

To their safety.

ZUSMAN

(Everyone pours a glass of wine. They clink glasses and drink.)

I pray for their safety, every night.

AVRAM

We should all be doing the same.

MRS. LACHMAN

Where is the backhouse?

ZUSMAN

Left side of the building. When you face it.

MR. LACHMAN

Excuse me.

ZUSMAN

(Zusman stands and quickly exits.)

(Avram looks across the tenement at the painting.)

Ah, I remember that painting in your home. How wonderful to see it again.

AVRAM

Thank you.

MRS. LACHMAN

Your grandfather?

AVRAM

My father. They looked so similar that really it could be either one.

MRS. LACHMAN

(Everyone laughs.)

I've always thought it was a beautiful piece. I like seeing it hang in your home again...
What happened to the big home?

AVRAM

What do you mean?

MR. LACHMAN

AVRAM

You had that big house. Those big front doors, and the--

MR. LACHMAN

In America, nobody has a big house like that.

AVRAM

Oh.

MR. LACHMAN

It isn't all bad. Mazel tov to have a home at all. Besides, all the big homes are so far from our little community. Where's the fun in that?

MRS. LACHMAN

There was a butcher from Belarus. Here, he has been living on the streets. It can be hard... What are your plans, Rabbi?

AVRAM

I'm not so sure yet. I was thinking of finding a new congregation to lead. That way, I could bring--

MRS. LACHMAN

Really?

AVRAM

What?

MRS. LACHMAN

How could you find a congregation? That needs a rabbi.

AVRAM

I'm sure there are some. There are many people here, I am sure some would--

MRS. LACHMAN

Anybody who wants a rabbi and a congregation already has one.

AVRAM

Wants?

MR. LACHMAN

People don't have time for services. Those who do already belong to congregations.

AVRAM

I don't understand. Nobody has time! We make time, That's why it means so much. People make it important.

MRS. LACHMAN

Sometimes people just don't want to...

(Avram sits in stunned silence for a moment.)

AVRAM

For those who want one then. I'll--

(Zusman reenters. He sits down at his seat.)

MR. LACHMAN

There are many rabbis already. Becoming a rabbi in America would be extremely difficult.

AVRAM

I bring joy to the people of my congregation. Is that not what we need here?

MR. LACHMAN

No rabbi would give up his position just because you say that you did your job well.

(Dead silence.)

ZUSMAN

I've found a job for you.

AVRAM

Where?

ZUSMAN

In a factory... making clothes.

AVRAM

Clothes?

MRS. LACHMAN

Many men would love to have a job like that.

AVRAM

I know I can have success. America is a big country!

MR. LACHMAN

A big country for someone who speaks English.

MRS. LACHMAN

Besides, you have a family to think of.