

A jewish patriarch out of liquor

after the first world war

In the year 1924 I stayed in a house in the department of the former estate office in Prague. I was not interested in big housing estates. I only came to visit one of my friends who was employed in the estate agency. When I had talked for a while with my friend, the door opened and into the office entered a sturdy elderly man whose appearance betrayed his origin. He looked old fashioned, but the massive gold chain on the waistcoat betrayed that it concerned a rich jew. I wanted to retreat so that I should not disturb the negotiations. But the jew invited me that I should stay, that he has no secrets. He said he came to show the secretary the photocopy of his portrait as a proof that he is a czech jew and that he supports czech artists. I thus remained there. The jew then showed us the photograph. On first sight it was obvious, that it is a pen drawing of our leading artist. In the right corner of the photo I noticed his signature and the year 1918, the drawing was of 1918. The jew soon took leave. When he had left, I asked my friend who this really was. This is in fact a jewish patriarch, at least he is called thus. He pesters me already the whole year. He is concerned to obtain a big estate near Prague. He convinces our office that he is a czech jew and that he deserves certain . He has a beautiful house above the park near the museum. His name sounds hebrew. Leopold Jerusalem. My friend put his hand into the ^{inner part} ~~drawer~~ of the writing desk and pulled out from there an exercise book on the title page of which was written with ornamental writing: ~~Rexinix~~ Memoirs of Leopold Jerusalem. This he gave me recently so that I should read it. He said he extracted there some of his memoirs from which I would see that he is a czech jew. And anyway ~~with~~ this czech jewishness he brandishes all the time, so that it is disgusting. The patriarch interested me, so I asked him that he should lend me the Jerusalem memoirs.

I received them with the remark that I can keep them, because they belong to the official papers. (remark ML:should perhaps read "don't belong"?) From that time onwards I often met the jewish patriarch and I even read that he came to the former president Masaryk with some jewish delegation. But I did not look into the memoirs. I kept them in my writing desk together with other papers. There they lay several years unnoticed. Only after about six years I noticed the well known portrait of Leopold Jerusalem in a jewish freemason journal. I studied namely the history of the Prague jewish Freemason's lodges, and so I came again across Leopold Jerusalem, who had been already from the year 1894 a member of the order and represented the highest ranking of the lodge. I thus

took out of the heap of old papers the memoirs, written by the mentioned jew, so that he could prove that he is a czech jew. In the style of the jewish storyteller Vojtěch Rakous, Jerusalem rendered there a bit of the chronicle of his family. I later verified certain things from the Jerusalem memoirs and thus I gained that jew, who from liquor became a jewish patriarch. My father was Markus Jerusalem, thus begins the author of the memoirs. He was born in Dřevnice near Chrudim, where my grandfather had a spirit distillery and connected with this a liquor shop. Then - until the year 1848 it was the privilege of the big estates to produce and sell Propination. This concerned big estates which carried out patrimonial justice in this or that village. The big estates were allowed to lease out those rights. Thus my grandfather and then my father became tenants of the mentioned patrimonials, which belonged to the Medlesie baron. After the year 1848 my father bought the mentioned distillery from the baron. He enlarged it, built onto it big horse stables and also a big shop, where everything what the community needed was sold, also liquor. The shop was managed by my mother. The financial standing of my parents improved from year to year. My father continually bought additional fields, so that at the time of the birth of my younger brother Vilem (Wilhelm, ML) he owned already 25 hectares of fields, which corresponds to a medium agricultural estate. As our house showed to be tight for the whole family, my father built on another location, at the end of the Dřevnice community, a one store house with a warehouse and agricultural buildings. The building gave the impression of a palace. Further on Jerusalem describes how he attended the agricultural school in Chrudim, because of the his father gained three farms into the balance(?) and wanted to hand them on. Out of the fact that he attended an agricultural school Jerusalem deducted the conclusion that he is a czech jew. As already mentioned, I verified the various statements which I read in the memoirs of the jew Jerusalem. From the materials which I thus obtained, emerged the following picture.

Leopold Jerusalem was born on the 13th January 1849 in Dřevnice near Chrudim. His father and his grandfather became rich from the production and sale of liquor. Many peasants in the Chrudim area drank out their ^{land} pay in the Jerusalem distillery. The young jew Leopold attended the gymnasium in Litomyšl up to the quarta. Then he went to the agricultural college in Chrudim. When he was 20 years old, he took over the management of the estate after his older sister who had died. As he managed the estate, he discovered that one can make money there, because one can put off there the agricultural workers with a ^{miserable} ~~pitiful~~ wages. From the money which his grandfather and father gained through liquor, he hired a large estate in Veleň and Čakovice, which he had in tenure uninterruptedly nearly 50 years, i.e. until the land reform of the 1924s. In Veleň lived the jew Bejkovsky. This one had a daughter Camila to be married off.

Leopold Jerusalem agreed with Bejkovsky about the amount of the dowry and married Camila. Herewith he gained further money, which he immediately invested in ^{the hire of} the gentlemen's estates Gbely and Satalice near Prague. Thus he gained 3 large farms which earned him a nice amount of money. The czech peasant had to robot on a small piece of land, while the jew commanded on 3 farms and was ~~from the~~ ^{from the} ~~work of~~ ^{the} ~~work of~~ ^{work of} ~~Czech farm workers.~~ ^{from the} ~~Later he ex-~~ ^{from the} ~~changed the farm in Letňan near Prague against the farm in Satalice.~~ ^{from the}

Leopold Jerusalem was the type of jewish tenants of large estates, as walked around many over the czech ~~ground~~ ^{soil} also at the time of the former Republic. Out of the czech ~~ground~~ ^{soil} he gained in the course of the years millions, but in the czech culture he was not interested. Of course, he let himself be portrayed by a czech artist, but only because the mentioned artist enjoyed already at that time european reputation, so that it belonged to the bon-tone to have a portrait from him. The Patriarch Jerusalem dedicated himself from the year 1894 to the native freemasonry. He was a founder member of the Prague lodges Praga and Humanism. Three times he was the president of the lodge Bohemia. Finally he became the representative of the grandpresident of the jewish freemasonry grandlodge of the former Republic. He had two younger brothers. One of them, Josef Jerusalem became a lawyer, the second, Vilem studied jewish philosophy, and of him it was said that he was a ^(deu deu) shrewd-jewish philosopher. And all this from the money which their grandfather earned from liquor. From those times until today ~~ixxxxxx~~ exists the so-called distillery, where spirit was distilled from potatoes, where there was the shop which functioned until that time when I remember of the old shop the bell, which rang when the door of the shop was opened. That house, called distillery, Jerusalem bought from the baron of Medlesice. Thus originated a jewish street, ending at the high house from the mill already the street na jelenim. 1918. year 1924. That house was then called a palace because it towered over the small huts with tiled roofs.