**Theodor father of the nation**

**Leading characters:**

**Herzl** (35-40 ): Journalist, playwright, visionary of the Jewish State

**Julie** (30- 35): Herzl's wife. Spoiled and mentally unstable

**Oscar** (35): Journalist and doctor. Herzl's colleague, assistant, and best friend

**MC** – painist narrator appears in many small parts

**Chorus ( 6 actors )**

**3 men and 3 women playing:**

Herzl's father and mother,

Reverend Hechler

German Kaiser Willhelm II

Baron Hirsch

Lord Chamberlain

Karl Lueger

Alfred Dreyfus

Furious mob, students, whores, Café goers , Rishon Lezion settlers and clerks

**Orchestra:** piano, contrabass, drums, brass, violin, wind instruments

Who was the man who changed the history of the Jewish people? How did he transform from a Viennese journalist and frustrated playwright who rejected his Jewish roots, to a fearless leader and diplomat? The musical "Herzl, King of the Jews" tells the life story of Theodor Herzl, the visionary of the state of Israel, his poor marriage, the pursuit of a Jewish State, and his untimely death.

*Overture.*

**ACT I**

Scene 1

*Scrim reads: Austria, 1904*

(Oscar is driving Herzl in a wheelchair. Herzl is wearing a robe and his legs are hidden under a blanket. He looks very ill.)

Herzl: Thank you, Oscar. Finally, I get to breathe some fresh air. I have always thought that I knew what terror and horror were… But it was all child's play compared to starving for air! (coughs) did you telegraphed my mother?

Oscar: she's on her way…

Herzl: (grabs his hand) do whatever it takes to keep me alive until she arrives.

Oscar: You will get better, Theodor.

Herzl: I will not delude myself. Just like the theater, I am after the last call…

Oscar: two expert cardiologists from Hamburg will arrive tomorrow.

Herzl: Jewish…

Oscar: of course.

Herzl: we have always been better… But we were never allowed to climb up the ladder. One day the entire world will look up to us. (coughs)

Oscar: it's getting chilly. Do you want to go back to your room?

Herzl: No… Not yet. I need more air. (sighs) Just don't do anything stupid after I am gone! Oscar, soon enough you will have a lot of work… You will have to convene the Seventh Congress (laughs and coughs at the same time). If only he (pointing upwards) gave me another couple of years… But he tends to break His tools.

(Julie Herzl's wife] appears with a nurse, who is holding a tray)

Julie: (hysterical) There you are… Aren't you happy with your bronchitis? Do you want to catch pneumonia?

Herzl: Julie…

Julie: You need to take your medication.

Herzl: Yes. (To Oscar) Let's go inside.

(Oscar drives him to the exit)

Oscar: You know, I keep thinking about our days in Paris.

Herzl: it's only been nine years…

Oscar: you were right back then. I was wrong.

Herzl: Ah, Paris… (going offstage) I'd go back to these days in a heartbeat.

(Scrim goes up. Backstage reads "Paris, 1895". High society chorus members are standing in a Parisian saloon, posing a theatrical freeze. Lights go on. The

<https://youtu.be/a3IUQIOSA6s>

**track 1**

*PARIS, 1895*

**CHORUS**

In the city of light

Where the winds of change kiss your cheek

Innovation so bright

It shines at the century’s peak

Bright lights! Telegraph!

Telephone! Phonograph!

What more could humanity seek?

A tower that reaches up to the heavens

Fantastique! Fantastique!

Belle Époque, what a time

La Tour Eiffel marking a brilliant frontier

It’s Paris in its prime

And the streets full of lovers and cheer

Another day

Dancing troubles away

And the wine pouring out everywhere

Pour la Liberté

La Fraternité

En Paris, La Ville Lumierre

(The pictures go up and a coffee house on the bank of a river is lit).

**CHORUS**

Stroll along the Left Bank

That’s overlooking the Seine

Smoke another cigar

And sample the famous cuisine

**WOMEN**

White gloves, parasol

Feathers and all

The coffeeshops always are full

The brothers Lumiere are gifting their genius

It’s a magic device! Fantastique!

The Cinematograph!

**CHORUS**

Another day

Dancing troubles away

And the wine pouring out everywhere

Pour la Liberté

La Fraternité

En Paris, La Ville Lumierre

**MC** (waiter)

He came to Paris as a young journalist

Employed by a paper in Vienne

**CHORUS**

He wrote politique, and what dresses are chic

With an elegant sweep of the pen

**MC**

Everyday he’d report from the Palais Bourbon

About the corruption du jour

**CHORUS**

His prose on the arts, both high and the low,

Was clever and funny and pure

**MC**

Mon monsieur, wine or beer?

**HERZL**

A glass of the heavy Bavarian I love

The cigar is divine, the baguette also great

**MC**

Oo la la!

**CHORUS**

Another day

Dancing troubles away

And the wine pouring out everywhere

Pour la Liberté

La Fraternité

En Paris, La Ville Lumierre

**PAPERBOY**

Attention! Attention! Edition spéciale!

**CROWD**

Court has ruled, court has ruled! Captain Alfred Dreyfus is guilty!

If you only saw his face, would you even think that he was French?

He’s a Jew that sold our army’s secrets abroad, and who compromised beautiful France!

(A gate descends downstage; the crowd is standing behind it. Dreyfus is led

by an officer to face the general)

**GENERAL**

Alfred Dreyfus, you are unworthy to bear arms. I hereby degrade you in the name of the French people. Let the judgment be executed.

**DREYFUS**

I swear and declare that you are degrading an innocent man. Vive la France! (to the press, Herzl amongst them) you must tell the French people the truth! I am innocent!

**CROWD**

La mort de tous les juifs

La mort de tous les juifs

You’re a traitor, Jew!

You’re a dirty old Jew!

Death to every Jew!

Death to every spy!

What a Jewish pig!

Jewish pigs are all the same!

They are all the same!

Amour sacré de la patrie

Viva la patrie!

(the rally disperses)

**Scene 2**

(Oscar's studio. Herzl is sitting for a portrait. The cries of the mob, **"la mort de tous** **les juifs!"** can still be heard in the distance…)

Herzl: These voices haunt me. "Death to all Jews"…

Oscar: sit down, I think it will all calm down…

Herzl: no Oscar! It will never calm down!

Oscar: Dori, you're overreacting…

Herzl: no, don't you see? This is not a passing fancy! Nothing can help the Jews, not even being a great artist like you…

Oscar: could you please hold still! More profile …

Herzl: we will never fit in with Christian society. We don't even dare raise our heads and doubt Dreyfus' guilt

Oscar: Lower your head please… (pause). Do you believe Dreyfus is innocent?

Herzl: I don't think he's a spy.

Oscar: and how do you know that?

Herzl: The highest-ranking Jewish officer to ever serve in the French army, will risk everything he has accomplished?

Oscar: money could be one good reason…

Herzl: He's a wealthy Jew. The very reason he chose a military career was for the social status, and what bothers me most of all is that this is happening in France! The cradle of culture and modernism, not one hundred years after the Declaration of the Rights of Man, and we're back in the Middle Ages, with one difference. This is not religious persecution, but secular persecution…

Oscar: sit down! look to your right. Now to your left. Ok, the left makes the nose look better… now don't move.

Herzl: All Jews have something in common…

Oscar: Look at you and me, we're both Austrian Jews, we look nothing alike.

Herzl: Yes, I know, I know… we're scattered all over the world, and the only thing that keeps us together is religion.

Oscar: Theodor I know you from Vienna, you're quite the Epicurus. You didn't circumcise your son Hans.

Herzl: That's a private matter. (pause). Maybe I should write a play. Something… that will shake things up, rock the boat, raise that question!

Oscar: a rhymed comedy about the Jews!?

Herzl: no, not a comedy.

Oscar: what then?

Herzl: a political play

Oscar: a political play? About Jews? Who will come see this? Who cares?

Herzl: I care!

Oscar: but you keep moving, please…

Herzl: If I wasn't working for that paper, If I didn't have to wire in an article from Paris every day I would run off to Italy and write that play in two weeks.

Oscar: two weeks? I've been working on this painting for two months and you won't let me finish it! two weeks…

Herzl: I can see the lines of the dialogue in front of me… (gets up. Picks up his umbrella). I am very sorry Oscar, today's sitting will be a short one.

Oscar: let me know when you have more time.

Herzl: of course. (He rushes out)

Oscar: well at least I'm done with the ear. But that nose!!!!

**MC**

For three weeks he sits to write a new play

To capture the hearts of the crowd

Political drama that will present

The Jewish conundrum aloud

**HERZL:**

A wonderful joy is filling my heart

And dancing in every vein

The manuscript grows every day

"The New Ghetto" -my new play!

**Scene 4**

(Jeannette, Herzl's mother, in her 60's, is in her armchair, reading. Nanny is serving her tea. Julie, Herzl's wife, is heard hammering at the door to Herzl's office, which is shut)

Julie (off stage): Theodor…. Theodor!! You have been locked up in your study for two weeks straight!! You hardly leave the house, the children never see you, what are you writing there, anyway? I want to know! Answer me! (Comes in) You will end up alone, that will be the end of it.

(She grabs a pile of books from a nearby side table and throws them down)

Jeannette (to the Nanny): Josephine, please pick those up.

Julie: don't touch that!! I want him to see. I want him to come out and see.

Jeannette: Julie, he is working. You should leave him alone.

(Jacob comes in. Herzl's father)

Julie: and you should stop meddling! You should stop ordering me around in my own house! Ever since he brought you here to Paris my life has been in shambles… and he, your precious little boy, only listens to you…

Jeannette: when you start running this house right, when you stop trusting the help and start cutting expenses, I will stop meddling

Julie: what's it to you what I spend money on or wat I buy?! This is insufferable… I hate you I hate you I hate you!!!!!!!!

Jacob: so, we shall have screaming again tonight?

(Herzl comes out of his room)

Herzl: what are you screaming about?!

Julie: this is not going to work. you hardly ever see the children.

Herzl: I am done writing. This play really had a grip on me, I couldn't pull myself away. Father, will you be willing to copy the manuscript? (Handing it to him)

Jacob: I will be happy to! It's not like I'm doing much of anything these days… what is it about?

Herzl: a Jewish hero, who, although he had equal rights, could not find his place in Christian society.

Jacob (reading the title) "The new Ghetto, a play in four acts

Julie: I don't understand why you even bother. None of the theatres will take it.

Jeannette: I will not have her speak to you this way.

Herzl: mother…

Jeannette: with utter disrespect, the way she speaks to us.

Herzl: Can we have one evening in this house without quarreling?

Julie: you keep defending him, like he's a little child… but the fact is, not even one of his plays has been accepted to any theatre in years! All this work is for nothing, for the drawer! I have made up my mind. I am going to my mother in Vienna. And the children are going with me. (To Herzl) you can file a lawsuit if that's what you want, let there be a scandal. I am taking the three of them away.

Herzl: Julie…

Julie: No!

Herzl: Julie, please calm down!

Julie: don't talk to me! No!

Herzl: I brought all of you here to Paris for a trial period, I thought it will work… but if you cannot listen to my mother, or learn from her, and you (to Jeannette) will not consult her, and both of you cannot bring yourselves to settle your differences on your own and you keep coming to me with it… than I have other things to do. I am asking you Julie, enough arguing… and you too, mother, maybe instead of reproaching her, you can set an example for her.

Julie: (shouting) I don't need her to set an example for me!!!

Herzl: please, my child…

Julie: No, no, stop trying to appease me! And don't try to silence me, I am sick with the lot of you!! (She leaves).

Herzl: If I didn't fear the scandal from her family, I would have divorced her already. She should be psychiatrically evaluated and institutionalized…

Jacob: when we go back to Vienna, we will consult Rabbi Gidman about the possibility of getting a divorce. In any case, regarding the inheritance money the law is on your side. As soon as her father dies you will have full access to those funds, and that's worth a lot of money…

Jeannette: well, well, we needn't worry about money, we have quite enough, we will give you whatever you need, don't worry. You are the most important…

Herzl: (his arms around them) my dear parents. What ever would I have done without you? The mere thought of not seeing you every day is already making me ill… I really am tired. This high-paced, stressful job…

Jeannette: what about the transfer you asked for to Vienna?

Herzl: The Gentlemen at the "Neue" are stalling, trying to postpone the decision, but they will have to address it at some point.

Jacob: that can take months. it will be a waste to keep this enormous house…

Herzl: I will notify the landlords that we will be leaving. Maybe I will rent a room in a hotel…

Jacob: that will certainly cut expenses, but I want you to write to us if you need any sort of financial help.

Herzl: don't you worry my darlings. I will manage. Good night. (he leaves).

Jeannette: of all the women in the world, he had to marry her…

**MC ( as a Parisian painter )**

He spends many nights sitting at his hotel

All alone in his room with a view

What should come next? Nobody can tell

Perhaps a new novel is due?

**Scene 5**

<https://youtu.be/P2FFcE9_xzA>

(Light changes, the place turns into a Parisian Moulin Rouge style bordello)

**Track 2**  *: COME SPEND THE NIGHT*

**WHORES**

But you are in Paris, chéri

Come take a load off, dear sir

The night tastes of chocolate and strawberry

Down here at the filthiest quartier

Come spend the night with the women

In Paris’ own Market of Lust

Find a pair of legs you can swim in

We’re open from dust to dust

Every shiny top hat and tailcoat

Finds a dirty dress in Montmartre

Sir, you don’t need more than one note

You look like you could play the part

La la la...

**HERZL**

Their smiles are leering at me

Their faces covered in paste

They’re cheap as a boxful of hay

They are birds of Eden trapped and chased

Like characters inside a play

**WHORES**

A circus that goes on till morning

Moaning and grunting in tune

But we should give you a warning

You better call a doctor soon

(Herzl has his back to the audience, his pants are at his ankles. The doctor approaches him)

Doctor: well Monsieur Herzl (he hands him a small cup)

Herzl: (drinks the medicine and spits it out) what is that?!!

Doctor: Zinc sulfate saline, for the treatment of syphilis. It won't help, but it can't hurt!

(Herzl puts his clothes on. He wants to leave, but the girls and the doctor envelope him)

**WHORES**

Come spend the night with the women

In Paris’ own Market of Lust

Find a pair of legs you can swim in

We’re open from dust to dust

**Scene 6**

(Jardin des Tuileries. Herzl is on a bench. Oscar approaches him)

Oscar: there you are!

Herzl: Oscar!

Oscar: I searched the entire garden looking for you…

Herzl: back in Paris?

Oscar: only for a week, then back to Vienna.

Herzl: yes. what about the play, the Ghetto? Any news?(pause)courage, my friend, courage. My plays were rejected before, you know.

what about the Burgtheater in Berlin?

Oscar: they don't require new plays now.

Herzl: a good excuse. Did you try in Prague?

Oscar: Rosenbacher concluded that the play is offensive to Jews.

Herzl: really. (pause) Oscar, maybe the play is bad. I'm in utter despair. None of the theatres give me the time of day. As a playwright I'm a complete failure.

Oscar: you mustn't give up, Dori. You already proved to everyone that you are a wonderful writer. Your reports from Paris are all…

Herzl: I'm sick of Paris. I'm alone here.. I don't have a single friend in Paris that I may be completely frank with, and you… you just went back to Vienna. (pause) I've already spoken to the Gentlemen at the "Neue that I don't intend are looking for a position for me in Vienna. I don't mind making less money, if I can be in Vienna and see my parents and my children.

Oscar: you will go back to Julie?

Herzl: under certain conditions, I am willing to go back and live at the house, but she must agree that we have separate bedrooms.

Oscar: are you sure?

Herzl: one last try.

Oscar: I brought you some photos.

Herzl: (looks at the photos) Hans looks so much like me… and little Trude… Paulina. They're so grown up, I haven't seen them in six months…

Oscar: I am sorry. I cannot stay. I have to make it to the opening of a Chinese circus and send the article to Vienna tonight.

Herzl: I will stroll around the garden some more. This place gives me inspiration.

Oscar: writing something new?

Herzl: an extraordinary piece. I still don't know myself what it will be. I write everything that comes to my mind, no censorship. I tell it everything. Like lovers do.

Oscar: I can't wait to read it. (pause) always mysterious, Dori. Always mysterious!

The gardens come alive. Some of the ideas for *Der Judenstaat* come up in his mind because of everything he sees around him. Herzl walks around, he sits down, he stands up again, writing endlessly, in complete opposition to the ideal surroundings. When he sings, the characters form a theatrical tableau.

<https://youtu.be/PrNTPpDPL3o>

**track 3**

*TUILERIES GARDEN*

**VISITORS**

The lovers travail

Every beautiful trail

Among marble statues of love

Jardin des Tuileries

At the heart of Paris

Everyone’s sanctuary

**HERZL**

An immense design

Takes hold of my mind

Makes my spirit soar to the sky

An immense design

Unravels to me

But will it one day come to be?

As I walk, as I stand,

As I lie, as I sit

My dream is all that I can feel

As the calendar fades

And the vision invades

It becomes almost real

Herzl: In the Jewish state we must first and foremost provide entertainment for the masses. We shall build extravagant halls to match the Paris Opera House. We will have a Champs Elysees, a new Louvre. So it will feel like we have never left the old country.

**HERZL**

I shall engage

All of the Jews

And unite them all, both young and old

Under one flag, all white and clean

With seven bright stars marked in gold

We shall speak in the tongue

That we come with from home

In German, English or in French

Hebrew will be reserved

As the language of prayer

We have cultural ways to entrench

Herzl: In any case we shall stop using Yiddish, the language of the Ghetto

**HERZL**

Starting today

They will utter my name

With the awe that's reserved to a king

The daily concerns

Of a regular life

Forever replaced with a high calling

**VISITORS**

He is being absurd

He is out of his mind

We had better alert the police

Perhaps he’s a drunk

Or a dangerous nut

That the doctors wrongly released

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HERZL**  I’m not being absurd  I’m not out of my mind  And the Jews will see that I am right  I am no madman  No dangerous nut  I have seen the light  I have seen the light  I have seen the light! | **VISITORS**  He is absurd  Out of his mind  Someone call the police  Is he quite alright?  What does he recite? |

(Herzl collapses on the bench. The characters and the scenery in the background fade away. Oscar comes in, reading)

Oscar: "and to conclude my speech, I would like to say to the Rothschild family council, that there is no other way. We will go to the land of Israel, a land which God has been kind enough as to bestow upon us, and we will carry the shining flag of our own design…" (he folds the paper) Now I am certain that you are ill, these notes are the result of Illness, you must see a doctor!

Herzl: you are a doctor…

Oscar: A Neurologist! (Checking his pulse) good God, your heart is racing, like you're having a panic attack…

Herzl: I also wrote to Baron Hirsch. I am going to meet with him.

Oscar: (appalled) what?! He'll have you thrown out; he'll think you've gone mad!! Dori, I advise you not to speak to anyone about this idea of a Jewish state, it is insane! Most of it is completely imaginary, it is doomed to failure, you will end up like that false Messiah Sabbatai Zevi who converted to Islam in the Turkish prison!

Herzl: I also wrote to Rabbi Gudemann in Vienna…

Oscar: what?... he will think you have gone mad! He will tell your parents, they will be miserable, their hearts will be broken (pause) Dori, think of Julie and the children. You will become pathetic.

Herzl: maybe I should turn my idea into a great novel!

Oscar: (excited) a novel! A novel is a wonderful idea!

(pause)

Oscar:. Dori, I will come see you tomorrow at the hotel. You must rest. Promise me! (He leaves)

Herzl: if Oscar doesn't get it, what will simple folk say?... (pause) they need to kill us some more; the Jews must yet suffer more disasters until we are ready. Only then… only then can this idea materialize.

<https://youtu.be/Xf9z_pVYMaU>

**track 4**

*I BELIEVE*

**HERZL**

I have nothing but faith in my triumph

I’ll go and take center stage

Today I am just a man

Tomorrow I’m a sage

Every Jew and Christians too

Will keep me in their daily prayers

They’ll raise a glass of wine

And drink to my health and success

I finally can feel the taste of life

My name will be marked for all time

On the stage of the world!

**Scene 7***Castille Hotel, Paris*(Herzl is preparing to meet Baron Hirsch)

<https://youtu.be/kmivow1jCC8>

**track 5**

***THE BARON***

**MC as BELL** **BOY**

Your cane, your gloves, straighten your tie

Perfect gentleman, with a twinkle in the eye…

**HERZL**

The entrance you make dictates everything

Like stepping onstage from the wing

**BELL BOY**

You need to concentrate, dear sir!

**HERZL**

I must maintain a proper poise

**BELL BOY**

Perhaps a whiff of salts?

The man is rich! For all his faults...

**HERZL**

*Right… But we must not defer to the rich in everything.*

**BELL BOY**

Voila!

**BOTH**

Let us hear money talk.

(Stage transforms into the Baron's palace)

**SERVANTS**

What a mensch - Maurice Hirsch

Philanthrope - Maurice Hirsch

The Great Patron - Maurice Hirsch

Maurice Hirsch - Der Baron

Maurice Hirsch - Railway Tycoon

Benefactor of every Jewish commune

He would gladly have spent

For a new settlement

A million or two

The man knew what money meant

Der Baron - what a mensch

The Great Patron - Maurice Hirsch

**BARON**

I have a mansion, and several estates

One in London, in Hungary and France

**SERVANTS**

He’s deciding on fates from inside golden gates, at spectacular rates!

**BARON**

Yes, a Baron donates

The title dictates!

‘Cause…

Perhaps I dine on silver plates

Purveyor of the wealth that God creates

But in my heart I’m always true

To every plight of every Jew

I’ll gather them from every corner

Find a place where they can form

A state to shelter from the storm

Where being Jewish is the norm!

**SERVANTS**

Baron Hirsch

Der Baron

**HERZL**

Mr. Hirsch, Argentinian Jews will stay poor

By your handsome charity

You are giving them fish, what they need is a rod

To make their own prosperity

**BARON**

That is true

**SERVANTS**

Der Baron?

**BARON**

*I am bringing up a generation of lazy freeloaders, but… what can you do?*

**HERZL**

You could, for example, give out a prize

For inventions of the mind

The world will observe there’s a new kind of Jew

Realize he is wise, and will rise!

As a leader to mankind

**BARON**

Most gracious Herr

You must beware

The Jewish people simply do not care

The scholarly among the Jews

Are not the company I choose

**HERZL**

But if we stay as peasants we

Will never gain equality

It’s only human to evolve

And that’s not only my resolve

Der Baron

**BARON**

*Immigration is the only solution!*

**HERZL**

*[aside] Who told him I’m against immigration? I don’t care if it’s Argentina or Palestine, it’s all here in my notes! I will go to the German emperor and I will tell him: let my people go!*

**BARON**

*My dear sir, you seem like a bright fellow. The trouble is your ideas are too… imaginative!*

**SERVANTS**

They’ve been debating for an hour

Our supper will be late

That Herr Herzl has quite the inquisitive mind

And he sounds articulate

(They say as a playwright he’s great)

How much longer are we

Supposed to stand….

Around and wait?

**BARON**

*So what is it you want from me? Money?*

**HERZL**

I will create the largest fund

**BARON**

That is if you will not be shunned

**HERZL**

I will instate a national loan

**BARON**

I’m willing to give of my own

**HERZL**

If every Jew will donate to our bank

**BARON**

Rothschild will give about… a hundred franc!

**SERVANTS**

Hundred franc

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BARON**  I will donate with all my heart  And in the Jewish nation play my part  My wealthy friends will not abide  They have no sense of Jewish pride  Please wake up  It’s a dream  You’re smarter than you seem | **HERZL**  Jewish currency  Changes hands around the world  But to help the Jewish cause  No money can be found  This isn’t some grand fantasy  Just have some faith and you will see  The money will not go to me  It goes to set the nation free |

**BOTH**

All I wish is to uphold

The rights of Jews around the world

They’ll walk the path that I will clear

And when they hear my name they’ll cheer

(The Baron exits. Servants give Herzl his belongings. He returns his pages to his briefcase. The bell boy brings him his raincoat and briefcase)

**Herz**l

Herzl: I couldn’t find the right tone… I was too insecure, but this is just a beginning… The philanthropists can only give money, and donations suffocate the human spirit… If the people seek to be redeemed they must do it themselves and at their own expense… There isn’t a rich man in the world who can move an entire nation, only an idea can do that. And what I have is an idea!

Bell boy: Bon Voyage. (Herzl tips him) Merci.

<https://youtu.be/ZG3D5L9PZlI>

**MC**

He's leaving Paris, the city of lights

To let a new chapter unfold

He's waving goodbye to a piece of his life

Who knows what the future will hold?

He's going back now

To where he grew up

And back to his children and wife

His father and mother

So loved and so dear

But also to voices that cut like a knife

And brought him hurt and strife

**Scene 8**

(A square in Vienna. Crowd is gathering upstage. Karl Lueger, the Mayor of Vienna, stands at the podium giving a speech. Herzl and Oscar are at the corner of the stage, watching from a distance. The crowd is waving their handkerchiefs and cheering "Lueger!! Lueger!!", a loud trumpet fanfare. Lueger delivers his anti-Semitic speech, while underneath we can hear reprise of "death to all Jews" melody.)

**Lueger**: these Jews… they rob us of everything we hold sacred! Homeland! Nationality! And eventually our property! Do not buy from Jews! all Austrians should know that they have one sworn enemy – the Jew.

(the crowd is chanting "Lueger, Lueger!!". The guy selling newspapers turns to Herzl and Oscar who are at the edge of the crowd)

**Newspaper guy**: (with great admiration) that is our Fuhrer… our leader… the next Mayor of the city of Vienna!

**Oscar:** (to Herzl) Lueger.. Lueger is our gift for Rosh Hashanah….

**Herzl**: the situation keeps getting worse…

<https://youtu.be/1gmEKe6x1E4>

**track 6**

***BLACK CLOUDS***

**HERZL**

The crowds are marching in the streets

As if a revolution never came

Even after all this time

Discrimination is the same

**LUEGER**

Boycott all the Jewish stores!

**HERZL**

Even if we disregard it

The threat will never go away

No matter where we choose to go

They will hate us anyway

**LUEGER**

The Jews are wicked enemies, they mustn’t be allowed to vote here!

**HERZL**

And the black clouds in the heavens

Are proof that all hope is gone

**LUEGER**

The Jews are robbing our country!

**HERZL**

For deep in people’s hearts

The hatred lingers on

**LUEGER**

Austria will rise again!

**OSCAR**

And where do we go now?

To drift again and roam

How could we one day know that we are home?

**LUEGER**

Will rise to glories of the past

**HERZL**

And if not me then who?

In the end, I’m a Jew

In the blood flowing in every vein

But I can’t seem to find my own way

Or a purpose to obey

**OSCAR**

I stand with you, I won’t give in

**HERZL**

Like water in a cooking pot that’s slowly heating to a boil

The situation of the Jews will only worsen on this soil

Just as in the past we did escape

The clutches of a ruthless king

A miracle can help to move us

Through the desert to the spring

**LUEGER**

We mustn’t let them take control!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HERZL**  And the black clouds in the heavens  Are proof that all hope is gone  For deep in people’s hearts  The hatred lingers on  What does the future hold?  More suffering and blood  We must get ready to escape the flood  And if not me then who?  In the end, I’m a Jew  In the blood flowing in every vein  But I can’t seem to find my own way  And a purpose to obey | **LUEGER**  The Jews are robbing our country  **OSCAR**  Herzl, I stand with you, I won’t give in!  **LUEGER**  They want to take away our land!  **OSCAR** AND **LUEGER**  Bring the flood!  We won’t give in! |

In the blood flowing in every vein

Hear my pain

I’m like you

One more Jew!

Herzl: do you think my idea is crazy?

Oscar: not anymore… I'm completely sold, but I doubt you will find many more 'Herzls' in Vienna.

**Herzl**: you are wrong! What I have noticed is that when I speak to other Jews about my idea, they get this twinkle in their eyes! Everyone tend to wholeheartedly agree with me, everyone I spoke to about this got very enthusiastic… if I have the right idea, it will strike the world like a bolt of lightning! But so far, I have just been talking, endless blabbering, I feel the time has come to act!

Oscar: I am with you!

Herzl: (takes out a stack of papers) here. These are the final proofs of a new pamphlet I have been working on. I want your honest opinion.

(Oscar leaves while reading the pamphlet. Crossfade with Julie who walks in reading the same words)

**"In the Chosen Land alone will we be able to be free. On our own land, the derogatory term 'Jew' will become a word of honor, as with all cultivated nations. There we can finally live as free people on our own land…"**

(Light change. Inside the house)

**Scene 9**

(Herzl's study. Vienna. Night time. Herzl is at his desk. Jacob comes in)

Jacob: I copied everything. Those little notes you wrote in Paris, everything in your diary, by date. Wonderful ideas!

Herzl: father, I must print this pamphlet now! (opens the cigar box) another cigar? (he lights it for him).

Jacob: with a pamphlet, you can communicate directly with the people, with the simple folk. Once they all come together they will become a vast river that will overcome every obstacle! But you should know, that soliciting the support of finance people and millionaires is doomed to failure, and also undignified. Maybe we should publish this booklet ourselves?

Herzl: but then, if it is very successful, it may appear as if I intend to make a profit off of the Jewish problem.

Jacob: Yes. Jews cannot fathom that someone is willing to do something not for a profit…

Herzl: I also spoke to the publisher, Max Breitenstein. He doesn't think it will be a bestseller, but if I will pay part of the printing myself, he is willing to publish it in three hundred copies.

Jacob: I will help you pay for this! It will be our present for your 37th birthday.

Herzl: Father!

Jacob: we should translate it to English, French, Russian, find publishers in every country that will take this on, send copies to every head of community, every Rabbi! (Herzl pours wine) … and may we have a blessed new year! Cheers! (They drink). It is wonderful that you are not giving up. I am right behind you! (He checks his watch) oh dear… your mother is waiting.

(Herzl rings the bell, the maid comes in to help Jacob with his coat).

Herzl: goodbye father.

Jacob: goodbye, and good luck with our booklet! (He exits.)

(Julie comes in with the manuscript)

Herzl: well? Did you read it?

Julie: I don't know… unless you turn this into a novel, Dori, nobody would read this. It has no characters, no plot…

Herzl: but it is not a novel Julie, it's a political contrast, a political plan written in legal jargon that is very…

Julie: …difficult! I don't understand why you're suddenly so hung up on this. What's in Palestine? They say it is complete wilderness.

Herzl: it will not stay that way for long. The settlers in the villages of Baron Rothschild have already proven that this wilderness can blossom, with only primitive agriculture. (he pours her a glass of wine). This wine for example.

Julie: what about it?

Herzl: they make it in Rishon Le'zion. Cheers. (they drink)

Julie: still, I don't understand what's so bad about staying here? Are you so miserable here?

Herzl: the point is that, even if we don't feel it now, things will just keep getting worse for all of us, because we are not wanted here…

Julie: I still think that all of this is just wonderful material for a novel. And may I please remind you Dori not to make any plans for next week.

Herzl: what's next week?

Julie: the Annual Ball… they're going to play a brand new waltz by Johann Strauss the Son… we can dance. I already purchased a new dress for the occasion and ordered a hat from Paris. And boots…

Herzl: yes. And how much was that?

Julie: I did not exceed your father's weekly allowance… I'll be in my room.

Herzl: of course, my child.

Julie: could we?...

Herzl: maybe… I just want to write down a few things I just thought about… before I forget.

Julie: can it not wait until tomorrow?

Herzl: just a few short things my child. Some notes for a meeting with the editors of the newspaper about…

Julie: (dryly) Der Judenstaat.

Herzl: (to himself) yes. I will call this pamphlet *Der Judenstaat*. (he gets wrapped up in the writing)

**MC**

He found a publisher  
Put a payment in advance  
No it isn’t coming cheap  
He paid for expenses as well

Herzl: a state for the Jews…

(**scene change to Herzl's study.** Julie storms in. The maid takes her hat and umbrella)

Julie: I am just back from Café Sacherl. The whole of Vienna is laughing at you behind your back!

Herzl: let them laugh. The dogs bark and the caravan moves on! Legends, jokes, caricatures are all means to distributing an idea…

Julie: but they think you've gone mad!!

Herzl: if one wishes to be recognized as true and just in thirty years, one must be willing to be considered mad in the first weeks. Do you think I've gone mad?

Julie: I think you work too hard.

Herzl: well, someone needs to support this household. The jewelry, the dresses, the hats, the servants…

Julie: I never exceed your father's weekly allowance! A hundred Gulden. And that's supposed to be enough? It's hardly enough for anything!

Herzl: you must learn how to be frugal.

(pause)

Julie: maybe we could spend some time together this evening?

Herzl: I must answer all these letters.

Julie: this entire pile?

Herzl: yes.

Julie: who are they from?

Herzl: just letters. From people who have read "Der Judenstaat". The most important of all these letters is the one I received from Max Nordau in Paris…

Julie: the famous writer?

Herzl: yes. He thinks my idea is "a grand enterprise", "a revelation"!! look what he writes… "if you are mad, let us be mad together!"..

he gave me a letter of recommendation for several highly esteemed individuals in London. I intend to go there and meet with the financial people and the leaders of the community. I've asked the gentlemen at the "Neue" for an unpaid leave of absence.

Julie: and who will pay for this trip?

Herzl: I will.

Julie: what???? No, no, no, I will not have this… when I asked you for a new suit for the spring season you say we cannot afford it, but suddenly we can afford to send you away to London?!

Herzl: this is important.

Julie: important to whom?

Herzl: to me!!!

Julie: I will not let you. (She stands in his way) I will not let you go.

Herzl: you cannot stop me. When I decide to go, I will go.

Julie: please, Dori, first you were wrapped up in proofing the pamphlet, then at the newspaper and now London? The children hardly ever see you.

Herzl: I will send them a postcard.

Julie: a postcard is not a father.

Herzl: I see them for half an hour every evening, sometimes even more.

Julie: that is not enough. And you use that time to fill their heads with nonsense, that they will be a prince and princesses in the Land of the Jews! This is not good for them.

Herzel: . Even if I were the lowest, most despicable scoundrel in Europe, the children's duty is to believe in me and to respect me. You will do exactly as I say. Otherwise, if you are disobedient, you will learn to know me and the inside of a courtroom!

Julie: go. Go wherever you'd like. Waste your time and our money.

**Scene 11**

(Viennese ball. Waltz music is playing in the background. Dancing couples. Herzl is watching the emperor's box with his binoculars. Turns to Oscar.)

Oscar: you are looking at the royal box.

Herzl: yes. The German Kaiser.

Oscar: an alley of the Sultan who controls Palestine.

Herzl: yes! If I could only get up there, in an instant I would convince the Kaiser and recruit him to our cause.

Oscar: but you can't get to him. He is surrounded by so many guards.

Herzl: there must be a way.

Oscar: your stubbornness is incurable, Dori

Julie (approaches them): there you are! Theodor, will you dance with me?

Herzl: Here is Oscar. Well known for his deep appreciation for Waltz…

Oscar (holds her hand): It is my pleasure, Julie

(Oscar and Julie join the dancing couples. Reverend Hechler enters, approaches the waiter, and gives him a card).

Hechler: (motions to Herzl) Theodor Herzl?

Waiter: (approaches Herzl and hands him the card) Reverend William Hechler

Hechler (rushes forward): Here I am!

Herzl: Yes, I can see that, but who are you, Sir?

Hechler: William… William Hechler… The chaplain of the British embassy in Vienna. I heard that you are the author of Der Judenstaat.

Herzl: Nice to meet you.

Hechler: Very nice to meet you. I just happened upon your book in the store… and immediately I ran to tell the English ambassador that the movement that I predicted had started! There it is! You are the King of Jews! (Herzl tries to hush him down). I see your movement as a prophecy. Yes! YES! I myself have prophesied out of the scripture the coming of the Messiah in 1897, when the land of Israel would return to the Jewish people... I will help you. I know the Great Duke of Baden.

Herzl: The Kaiser's uncle?

Hechler: Yes, indeed. (he bows to the royal box and Herzl does the same). I will travel to Berlin and set up an interview with the Duke for you. I will set it up if you will pay my travel expenses… 300 gulden

**MC (as a waiter )**

HE SEEMS A LITTLE ODD

THE MAN APPEARS A LITTLE STRANGE

BUT IF HE HAS THE TIES

PERHAPS THIS IS A CHANCE…

Herzl (to Hechler): I will pay the expenses. (gives Hechler the money) In any case, for caution's sake, you should not appear on my behalf!

Hechler: yes yes, of course. I will send you a telegram from Berlin. It is time to fulfill the prophecy!

(Julie returns)

Julie: what did the reverend want?

Herzl: just a few gulden. For the needy.

Julie: from you?

Herzl: he decided that I am the "King of the Jews".

Julie: really?

Herzl: yes.

Julie: (laughing) well, your Highness, could you escort me outside?

(She takes his arm. they exit)

(The scene ends to the tunes of the Waltz)

**Scene 12**

(Herzl's living room. He is sitting with 2 young students)

Herzl: so, as I was saying, I argue that we are all one people, and we must act as one! The enemy has made us, almost against our will, into one people. And in times of trouble, we unite and stand as one, and then we discover our great strength. we have the power to create a state, and an exemplary one at that! We can make this dream a reality.

Student 1: we are ready for any assignment you may have for us.

Student 2: we want to carry this message everywhere, to rally for this cause in the universities and in the synagogues…

Student 1: we can be your aides…

Student 2: help you to get in touch with Zionist leaders in other countries!

Student 1: we will collect signatures…

Student 2: write petitions…

Student 1: travel to Palestine!

Herzl: I am not yet saying "march on!". I want you to act in moderation, not with aggression, but I know that the day is not far when the whole of Europe will be speaking of this!

Julie: (rushes in) but I have no one to speak to!! Out! All of you! Now! Out!!!

(the students leave sheepishly)

Student 2 : we will be back tomorrow…

Herzl: (motioning them out) please… (he closes the door behind them) what is this? Have you gone mad?

Julie: me?! You have! you are stuck here in this room meeting with people, you haven't stepped outside this door in weeks, and every single day in comes another alms collector to squeeze you out for yet another donation for some random society! we will end up in the street, that will be the end of us!

Herzl: try to control yourself…

Julie: this is no way to have a family! Stop all this immediately, do you hear me?! I don't care…

Herzl: enough, Julie.

Julie: don't shush me, I will not have this! I don't want to and I cannot understand why the road to Palestina has to go through my living room in Vienna!!!

Herzl: Julie.

Julie: don't give me that look. Your Jews may be impressed by it, but not me.

(The phone rings in the study. Herzl picks up)

Herzl: Hello. Baron Hirsch? ... when? ... I see.

(He falls silent. Then slowly hangs up)

Julie: who was it?

Herzl: the paper. Baron Hirsch died last night in his mansion in Hungary. (pause) I sent my pamphlet to everyone but Hirsch.

Julie: he wouldn't have done anything anyway.

Herzl: you're wrong. Of all the rich Jews he was the only one who wanted to do something big for the poor Jews. A great loss… But I come to replace him.

Julie: (scornfully) right. Baron Herzl…

Herzl: you misunderstand.

Julie: what is there to understand? You are naïve!

(he's silent. The maid comes in with a telegram)

Julie: oh, please! enough! Not another telegram tonight! (he takes the telegram from her)

Herzl: it's from Reverend Hechler. He has managed to set up a meeting for me with the Great Duke of Baden! I must punch myself to make sure this isn't a dream…. I have to find the right clothes… (he heads out)

Julie: (blocking his way) do you love me?

Herzl: what kind of question is that?

Julie: I know you don't, you don't love me.

Herzl: Julie, enough.

Julie: do you hate me?

Herzl: I don't hate anyone. It would help me if you didn't argue over everything and lose your temper so often….

Julie: so, do you love me?

Herzl: of course, my child. But I have to go tomorrow, and I must prepare. (He kisses her lightly and exits)

Julie: he kisses me like you kiss a mezuzah…

<https://youtu.be/anko7qvnt94>

*track 7*

*TWO WORLDS*

**JULIE**

I met the husband of my dreams

The smartest you could ever find

Every letter he would write

Would send shivers down my spine

Just hours after we were wed

He tried to run away and hide

Every little thing I told him

Would seem to shatter all his pride

He’s cold to me, he’s cruel

In his eyes I’m a fool

When the night’s drawing on

In my room

All alone

In my heart

I am still dreaming of him

I ache for the warm of his skin

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JULIE**  Perhaps tonight he will arrive  Perhaps it happens here and now  When I rise to answer doorbells  He will softly kiss my neck  And carry me to my boudoir  And ever softly rest my head  As my body melts for him  On our lover’s bed  He’s cold to me  In his eyes I’m a fool  When the night’s drawing on  In my room  All alone  In my heart  I am still dreaming of him  I ache for the warm of his skin | **HERZL**  All my life is going by  With a wife I do not love  What if this is my fate?  She doesn’t understand the world I’m in  I do not seek  To secure her hand in mine  To feel her body’s warmth  I only give her misery  When the night’s drawing on  In my room  All alone  In my heart  I cannot give up my dream |

**BOTH**

If I could live out my dream

Would she/he be there?

Would she/he still care?

Or will our dreams never meet?

(Stage goes to black. change)

**Scene 13**

MC : (train conductor)

The rattle of trains

Is filling his days

The passenger car is his home

He crosses the seas

And various lands

His hasn't a choice but to roam

(Herzl and Hechler in a train car)

Hechler: well, the Great Duke was very impressed with you!

Herzl: yes, the interview was successful, even though I sat for almost two hours facing the sun…

Hechler: oh, I am sure he will put in a very good word for you with the Kaiser. Now, what does our dear sir know about Palestine?

Herzl: not much…

Hechler: so, pay attention. (he rolls out a map). I think the border in the north should be with Turkey, and in the south – the Suez Canal! We must spread the word again – Eretz Israel as in the days of David and King Solomon!! Amen! (Crosses himself).

Herzl: Amen, Amen.

Hechler: The city of Be'it El is in the very center of the land, and there we should build to new Temple!! Amen! (crosses himself)

Herzl: who are the inhabitants of the land?

Hechler: few Arab farmers here in Haifa and Tiberius… (showing areas on the map), in Akko, in Hebron, Jerusalem…

Herzl: so there is a large population of Arabs?

Hechler: no, no, not at all! they live in small villages… it's all very primitive.

Herzl: if it is the lord's will that we shall return to our ancient homeland, then we can bring some order, cleanliness, and the good measures of the West to this neglected, Malaria-stricken land. We will have to if we wish to live there.

Hechler: that is what the settlers do! In the settlements of the Baron de Rothschild, they gradually purchase the land from the Arabs and dry the swamps.

Herzl: if this infiltration by the Baron's settlers continues, the price of the land will rise considerably, and it will be harder to purchase it from the Sultan. Do the Jews and Arabs live well together?

Hechler: yes, yes. They live in peace. The Arabs serve mostly as working hands, they're more immune to the diseases and the fever… they even guard the settlers' villages…

Herzl: we shall live in peace with the Arabs. They will welcome us and we shall treat them as equals! The Arabs can be a part of our new society, which will be open to anyone who wishes to take part in its achievements. We will build a new country that will set an example of tolerance and fairness… we will reach out for peace with everyone!

Hechler: wonderful.

Herzl: I am sure the land can be purchased from the Turks.

Hechler: yes, may we be in Jerusalem this time next year! Amen!

Herzl: you shall be appointed the Bishop of Jerusalem!

Hechler: the Bishop of Jerusalem…. The Bishop of Jerusalem! Amen!

**Scene 14**

(light change. Herzl's parents' living room in Vienna. Travel luggage in the corner, Oscar is examining Herzl)

Oscar: breathe in.

Herzl: so from Kushta I went to London

Oscar: why?

Herzl: to meet with rich Zionists… (cough), but even though they promised financial support, they're not willing to take part (cough) …without the consent of the Baron Hirsch fund and…. the Baron de Rothschild, and so… I went from England to Paris.

Oscar: take a deep breath please.

Herzl: this cough is relentless…

Oscar: it sounds like acute bronchitis. A prophet needs to have good lungs!

Herzl: how can I be a prophet with this thin raincoat in the English weather?

Oscar: right now you have to rest.

Herzl: I work too hard…

Oscar: you will not live long if you keep this up. You must rest! At least for a few days, to not make it worse.

Herzl: Oscar, I don’t want Julie to know that I am back in Vienna from London

Jeannette: (comes in with Jacob) you have nothing to worry about, she will not come here. It’s been years since she visited us, neither her nor the children.

Herzl: seriously Oscar, not a word! Not to the gentlemen at the Neue either, there is no reason for them to know I am back.

Oscar: I will come see you again tomorrow.

Jeanette: I will make sure he gets some rest.

Oscar: (kisses her hand) Jeanette. (Shakes hands with Jacob) Jacob.

(He leaves)

Jacob: so, tell us about Kushta!

Herzl: The Sultan refused to see me. But look what I managed to get for quite a bit of bribe money (he shows them the medal). it is a medal for good conduct, from the Third Grade Commander… This trip has cost me 3000 Franc.

Jacob: how much?! 3000 francs! That's almost three-monthly salaries!

Jeanette: and how was Paris?

Herzl: Paris… Rothschild met with me in his offices at the bank, like every other beggar he agrees to meet daily…

(**The Baron appears, with his two aides**)

Rothschild: listen, Monsieur Herzl, I am not a Zionist. The settlements in Palestine are mine. I have no political ambitions whatsoever, Pardon.

Aide 1: Pardon.

Aide 2: Pardon.

Herzl: I told him that he was missing the point, and I tried to explain – a settlement is a small state, a state is a large settlement. He wants a small state, I want to build a large settlement!

Rothschild: Every big thing must start with something small… the eyes shouldn't be bigger than the stomach!

Aides: the eyes shouldn't be bigger than the stomach!

Herzl: I explained that my offer to the Turks was that we will settle their national debt in exchange for a Jewish state in Eretz Israel under Ottoman rule.

Rothschild: and you are willing to trust the Turks? I don't. And what will happen? First come the beggars and the panhandlers. And who will feed them? I will? No, no.

Aides: No, no

Rothschild: you will? Pfff…

Aides: pfff…

Rothschild: it will be a catastrophe!

Aides: catastrophe.

Rothschild: yes.

Herzl: with all the money he already spent on the settlements in Palestine, we could buy a state and inhabit it with all those millions of Eastern European Jews that are desperate for our help.

Rothschild: like I said, the eyes…

Aides: shouldn't be bigger than the stomach! (They disappear)

Herzl: complete failure.

Jacob: I already told you, you cannot trust the wealthy…

Herzl: he was the foundation of the entire plan. Now it's all falling apart like a house of cards…

Jeannette: but you cannot retreat now, Dori! think of the progress you’ve made so far!

Herzl: all my initiatives have failed, everyone's against me. I’m convinced this idea can be materialized but I cannot seem to overcome these initial difficulties…

Jacob: you have the people; they are on board!

Herzl: yes father, but to what end? We do not have a clear goal… we need to come up with something… a stage on which the leaders of the people may appear, a sort of "National Assembly"… the question is, how do I do that? I do not have enough public relations and no media exposure whatsoever… I have nothing.

<https://youtu.be/dxiABLZAt3g>

**track 8**

*JUST LIKE IN A PLAY*

**HERZL**

Just like in a play

I need dramatic action

Just like on the stage

I need a twist inside the plot

Something new to stir the heart

Someone good to play the part

Who will move everyone to their spot

Audiences now

Await the leading man

Like a ray of light

To pierce the darkness of the hall

People in the theater yawn

Waiting for a big event

So this my cue,

This will be who

Who I am!

(Music under)

Herzl: I must have my own paper! But that will take a fortune…

Jacob: I will help you… I will personally take financial responsibility for all production costs. This will be our gift for your 38th birthday. Your mother and I have decided it is worth investing in the magazine, as a stage for your idea. You will not have to collect favors from other Jews.

Herzl: You always stand at my side. [he hugs them]

Jacob: You must not despair! We will follow you!

Herzl: I already have a name for the paper: Die Welt - “The World”

I will dedicate the first issue to you my dear parents.

**HERZL**

A paper of my own

That I will build and manage

Those at the throne

Have understood this all along

With good PR you can't go wrong

Put your message on the page

There is your stage

There is your stage

Here I am!

**COMPANY and HERZL**

Type up all the words

Realign every page

Straighten the lines

It's a whole new age

Put a headline on top

Proofread everything

Sell all the ads

Who'll buy the ads?

Not even if it's free?

What about that Guttman with the coal?

There was only one as a centerfold

And a page about

The new zeppelin

Where to shop for your hats and bows

A review of the best cafes

It's in print

It's the best

International prime magazine

And the buzz can be felt

Die Welt!

**Herzel**

Born out of a void

Today we have a paper

With yellow on front

Like the color of the badge

How I hope it will succeed

The first copy sees the light

I'll no longer sleep tonight

Our victory in sight

I will fulfill

I will fulfill

Our right!

**End of Act 1**

**Act 2**

**Scene 1**

(Eastern Europe , Jewish town square. Oscar is speaking to the crowd, holding a copy of Herzl’s new paper)

Oscar: dear Jews!... (He turns to a man beside him) which town is this?

Man: this is Galina Norovska.

Oscar: my fellow Jews, I come to you from Vienna, on a commission from Dr.

Herzl, author of “Der Judenstaat” and editor of the new weekly paper “Die Welt”!

Crowd: Die Welt… Die Welt…

Oscar: I invite all of you to take part in the first Zionist Congress in Basel!

Man: we must get a blessing from the Rabi. Rabi Shneur!... (He goes out to get him)

Woman: I beg his pardon, may women come as well?

Oscar: of course… but they will not have a vote

Man: is there a kosher hotel in Basel?

Oscar: yes, and there is even a kosher restaurant! My fellow Jews, we must spread the word about the congress…

(a local Rabi approaches with several of his disciples)

Rabi: Gevald! Gevald! Abomination! To organize an international Jewish congress where they will publicly discuss the Jewish question in front of the whole world? Complete madness!! We must never speak of the national idea! Reconquering the holy land will work against us! It questions our loyalty to the countries in which we live! the gentiles will turn against us! And also the Czar! (they spit)

Oscar: why should we live among those who hate us?

Rabi: because we have a mission in history! Our calling is to be the bearers of the idea of humanity, which is why we don't need a territory of our own…

Oscar: we can be humane on our own land as well

Rabi: only the Messiah can bring us back to the land of Israel! Amen.

Crowd: Amen… Amen…

Oscar: with all due respect Rabi…

Rabi: enough! Enough! Be quiet… (the Rabi and his disciples leave)

Oscar: Dear Jews, the masses are awakened and are already on the move, Theodor Herzl raised the banner, and everyone will follow, Zionism is the Jewish people in the making, and you can stay and continue to live wherever you choose…

Man: everything that will be talked about in this assembly – will it not bring upon us another pogrom, God forbid…?

Woman: yes… he must not speak against the Czar!

(They all spit)

Woman: he has spies everywhere…

Oscar: nothing will be said at the congress against the regime of the Czar. (They all spit)

Man: he who seeks trouble, is sure to find them… (Heads out)

Another man: (stops him) but Shmerle, this man Herzl has hope, but he also has a plan! We have hope, but we don't have a plan!

Oscar: well, is there someone who is willing to go?

Jew: I am willing!

Oscar: transportation at the expense of the participant

Jew: …except I don't have the money for the trip (leaves)

Oscar: fellow Jews! The time has come to make the ancient dream come true! "Next year in Jerusalem"

Everybody: amen!

Oscar: you understand that my words are true.

Man: oh, that I know for sure, for otherwise you would not have bothered to show up in this hell hole at such an early hour of the morning… (general laughter)

Oscar: now if you will excuse me brothers, I have a train to catch… we must spread the word about the congress!

(General mumbling as they scatter)

**MC**

**Basel is a stage**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=po0_dzEtOw0&ab_channel=PlayingHerzl>

(light on Herzl on the podium. Beneath him, congress delegates are wearing white bowties, black cylinders and tailcoats and waving their white handkerchiefs.)

Herzl: honorable members of congress! It is my great honor to congratulate you today. During this congress we must organize many important issues. Zionism aspires to create for the people of Israel a homeland in the land of Israel, according to International Law.

<https://youtu.be/gPeT2qjZed0>

**track 9**

*IT IS NO DREAM*

**HERZL**

If

If you shall will

Two thousand years

We've waited for this very day

It isn't a tale

It isn't a dream

My brothers, it is here

**COMPANY**

A yearning so old

Is filling our hearts

A longing so deep

The nation starts

Our great fatherland

Never forgotten

We pray hand in hand

From our exile

**COMPANY**

May we finally reach Jerusalem and

May we finally reach Zion

**HATIKVA - orchestra**

**MC**

Now the dreamers arrive  
To talk and convene  
Like brother who finally unite  
In a heartening scene  
And every speech  
And every word  
Enters the heart deep within

**COMPANY**

A yearning so old

Is filling our hearts

A longing so deep

The nation starts

May we finally reach Jerusalem and

May we finally reach Zion

**Scene 2**

(Herzl’s living room. He is frantically searching for a misplaced letter. Oscar is looking through his briefcase, Jeanette and Jacob enter)

Herzl: where is it… where is it… Where did I put it? It is the only copy I have of the Kaiser’s invitation… this is a disaster.

Jeannette: When did you last look at it?

Jacob: have you looked in the yard? Perhaps it is there?

Herzl: Maybe… I will look… (hurries out)

Jeanette: Sometimes what you look for is right there under your nose.

Julie: (enters) I asked the Nanny, the children haven't found anything. I didn't let them walk around the yard yesterday, it was chilly.

(Herzl returns)

Herzl: I found it!

Jacob: Good thing it did not rain, or it would have been ruined. The important thing is that you found it.

Herzl: Here it is, in print: (reading) “Wilhelm II is willing to meet a convoy of Zionists during his stay in Jerusalem, If Herzl stands at the head of this convoy”! Father, please put it back in the safe.

Julie: but why should you go all the way to Palestine? Why can’t the Kaiser meet with you discreetly in Berlin?

Herzl: Can I argue with the Kaiser? It is an official invitation. And it necessitates my attendance!

Julie: I hope they do not fire you from the paper, what with all your absences.

Jacob: Maybe after visiting Palestine his value at the paper will rise…

(Julie motions to the maid, she takes off a shoe and the maid draws her foot on a piece of cardboard)

Jeanette: Please keep safe!

Jacob: Especially from the Turks…

Jeanette: It is such a long and dangerous journey.

Oscar: don't worry Jeanette, I packed plenty of quinine pills to prevent Malaria

Julie: A month! A whole month he will be gone.

Jacob: maybe even more.

Herzl: I am not going for leisure; this is a diplomatic trip.

Julie: I heard about your “diplomatic trips”. They only ever waste our money and bear no fruit.

Oscar: The money for this convoy, six thousand gold coins, is a donation from Romanian Jews. The money arrived today.

Julie: I want you to bring me Turkish slippers from Kushta. This is my size (hands him the cardboard)

Oscar: if we have time.

Julie: Make the time!

Jacob: The carriage is already here. I will you help me with the luggage.

Oscar: (picks up suitcases) I have it, Jacob.

Jeanette: Dori, may God keep you safe… (they hug)

Herzl: Do not worry. I will send you a postcard from the road every day.

Jacob: Godspeed! We will keep all the papers and articles for you.

(the children come in to hug their father)

Herzl: my darlings. You grow up so fast… (to Julie) Goodbye.

Julie: take care of yourself (they hug)

(Herzl and Oscar leave)

Julie: (to the Nanny) Helga, a bedtime story for the children!

Nanny: right away.

**Scene 3**

Herzl at the Rishon LeZion settlement. The crowd calls “he is coming, he is coming!”

<https://youtu.be/Fy_FZfRmHvI>

**track 10**

*HOW SHALL WE RECEIVE HIM?*

**SETLLERS**

How shall we receive him?

With salt and a piece of bread

The rabbi says a blessing

And we will chant a prayer

We shall kiss his hands

This is how we shall receive him

Where is the rabbi?

Where is the rabbi?

The honorable rabbi!

How shall we receive him?

**RABBI**

Where is the Torah scroll?

Not just one - bring two!

We will bring flowers to it

And bless the wine too

A saviour has come for our people!

Good lord in the heavens

**SETLLERS**

Here he comes, here he comes…

Here is the Messiah

King of Israel

Here is the Messiah

Here is our saviour

The heart of Israel

**RABBI**:    Baruch ata adonay, eluhenu melech haolam, she’hechyanu ve’kiymanu ve’higaanu lazman haze! [addressing the crowd] Good day to you, Jewish, good day!

**Everyone**: Amen!

S

peech!

**HERZL**

How a legend is formed

Constructed around my image

Here I am on the stage

The leading man

**SETLLERS**

Here is the Messiah

King of Israel

Here is our saviour

The heart of Israel!

**Scene 4**

(Jerusalem. Reverend Hechler meets the German Minister for Foreign Affairs)

Hechler: His Excellency, Prince von Bulow, Minister for Foreign Affairs…

von Bulow: this is the speech Dr. Herzl wishes to read before the Kaiser?

Hechler: yes sir.

von Bulow: (looks through the document) this… this he cannot say.

Hechler: we'll erase it.

von Bulow: this he must take out.

Hechler: we'll erase it.

von Bulow: this he must not mention.

von Bulow: and that line we couldn't possibly approve.

Hechler: we'll erase it, erase it.

von Bulow: (hands him the speech) the interview will be held tomorrow at noon in the Imperial tent.

(they bow and part ways. Light change on the delegation, wearing tailcoats and European evening suits.

Herzl: remember, when the Kaiser enters, stand in attention (they do so). Bow. (They bow). Not too deeply. Shake his hand only if he offers it to you. Take off your right-hand glove, of course. And no matter what, do not make fun of the way he walks. Understood?

Oscar: Perhaps I can pour a little Brome for everyone?

Herzl: No no no. I wish us to stay clear… This is a historic moment!

(Trumpets announce the emperor. The Zionist delegation acts as a chorus, with Herzl in the front, facing the emperor. Close behind is the Foreign Minister)

<https://youtu.be/-sz4lItkYRY>

**Track 11**

*IT’S SO HOT*

(Trumpets announce the emperor. The Zionist delegation acts as a chorus, with Herzl in the front, facing the emperor. Close behind is the Foreign Minister who traces the draft of Herzl’s speech with his finger)

**HERZL**

Emperor of peace

Enters boldly

The eternal city

Jerusalem [the chorus echoes “Jerusalem”]

We receive His Highness with blessings

And heartfelt wishes

For an era of peace to begin

And justice for all human beings

All nations! Jews too

Amen!

**EMPEROR (KAISER)**

(Playing with his riding crop, gravely agitated by the heat and waving away flies. He grunts in frustration)

It’s so hot in here, so hot

It must be 40 degrees

The sun burns through the scalp

No shade, no water, no trees

Least I have this crop at hand

To bat away the flies [ahh!]

One smack on the boot

And all the insects die [he roars]

I’m hot, I’m just so hot

Sweating through my underwear

This may be the holy land

But it is brutal, this I swear

Ahhh! [smacking with his crop]

It's like desert here

The dust!

It’s so primitive here

How are you gonna live

How will you prosper in here?

[spoken] in any case the matter is still under a thorough examination.

**HERZL**

Water and shade is all you need

There is room for everyone here

[The Foreign Minister pulls out a large fan and continues to vigorously fan the Emperor]

**MINISTER**

As His Highness the Emperor most gracefully said, water is the main thing.

Kaiser: in any case the matter requires a thorough examination.

Herzl: water, shade and a bit of money is all you need. There is room for everyone here.

[The Foreign Minister pulls out a large fan and continues to vigorously fan the Emperor]

(Song continues)

**EMPEROR**

I am suffocating

I have had enough

I had better go and have one more bath  
to clean my soul (Arg!)

[EMPEROR shakes HERZL’s hand and gestures that the interview is over]

(Herzl, Oscar and the members of the delegation are traveling back)

Herzl: He did not say no and did say yes.

Delegate 1: He did not say yes and he did not say no.

Delegate 2: yes, he didn't say no....

Delegate 3: no, he didn't say yes...

Oscar: he said he was hot.

Herzl: I promise I will publish in Die Welt another version of the meeting with His Highness. And now, let us get out of Jerusalem as quickly as possible before the Turks decide to kill me.

Oscar: wait a minute, Dori. A photo.

[they pose for a picture, flash, then black]

**Scene 5**

(Vienna. Herzl and Jacob in their living room, Jacob is reading out of the paper)

Jacob: "Kaiser Wilhelm II met with the Jewish delegation, who presented him with a photo album containing pictures of the Jewish settlements established in the land of Israel…" what a pitiable item.

Herzl: maybe it's for the best…a Jewish state under German patronage… after a while we would have paid for it, with interest.

Jacob: you still insist on meeting with the Sultan.

Herzl: I have no choice. He holds the keys to Palestine.

Jacob: I think you're wrong to pin your hopes on the Sultan. What about the baron de Rothschild.

Herzl: He will not see me.

Jacob: and the Russian Czar?

Herzl: even now, with all the strings I've pulled and all my connections, he still refuses.

Jacob: such a mess…

Herzl: I need a success father… everything I do is to no avail! What am I going to present to people in the fourth congress? There is no news! Nothing!

Jacob: what about the bank?

Herzl: yes, you are right. Money makes the wheels turn. (pause) I really have to move forward with the establishment of the bank in England. I am considering moving to London. We will all move together

Jacob: Why London all of a sudden?

Herzl: Oscar is there on his own, and I am here, and the Board of Directors is over there, doing whatever they please, including taking action against me. I have to be there.

Jeanette: But what about your job at the Neue? You must not risk your livelihood!

Herzl: I will not resign but request a transfer to a post of a foreign correspondent. Father, think about it. We can have a full and wonderful life there.

Jacob: My business is here… We speak German.

Herzl: We can learn English.

Jacob: Your mother and I will not move to London. And that is final.

Herzl: I will not go without you. I will only travel to the Congress in London then.

reprise

**Scene 6**

(Herzl's study)

Oscar: I had to return to Vienna. I want to speed things up with the bank as much as you do, but there is endless bureaucracy, documents, and paperwork, and we don't have enough money. You cannot establish a bank without proper funds, Binyamin!

Herzl: (writing a check) alright, I will donate 500 Sterling of my own money…

Oscar: that is nothing. We must raise a minimum of 250 thousand Sterling, and not one respectable bank in Europe is willing to take part, or they are afraid to take part because Rothschild probably meddled behind the scenes…

Herzl: our national movement must be free of the favor of Jewish philanthropists, no matter how powerful they are! The Jewish settler in Eretz Israel needs credit, not charity!

(they fall silent)

Oscar: your interference with matters of the bank is really hurting the cause. I want you to know that I have decided to retire from the management of the bank.

Herzl: what?! Problems are meant to be overcome and make us stronger! I have no interest in managing the bank myself. I only wish to find people who are capable and qualified to do it.

Oscar: you will never find capable people, because you measure everyone according to your own standards, and so you find them small and flawed. Qualified and capable people, like me, if I may boast, if they have their own opinions and they act according to what they feel is right and worthy, then they are completely wrong for you. Your many qualities as a leader notwithstanding, you have no talent for business. And if you continue to meddle in the bank's affairs, you will lead this entire movement to utter failure and bankruptcy. Good day! (he heads out)

Herzl: wait, wait a minute, Oscar, don't go! (pause) I'm sorry. I need you. My financial situation is bad indeed. From what I gather, I have already spent 55 thousand Gulden out of Julie's dowry on the Zionist movement. There is not much left for my children.

Oscar: does Julie know?

Herzl: no.

Oscar: the movement can afford to support you financially, Dori.

Herzl: you are a good man Oscar. But why should I take any money from you, or from the movement?

Oscar: nobody needs to know.

Herzl: it's bad enough if one person knows…

Oscar: who will know?

Herzl: I will know. (he hands him an envelope) here. This envelope is sealed. In it I declare that I have spent enormous sums of my own money for our cause and have neglected my own children. I ask you to please hold a collection for my children, under the headline – "the people's gift for the children of Dr. Herzl". It could only happen after I am gone, when the allure of my name can still motivate people to respond and contribute.

Oscar: I will do anything you ask.

Herzl: I know I am not going to live much longer. But I have no intention of giving up. I will finish my new novel…

Oscar: Altneuland.

Herzl: maybe I will manage to leave a little something for my children. Little angels. (pause) six years since I started this movement, and it has made me old, and poor.

**COMPANY**

Buy another stock!

In our Jewish bank

Let your money talk

And join the nation's rank

Just one sterling a piece

Split the payments if you need

Our bank and that alone

Will help all the Jews to succeed

HERZL:

Altneuland

Country of the old and the new

It is Palestine in twenty years

CHORUS:

What a beautiful Eden

What a country to live in

With no pogroms

No guns and bombs

People living life in peace

Where the Arabs and the Jews

Live together as they choose

To be fighting we refuse

It does sound like a dream…

**Scene 7**

(A hotel room in London. Herzl stumbles in supported by Oscar and another delegate. The nurse puts him to bed. Oscar examines him)

Herzl: I must have caught a cold on the journey. When we crossed the canal, just before Dover, I started feeling a chill… Oscar, what about the congress?

Oscar: the English have organized everything perfectly, there are hundreds of delegates already in town

Herzl: Don't tell my family anything. Why worry them needlessly?

Oscar: (to the nurse) Christine, his temperature has risen. It looks like malaria or the beginnings of pneumonia.

Delegate: Oscar, (pulls him aside), our fourth congress is in four days. Is there any chance he will recover?

Oscar: let us hope for the best. (Returns to Herzl's bedside) Dori, nurse Christine will attend to you during the day.

Delegate: and we hired another Nurse to spend the night.

Oscar: we will come back to see you a little later.

(They exit)

Christine: Mr. Herzl sir. His medicine…

Herzl: I must compose my opening remarks.

Christine: oh no, you must not leave your bed, sir! Perhaps in a day or two if you are feeling better. (He takes his medicine and falls back on his bed)

(Light change. He is hallucinating. Characters come in and out of this

**nightmare** – Julie, the German Kaiser Willem II, the Sultan, Pope Pius X head of the Catholic church, Lord Chamberlin, the British Minister of Colonies and Vyacheslav Plehve the Russian Minister of Internal Affairs. Underscore is dynamic and alternates between oriental music, European and liturgical).

Kaiser: your land is full of potential, but it is hot! Oh, so very hot!

Herzl: all we need is water and shade, there is room for everyone here.

Kaiser: we will discuss this further… (he leaves)

(The Pope enters)

Herzl: Holy Father, are you aware of the gravity of the state of the Jews?

Pope: let us pray for the safety and wellbeing of the Jews

May the light shine in their hearts

And when they come here to settle down

We shall have churches and priests ready

To baptize them all!

(he leaves. The Sultan enters)

Sultan: Herzl, right?

Herzl: your Highness.

Sultan: what about the holy places? who will control the mosques?

Herzl: we are not asking for Jerusalem, and certainly not the holy places. We only ask for the land of Israel.

Sultan: Jerusalem is ours for all eternity! Mosque of Omar belongs to the Islam!!

Herzl: Jerusalem will not be included in the Jewish state, it will remain sacred to all religions and open to all countries. Exterritorial!

Sultan: (tries to pronounce it) exterritorial…

Herzl: exterritorial.

Sultan: (tries again) exterritorial…

Herzl: exterritorial! Why is it so complicated?

Sultan: y'alla. (leaves)

(Oscar enters)

Oscar: this terrace is too small… maybe we can find a different location…

Herzl: (he gets up and leans on the back of the bed) no, no, no! every leader needs a terrace!

Oscar: look straight ahead. Very impressive. You look like Moses.

Herzl: I have to meet with the Russian Minister of foreign affairs…

Oscar: Plehve? "The butcher of Kishinev"? Murderer of the Jews?!!

Herzl: if we want to accomplish anything, we must also speak with our enemies!

(Oscar leaves. Plehve enters)

Plehve: I am a friend to the Jews. If we could drown six or seven million Jews in the black sea, I would do it. But we cannot, so we must allow them to live! We encourage Jews to immigrate by kicking them in the rear end!

(Plehve leaves. The Sultan enters)

Sultan: and one more request. This country has an enormous debt. I must have 1.5 million Liras to cover last year's deficit… can you help?

Herzl: not a problem. We will cover the debt. I only ask that we will be completely discrete about our agreements.

Sultan: secret! secret!! (he exits)

(Lord Chamberlin enters)

Chamberlain: well Dr. Herzl, you say you want to establish a Jewish colony on British land, well I myself have just returned from a trip to Africa, and in my travels, I have seen a country that will be perfect for your needs – Uganda!

Herzl: Uganda?!!

Chamberlain: yes, in the east of Africa, the weather is mild, you can cultivate cotton and sugar… but you only want Palestine.

Herzl: yes... I don't have a choice; the base must be the land of Israel or its surroundings. But we will investigate Uganda as well. I will inform him soon of our decision.

Chamberlain: well, good day Mr. Herzl. (He leaves)

Herzl: good day… good day… England… England! (He stands up) one of the very few places where anti-Semitism has not yet prevailed… England will understand us and our ambitions, and from here the Zionist idea will go farther and higher than ever before!!!

(The nurse rushes in)

Nurse: lie down sir! Get back to bed! (She puts him back to bed, then hands him a letter) a telegram has arrived for him.

(Nurse exits. Herzl opens the letter)

The content of the telegram appears on the screen: "father is desperately ill. Return to Vienna immediately".

music

**Scene 8**

(Herzl's parents' house. His mother enters, dressed in black)

Herzl: I will never forgive myself for not being there beside him in those last moments…

Jeanette: it all happened so quickly…

Herzl: when the telegram arrived, I still had a slight hope that it might just be pneumonia…

Jeanette: it was a stroke.

Herzl: did he at least not suffer?

Jeanette: if it is any consolation

Herzl: my dear father… He stood by me like a strong tree through every crisis now that tree is gone.

Jeanette: I am all alone. Dori, perhaps I could come and live with you?

Herzl: mother… within two days you and Julie will be at each other's throats, and we will have shouting and fighting, no. You need some peace and quiet and you will never find it in my house. (gently) let us be smart.

Jeanette: now you are all I have left. My prince…

Herzl: and I will help you. I promise. But now I must return to London, I have another meeting scheduled with the British Minister of Colonies, Lord Chamberlain. We are finally making headway! We may get Uganda.

Jeanette: Uganda? Where is that?

Herzl: in Africa.

Jeanette: with all those…

Herzl: yes. It is a deserted region under British rule. If we settle there it is a short way to Palestine.

Jeanette: please keep safe. Don't worry about me. I will be strong.

(They hug. He exits. She is left alone)

Jeanette: Uganda?

(Scene change)

MC (congress delegate )

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox?projector=1>

**MC**

Pogroms in Kishinev

Only just begun

Now all the Jews of the Tzar

Are lost in the dark

The time is short

Choices are few

Emergency help must come through

**Scene 10**

(6th Zionist congress)

Herzl: Honorable members of Congress. The Kishinev pogroms were only an introduction to worse things to come! Kishinev is but one example to a place where Jews are tortured, in both body and spirit, simply on account of their bring Jews. Let us save those who may still be saved… The Land of Israel is the destination and will remain as such, but we must provide a “night refuge”, a temporary solution for the thousands of people who are looking for the same kind of refuge that Uganda may become.

Members of congress:

-You have deserted Zion!

-There is no Zionism without Zion!

-We want the Land of Israel only!

-The Jews will never go to Uganda, no matter how much you wave that blue and white flag.

- If we cannot go to the Land of Israel or remain where we are, we will emigrate to England, America, Australia…

Herzl: no, no, it is only a night shelter! Only a temporary solution! After Africa we will win Jerusalem! After all, you can study the Talmud in Uganda as in anywhere else.

Members of Congress:

It is an abominable idea!

It will cause a disaster!

We will go on a hunger strike!

We will mourn Zion…

Rip our garments…

Sit on the floor…

This is a disgrace!

Herzl: listen to me, I love Zion, we all share the same dream, Uganda is merely a temporary solution!

Members of Congress:

Absolutely not!

Over our dead bodies!

Herzl: I hereby promise you once again that I am dedicated to the Land of Israel and to nowhere else! I require your trust, for I cannot be a leader without it… You may remove me from my post, if you so wish… and then I could return to my private life. But I would like to speak one ancient sentence as a commitment both to myself and to you… If I forget thee, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning!

(he collapses. Oscar rushes to him and catches him)

Oscar: Dori hold on, I am here with you…

MC:

It's his heart that betrayed

Couldn't rise to the task

All his strength had gone away

Now the stage has gone dark

And the story will end

It is the final page

**Scene 11**

(sanatorium)

Oscar: how is he Doctor?

Doctor: it does not look good. There is not much else we can do. The end is near.

Oscar: but there is always hope…

Doctor: I don't think he will make it through the night, his pulse is weakening, he is barely breathing.

Herzl: My children, may I see them?

Oscar: Yes. Your mother and the children are on their way…

Herzl: I am not afraid. I am looking death in the eyes. I have not spent the last few years without purpose… I started a movement which will form a state. But I still want to live… Oscar…

Oscar: No one can fill your shoes, Binyamin.

Herzl: Send my regards to the Zionists. I hope you do not mess everything up after I am gone. Oscar! I wish to be buried in a metal casket next to my father, until the Jewish people transfer my body to the Land of Israel. I would like the ceremony to be simple, fit for a poor man. No flowers and no speeches…

(Oscar heads out, encounters Hechler as he is coming in)

Hechler: how is he?

(Oscar exits)

Hechler: Herzl, my dear friend. I made it on time…

Herzl: Send my regards to the land of Israel. I gave the my heart's blood for my people. They are good, wonderful people! You will see! One day they will enter the Promised Land! We shall meet again in Jerusalem.

Hechler: Amen, Amen…

[Jeannette enters]

Jeanette: My prince! My beloved boy…

Herzl: my dear mother… you are here… how are you? Your face look well. Mine don't look so well, but it will soon pass…

Jeanette: You will recover!

Herzl: Well, my dear, you have seen me and I have seen you, and now you may go back… I would like to spend a moment with my wife…

(Julie sits next to him)

Herzl: I am not afraid…

Julie: there, there…

Herzl: I know that I am about to die…

Julie: no, no!

Herzl: I want you to forgive me, my wife… I know that I could not have found a better wife or a better mother for my three children. I wish both of us were healthier…

Julie: I will take care of you, my dear husband…Those Zionists have stolen you away from me! You and all of my money…Why do I deserve this? (to the doctor) do something! Do something! No!!!!

**Scene 12**

(Herzl's funeral)

Oscar: You asked in your will that no speeches will be given over your grave, and your will is sacred to us. But we hereby swear that your name shall be sanctified and remembered for as long as a single Jew still walks this earth. At this difficult time, we are remembering your oath at the sixth Congress, and we faithfully follow: If I forget thee, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning!

<https://youtu.be/iGrIuAUfJDo>

**track 12**

*IF YOU WILL IT*

**COMPANY**

A yearning so old

Is filling our hearts

A longing so deep

The nation starts

May we finally reach Jerusalem and

May we finally reach Zion

Who could he have been?

And where could he have come from?

What hope did he have for all the Jews?

Everyone he met

He Trying to persuade them

Never picturing that he would lose

In this life

Every action

Will begin with a dream

There is no other way

So say the visionaries

Dreamt to be an author

But he couldn’t make it

So, he turned the world into his stage

Dedicated his life

With his wife and children

Turned into a prophet and a sage

**HERZL**

I still believe

We will get there

Zionism will prevail

It will provide us a home

It is our holy grail

It will spread its wings and fly

It is our deepest heart

As a people intent

To show light to the world

That has been the meaning of my life

I've helped people see through my eyes

Not to dream, but to rise!

If you will it its no dream

**END OF PLAY**