben-Josef – Ben-David

Ben-Josef, freed, forgets Ben-David and seeks revenge. Armilus, supporting Ben-Josef, demands the execution of Gog and Magog. The Golem is also imbued with the spirit of the bloodthirsty avengers. Ben-David appears silently, but Lilith prevents Ben-Josef from greeting him. The sight of the heads of Gog and Magog makes Ben-David shudder: Ben-Josef has failed in his mission! The deliverance is drowning in blood! The Golem shouts at Hanina in hatred: "Enemy!"

Scene 7 The Age Of Guilt

The people celebrates its victory and Ben-Josef must stifle the voice of his conscience with rivers of blood. It is a generation of guilt. The crowd sings and dances. Only one lone man stands in a corner and asks: who will stone for the blood which has been shed? The Golem is at the head of the incited people. He knows that the true Messiah is Hanina, but he does not understand him. He did not bring him from the desert the shed tears. He cries out: Messiah Ben-David, fulfil your mission! The people is amazed to learn of the presence of Ben-David, and even Armilus is stricken dumb. But Ben-Josef, fearful of

losing his power, orders the arrest of Ben-David. The Golem rushes to the aid of Hanina and Ben-Josef orders him also to be arrested.

Scene 8 Love

Hanina in a dungeon, beaten and tortured, will not open his lips. His silence affects everyone, even disturbing the calmness of the Executioner. Hanina is deaf to Ben-Josef's entreaty that he surrender the crown of the Messiah. Only when he sees the Golem tortured, does Hanina

Open his lips, to comfort him. At last the Golem understands Hanina, but he is powerless to help him. No wishing to live without Hanina, he prefers again to be a lifeless block of clay

Ben-Josef throws him into the cellar. Hanina declares that her will not be deterred from his Messianic mission. Ben-Josef orders the Executioner to continue to torture him. Ben-Josef orders Devorah'le, the only person who has not deserted Hanina, to be imprisoned in his cell and tortured together with him. Armilus orders the arrest of Ben-Josef: The hour of an innocent generation has come and the rule of Ben-Josef is nearing its end.

Scene 9 The Age Of Innocence

Ben-Josef, refusing to submit, is captured by the people who demand his death. And Ben-David must pass the death sentence upon him. In vain has he striven to keep his hands unstained with blood. Without the head of the last of the "all guilty", the "age of innocence" cannot arrive. Another victim of Ben-Josef, the Prophet Eliahu (whose tongue has been cut out for speaking of the True Messiah) shows Hanina the only way open to him. Hanina must also shed blood and Ben-Josef is sentenced to death. The world has been delivered but the deliverer has lost his world; He is the only and last evil being: with his own hands he has killed Ben-Josef and his hands are stained with blood!

Scene 10-11 Peace

The people, led by the Golem and Devorah'le, is celebrating the feast of the deliverance. The Messiah passes judgment upon himself: His mission is fulfilled, the world is delivered, but his own fate is decided: He must give up his earthly being, and he wills it to the Golem. Only the Executioner accompanies him to the dungeon to carry out his sentence!