

The Brothers Karamazov

By Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Play no. 148

Opening show: 06/10/1956

Dramatized for the stage by: Jack Copeau and Jean Croix

Hebrew by: Nathan Alterman

Directed by: Svi Friedland

Setting by: Genia Berger

Music: Fordhaus Ben-Tzissy

Choreography: Ruth Harris

Conducted by: Zvi Rozen

Cast

Father Zossima: Menahem Binyamini

Fyodor Karamazov: Ari Kutai

Dmitri Karamazov (Mitya): Shimon Finkel

Ivan Karamazov: Mish Asherov

Alexey Karamazov (Alyosha) : Shmuel Atzmon

Smerdyakov, Fyodor's servant: Raphael Klatzkin

Grigory: Shlomo Bruk

Katherina Ivanovna, Dmitri's betrothed: Shoshana Ravid

Grushenka: Miriam Zohar

Mussyalovitch: Shlomo Bertonov

Vrublevsky : Ben-Nissim Zemach

Servant, in the house of Katherina: Albert Cohen

Trifon, the innkeeper at Mokroe: Baruch David

Police Officer: Albert Cohen

Andrey, a driver: Joseph Assa

Scene I

Dmitri Karamazov (Mitya) comes to the monastery to see his brother Alexey (Alyosha), a novice and pupil of Father Zossima, to tell him of his quandary. Dmitri is engaged to Katherina Ivanovna, but he is determined to leave her because he considers himself unworthy of her pure love. He wishes her instead to marry his brother – Ivan. But, as Dmitri explains to Alyosha, Katherina refuses to release him because once, at the beginning of their friendship, he had had Katherina at his mercy but had not taken advantage of her helplessness. In a passion of "self-laceration" Katherina is resolved to sacrifice all her personal inclinations and marry Dmitri.

He situation is complicated by the fact that Katherina, who had since come into money of her own, had entrusted to Dmitri three thousand Robles to post for her to a relative in Moscow. But Dmitri had spent the money on an orgy of pleasure at Moroe with Grushenka, with whom he is enamored, and whom he now wishes to marry. He tells Alyosha that their father, Fyodor Pavlovitch Karamazov, an old profligate, who is himself in love with Grushenka, should give him the three thousand Robles which he needs because, although legally

he owes him nothing, actually much more is due to him from his inheritance from his mother. This would enable him to repay Katherina.

Fyodor's servant, Smerdyakov, looks for Dmitri to tell his father offered Grushenka three thousand Rubles if she will come to him, and he thinks the girl is tempted. Smerdyakov also informs Dmitri that Fyodor has gone with his second son Ivan to the monastery to lay the matter of Dmitri's claim to an inheritance before Father Zossima and ask him to decide what is the just course to take.

Fyodor and Ivan arrive at the monastery. Fyodor behaves like a buffoon, and in the course of a bitter quarrel with Dmitri, in the presence of Father Zossima, he reveals that Smerdyakov is his bastard son by an idiot girl, Lizaveta. Dmitri is about to strike his father when Father Zossima bows down before him and prevent him. Overcome with confusion, Dmitri rushes away. The monk instructs Alexey to leave, the monastery and return to the world, because he has a part to play in the prevention of future tragedy in the family.

Scene II

At the home of Katherina Ivanova, Ivan urges Katherina to give up Dmitri and marry him, but Katherina cannot forget Dmitri's "greatness of soul" on the occasion of their first meeting. She is prepared to put up with all Dmitri's offences, but not to let him go. Ivan tells her that Dmitri himself has sent him to beg for his release, but Katherina refuses to yield. She has even invited Grushenka to her house and treated her most affectionately in the hope that Grushenka will forsake Dmitri. Grushenka indeed is afraid of meeting the ardent Dmitri because her love who had abandoned her five years before now returning and she has agreed to meet him at a tavern at Mokroe. Pressed, however, by Katherina to say she will have nothing more to do with Dmitri, the fickle Grushenka says she has not yet made up her mind, and Katherina angrily drives her from the house.

Alyosha tries to tell Ivan that he and Katherina were meant for one another, but Ivan cannot forgive Katherina for her pride and obstinacy. Dmitri bursts into Katherina's house in search of Grushenka. Katherina tells him that she believes Grushenka has decided to go to his father, Fyodor. Dmitri rushes home to waylay her.

Scene III

Fyodor Karamazov's drawing room. Dmitri begs Smerdyakov and Grigory his father's servants, to tell him where Grushenka is hiding Smerdyakov informs him that she has not yet arrived but is due a midnight. Dmitri waits for her outside to stop her from entering.

Fyodor is frightened and entreats his servants to protect him. At dinner he sits with his son Ivan, the "educated one", and plies him with questions about God and immortality. Ivan replies that there is nothing, and that "all is permissible". Alyosha arrives, and Ivan pours out the bitterness of his soul to him. When Alyosha leaves Smerdyakov waylays Ivan and tells him that Dmitri is hiding in the yard. If Grushenka comes, tragedy may follow. Nevertheless Ivan ignores this warning and tells Smerdyakov that he is leaving at once for Moscow.

Scene IV

That same night at the tavern in Mokroe. Grushenka, is seated by her former lover, a Pole named Mussyalovitch, and his friend Vrublevsky. She is bitterly disappointed for she finds that all her old love is dead. But when she wishes to leave, Mussyalovitch prevents her. At that moment, to her confusion and joy, Dmitri bursts in. Dmitri is determined to make a wild night of it. He orders the tavern-keeper, Trifon Borissovitch, to bring dancing girls and musicians. Champagne pours like water. He spends money right and left. Then he plays cards with the two Poles, but when he finds they have cheated him he throws them out.

There is great feasting and revelry, in which the villagers take part until Dmitri sends them away. Grushenka now realizes that she loves only Dmitri, and when Dmitri attempts suicide she prevents him from carrying out his intention. She promises that she will follow him anywhere, even to Siberia.

A police officer comes in. He arrests Dmitri on suspicion of the murder of his father. Dmitri denies the accusation. He admits he wished to kill his father, but he had not actually done so.