

Ann and Aaron Pore Over Freud's
Fainting Spells in Jung's Presence
Stage Version

CHARACTERS

Rabbi Aaron Handel Fifty, looks like Sigmund Freud,
beard and all.

Ann Handel Rabbi Handel's wife, about the
same age, attractive.

SETTING

The book-lined library-study of the Handel home in Louisville, KY. On the mantle above the fireplace there is a large Menorah, a 14-inch or so bronze-colored figurine of Michelangelo's Moses, and a photo of Sigmund Freud. Center-stage, in addition to the Rabbi's file and book-cluttered desk which contains several Egyptian, Greek, and Roman antiquities, there is an oblong table between a sofa and a comfortable armchair; a footstool; and a 4-drawer file cabinet, the top of which has a few family photos, a pipe rack, and a Chicago Cubs baseball cap.

TIME

About 9:30 P.M., Friday, the second day of Passover,
April 10, 2009.

AARON is seated on the couch writing on a legal pad, as ANN enters with a tray containing a teapot, two cups, and a dish of macaroons and tea matzohs.

ANN

Comfort food?

(Laying the legal pad beside him, AARON puts pencil in mouth, and clears folders from the coffee table.)

(ANN pours tea as AARON lifts cup, and also for herself. Seating self, SHE lifts the legal pad.)

Another of your hero's dreams?

AARON

No, a fainting spell of his in Carl Jung's presence. (Offering ANN the dish.)

ANN (Choosing a macaroon)

When was this?

AARON

In November 1912 in Munich, just two months before their final break. Freud had fainted before Jung three years earlier. Both times Freud believed that Jung had unconscious death wishes against him.

ANN

Is this your interpretation, Aaron?

AARON

According to Jung, that's what Freud told him. But Freud held back.

ANN

You're sure?

AARON

I'm sure. His essay,

(With the legal pad, HE goes to a shelf of Freud's collected works; gets vol. 21.)

years later, in 1927, on Dostoevsky cued me in. Specifically, Freud's explanation for Dostoevsky's apparent epileptic seizures which Freud claims were actually hysterical fits--fits, Ann, like the two he had before Jung.

(Handing ANN the now open book, HE points to passage.)

Ann, please read.

ANN (Reads:)

... these death-like seizures signify an identification with a dead person, either with someone who is really dead or with someone who is still alive and whom one wishes dead. The latter case is the more significant. The attack then has the value of a punishment. One has wished another person dead, and now one is this other person and is dead oneself. For a boy this other person is usually his father and the attack is thus a self-punishment for a death-wish against a hated father.

AARON (Pointing to passage.)

'A self-punishment for a death-wish against one's father.'
This, Ann, is bedrock-

ANN

Are you saying that when he fell away Freud had death wishes against his father, Jakob?

AARON

Not Jakob ...

(From the fireplace mantle HE gets the statuette of Michelangelo's Moses with the 2 Tablets of The Law, and lays Moses on his back on the floor.)

ANN

Moses? Aaron, you haven't heard? Moses is dead.

AARON

Not so long as The Law exists--.

(Pointing to the Tablets)

ANN (Re-reads:)

"...the attack is a self-punishment for a death-wish against a hated father."

Surely, Freud didn't hate Moses?

AARON

Freud admired Moses, even identified with him,
(Lifting Moses high, AARON'S eyes stay focused on Moses, as if in awe.)
but he held that great man responsible for our people's misery-

ANN

Anti-Semitism?

AARON

Anti-Semitism.

(Replacing Moses on the bookcase,
AARON gets the last book on a shelf of Freud's
collected works, Moses and Monotheism.)

Ann, this is from Freud last major attack on religion,
Moses and Monotheism.

(HE reads:)

. . . we venture to declare that it was the one
man Moses who created the Jews. It is to him
that this people owes its tenacity of life and
also much of the hostility it has experienced and
still experiences

(AARON starts flipping pages)

ANN

Aaron, I don't understand.

AARON

Freud was bent on destroying the Law-

ANN

The Torah? Our Tree of Life? To what end?

AARON

To rid the world of anti-Semitism. (Resumes reading:)
Christians have not got over a grudge against
the new religion which was imposed on them; but
they have displaced the grudge on to the source
from which Christianity reached them. The fact
that the Gospels tell a story which is set
among Jews, and in fact deals only with Jews, has
made this displacement easy for them. Their
hatred of Jews is at bottom a hatred of
Christianity . . .

In other words, Ann, because of the psychology of the
Christian, anti-Semitism will continue to exist so long as
there is such a thing as Christianity.

ANN

"Such a thing as Christianity"?

AARON

Just channeling my hero.

ANN

Well, I don't like it! ...

(ANN silently reads the passage.)

Now, let's see? ... Not possessing the courage--the moral courage--to face their own hatred for their exacting religion which obliges them to renounce their aggressive tendencies and their illicit sexual desires or lust, Christians displace their unconscious hatred or loathing for Christianity on to the ones who imprisoned them in their moral straightjacket--

(Mimes being shackled, but unable to set herself free.)

AARON

Christians, like the creep who knocked Jakob's new Shabbos cap, er, hat from his head into the mud as he shouted, "Jew! get off the pavement!"

(Mimes the anti-Semite.)

ANN

Was Freud there?

AARON

No, it happened before he was born, when Jakob was a young man. Still, just hearing Jakob relate the incident on one of their Sunday walks around Vienna was plenty traumatic.

(Gets The Interpretation of Dreams)

This is from Freud's masterpiece, The Interpretation of Dreams. Freud is either ten or twelve.

(Miming young Freud or Sigi looking up at Jakob, who is holding his hand:)

--And, papa, what did you do?

--Sigi, I went into the roadway and picked up my hat.

(Mimes humiliated Jakob picking up hat..)

AARON (CONT'D)

Ann, it was as though God Himself had died.

--This struck me as unheroic conduct on the part of the strong man who was holding the little boy by the hand.

(Miming Sigi, head down, wiping eye)

ANN

So that's what drove him!--his passionate desire to avenge Jakob.

AARON

Ann, Freud was a good hater, but his thirst for vengeance against Christians wasn't what ultimately drove him.

ANN

If not revenge, what then?

AARON

Guilt.

ANN

Guilt?

AARON

An intolerable sense of guilt from his early childhood. But, for now, let's stay with the spells--

ANN

Aaron, you can't leave me hanging!

AARON

Ann, I'll get to it, I promise. But for now, I need your input.

ANN

(Finding Moses and Monotheism's publication date.)

Aaron, Moses and Monotheism was published in 1939.

AARON

Right! The year Freud died. His mouth and jaw eaten up with cancer, he completed it the summer before, in exile in London.

(Miming Freud in pain, penning the last sentence.)

ANN

Leaving Vienna at the last possible minute. It's as though he had a death-wish-.

AARON

He gave up the ghost on Yom Kippur. He was 83-

ANN

The Day of Atonement? That's uncanny. That is, if Freud was really out, as you claim, to destroy the Torah. But, Aaron, there's a problem with your detective work, isn't there? A big problem-

AARON

And that is?

ANN

Freud's explanation for anti-Semitism

(Replacing Moses and Monotheism on bookshelf.)

hit the book stores in 1939, over a quarter of a century after both fainting spells.

AARON

Ann, Freud was a concealer! When he broadcasts his explanation for anti-Semitism means absolutely nothing!-

ANN

If you say so.

AARON

Let's sum up so far. In Freud's eyes, given his understanding of anti-Semitism, there is no alternative-- the Law must go. (Emphasizing with fingers.)
No Torah, No Judaism, no Christianity, no miserable anti-Semitism.

ANN

Had they known of elegant solution to the Jewish Question calls for the destruction of the Torah, Freud's B'nai B'rith lodge brothers would have stoned, if not castrated him.--

(Mimes throwing stones at AARON/FREUD,
who protects his head and genitals.)

That is, if they could have gotten away with it.

AARON

That he'd suffer their hatred and contempt, Freud understood only too well -

ANN

Still, he persisted?

AARON

Otherwise, he'd lose the will to live! -

ANN

"Lose the will to live"? Aaron, that's pretty strong!

AARON

Well, that's the case--as you'll see, that is, if you'll stay with me. I know you still have papers to grade --

ANN

A deal. ... Aaron, a question: Without God or His Visitations, wouldn't everything be allowed?--- Rape, murder-anarchy would prevail.

AARON (Gets a book.)

Not in Freud's Promised Land. He alludes to it here in The Future of an Illusion --the illusion, Ann, being religion-

ANN

Why am I not surprised?

AARON (reads:)

. . . New generations, who have been brought up in kindness and taught to have a high opinion of reason, and who have experienced the benefits of civilization at an early age will feel civilization as a possession of their very own and will be ready for its sake to make the sacrifices as regards work and instinctual satisfaction that are necessary for civilization's preservation.. If no culture has so far produced human masses of such a quality, it is because no culture has yet devised regulations which will influence men in this way, and in particular from childhood onwards.

(HE Skips pages...)

ANN

And this is Freud the realist?! Why, he's a dreamer, a deluded utopian dreamer!

AARON (resumes reading:)

By withdrawing their expectations from the other world and concentrating all their liberated energies into their life on earth, they will probably succeed in achieving a state of things in which life will become tolerable for everyone and civilization no longer oppressive to anyone. Then, with one of our fellow-unbelievers, the great poet Heine, they will be able to say without regret:

"We leave Heaven to the angels and the sparrows."

(HE mimes releasing sparrows upwards.)

ANN

(Taking The Future Of An Illusion from Aaron.)

And he actually believed he could pull this off, an enlightened secular world?

AARON

This was his Promised Land! A brotherly world grounded in reason, where at long last the seed of Abraham can move freely across frontiers.

(He mimes crossing over frontiers)

As for his pulling this off, let's say he hoped against hope... And, after all, he was born in a caul, a membrane on his head . . .

(Miming the newborn Sigi struggling with his hand against the 'blinding light.')

which his mother, Amalia, never let her first-born son forget.

(HE mimes Amalia Freud:)

My "goldener Sigi," you are destined to become a Great Man!

Little did his proud mama know that to become a Great Man, her undisputed darling, her "goldener Sigi," must kill that Great Man, Moses.

(Laying Moses figurine on the carpet.)

ANN

Aaron, you know this, this, reading of yours is hard for me to accept.

(SHE mimes a Talmudic scholar bent over a text.)

AARON

Ann, already by 1900, the noose around our people has been tightening... For Freud, as with the Theodor Herzl--and for any Jew with eyes to see--the return of the Middle Ages, when our people were blamed for all tragedies and epidemics, is around the corner. ...Just a few of the signs...

(Emphasizing with fingers:)

The miserable Dreyfus Affair in 'fraternal' France; the ever popular Jew-baiting Mayor of Vienna, "I say who is a Jew!," Herr Doktor Karl Lueger!-- the first politician ever elected on an anti-Semitic platform!; the sentencing to death in Czechoslovakia of Leopold Hilsner, a young Jewish shoemaker, for 'killing' a 19 year-old Christian girl for her blood to bake the Passover matzohs.

ANN

The blood libel?! (horror)

AARON

(Offers Ann a matzoh, who, repulsed,
turns head away.)

You sure? (As he eats a matzoh)
It's fresh and quite tasty, just the right amount of -

ANN

Aaron!

AARON

Salt ...
(Suddenly, AARON sinks on footstool:)
"By the waters of Babylon we sat and wept!
(Flooded with tears.)

ANN(To self)

The hate-filled lament of the Babylonian captivity.

AARON

O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed-
(Becoming enraged.)

ANN

(Concerned, ANN rushes to AARON, who resists her.)
Aaron! Aaron!

AARON

Happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou
hast served us.
Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy
little ones against the stones."

(As AARON pounds the floor, ANN rushes to him)

ANN

Aaron, don't you see what you are doing to yourself!?
Leave Freud to the psychoanalysts! -

AARON

(Rubbing his painful hands)
Ann, you don't understand. Psychoanalysts, when it comes to
their father, they blind themselves! -
(Mimes plucking his eyes out.)

ANN

(Facing him. holding him by the shoulders.)
Aaron, face it! You're losing it!

AARON

On Passover, the season of our deliverance? No way!
(With her help, AARON seats self to couch.)

ANN

(On HER knees before Aaron, takes his hands.)
Aaron, at least take a break ... Freud won't go away.

AARON

Promise?

ANN

You have my word.

AARON

Not your heart? (Touching her breast.)

ANN

That, too. (Placing HER hand over his.)

AARON

Then we continue?... .Just a few more minutes—

ANN

On one condition. You call Klein.

AARON

You think his couch—my *Zoftig* Sophie--misses me?
 (Mimes a patient on the couch squeezing cushion.)

ANN

Aaron, I miss you!

AARON

Promise!... (Mimes phoning)
 (Getting up from couch)
 Now, Ann, unlike the Zionist Herzl, Freud doesn't broadcast his messianic ambition. You see, if his Promised Land is to be realized, secrecy is essential.

ANN

Concealing this even from Martha?

AARON

From everyone--

ANN

Everyone, except you.

AARON

May I continue? Now, just as it got the better of Dostoevsky, his bad conscience or guilt got the better of Freud—

ANN

Filial piety?

AARON

Right! Freud loved his gray-haired Talmud-reading papa.

ANN (Lifting the legal pad.)

Nu, the fainting spell?

AARON

As I said, the first fit happened in 1909--in Bremen, Germany. At the time, Jung hakens a chainik, keeps going on and on, about prehistoric corpses recently discovered in marshes of Northern Germany, confusing these naturally preserved bodies with mummies stored in lead cellars in Bremen.

ANN

And the topic of mummies, you believe, called up in Freud's mind Egypt and Moses?--

AARON

Did you hear me say that? This fit happened on August 20th, the day before Freud and Jung are to sail for America to lecture at Clark University. This invitation is a recognition of consequence!--the first such for Freud and psychoanalysis. Freud could almost taste his Promised Land--

ANN

Where do you suggest we hang the shingle,
 (Miming looking for a suitable place)
 "Reb Handel, mind-reader extraordinaire"! ?

AARON

You through? According to Jung, Freud told him that his "chattering about corpses" meant that Jung had unconscious death wishes against him.

ANN (Lifting legal pad)

And the all-important second spell?

AARON

Like the first one, this spell happened when they were dining. At the time, Jung was tearing into a recent paper by another of Freud's disciples, Karl Abraham. In the paper, Abraham claims that a particular pharaoh--because he ordered his father's name chiseled out from monuments -- had had death wishes against his father.

(Mimes this chiseling behavior on Moses figurine.)
 Now, Ann, according to Freud, it was from this Pharaoh, Pharaoh Akhenaten, that Moses got his monotheistic religion--.

ANN

But, Aaron, it's only at the end of his life that Freud makes this claim.

AARON

Ann, I'll say it again! Freud's a concealer, a careful concealer. It matters not when he reveals something.

ANN

A regular Kabbalist. You seek! You find!

AARON

A Kabbalist, am I?!

(Agitated, AARON lifts the Menorah from the mantle, holding it up ANN's face.)

Ann, what is this?!

ANN

(Rising, ANN mimes an unsure charades participant.)

A remake of Dracula by Mel Brooks?

AARON

Even our precious little Miriam knows!

ANN (Mimes Miriam)

"I want to wight the wymnora." She was so cute.

AARON

(Replacing the Menorah, AARON opens The Letters of Sigmund Freud, edited by his son, Ernst; HE hands Ann the book.)

Ann, just the underlined part. You'll understand why..

ANN (Reads reluctantly)

Until nightfall I was...in the Christian and Jewish catacombs. In the Jewish catacombs the inscriptions are Greek, the candelabrum--I think it's called Menorah--can be seen on many tablets--

"I think it's called Menorah"?!

(Shaking her head in disbelief!)

How can he not know for sure it's called a Menorah?

AARON

That's just it!

ANN

What's just it?!

AARON

A 51 year-old Jew whose beloved Talmud-reading father not only instructed him at age seven in Torah but also conducted the Passover Seder in Hebrew--and by heart without the aid of a Haggadah--

(Holds up the Haggadah.)

cannot not. Know for sure. This is.

(Lifting the Menorah)

A Menorah.

ANN

Okay?

AARON

Ann, this is the way I see it: Knowing that his correspondence--especially his letters to his wife--will be pored over, Freud is trying to keep his biographers off-track--

(Retrieving the book from ANN,
AARON mimes poring over the text.)

ANN

By concealing his familiarity with Judaism? But for what purpose?

AARON

Ann, what have we been talking about?!

(Searching his file and book cluttered desk)

His creation, psychoanalysis, must not be identified with Judaism. It's got to be seen as a science, one that could have been created by anyone, Gentile as well as Jew. Ah! Here it is.

(Lifting a sheet of paper.)

Ann, do I have your attention?!

ANN

Full!

AARON

Now what riled Jung especially was Abraham's claim that monotheism, Akhenaten's great creation, originated in Akhenaten's unconscious hatred of his father, that is, in his negative father complex.

(AARON gets Jung's Memories, Dreams, Reflections.)

Here, in his memoir, Jung relates that Freud slides off the chair, faints,

(Mimes Freud sliding off chair, but catches self)

just as Jung is pointing out to Freud that Pharaohs other than Akhenaten had also chiseled out or crossed off their father's name from monuments, yet they--

Ann, this is a direct quote--"yet they had inaugurated neither a new style nor a new religion."

ANN

Okay?

AARON

(Pointing to it, HE repeats the phrase:)

"[T]hey had inaugurated neither a new style nor a new religion." Don't you see, Ann? Freud faints just as his Promised Land is called up in his mind--

ANN

Aaron, that's a stretch.

ARRON

A socially just world grounded in Reason, a brotherly world in which the seed of Abraham can at last move freely across frontiers (Miming doing this)

-- this is not a radically new style?! And in his golden Christian, the magnetic Carl Jung, Freud believed he had his Joshua, who by knocking down the resistances of the goyim to psychoanalysis and its findings, would be instrumental in ultimately instituting his Promised Land.

(Quickly lifting a sheet of paper.)

Several months after Jung had entered the psychoanalytic fold, Freud, in May 1908, wrote Abraham:

. . . as a Christian and a pastor's son Jung finds his way to me only against great inner resistances. His association with us is the more valuable for that. I nearly said that it was only by his appearance on the scene that psychoanalysis escaped the danger of becoming a Jewish national affair.

(AARON hands the letter to ANN, who gestures for it; ANN studies the letter.)

Ann, don't you see?!

ANN

See what?! That Freud's other followers were all Jews?

AARON

Ann, Freud here is all but confessing to Abraham that psychoanalysis, like Theodor Herzl's Zionism, is at bottom

(Pointing to the phrase on the sheet)

"a Jewish national affair"--that is, it's a political movement to deliver the Jews--

(ANN Hands Aaron back the letter.)

And as with all his other disciples, Freud kept Jung in the dark--and a good thing that he did. After the breakup, Jung called Freud, "The Pope in Vienna" --

(Extends hand for ring to be kissed)

ANN

Well, at least Jung didn't call him the Jewish Pope.

AARON

In his first editorial of a Nazi-controlled psychiatric journal, Jung will put down psychoanalysis, claim that its "Jewish categories" do not apply to gentiles. And he all but swoons over National Socialism with its mighty "Germanic soul."

ANN

Aaron, when was this?

AARON

In January 1934—

ANN

Just what Freud feared, psychoanalysis dismissed as a Jewish science --

AARON (Gets Totem and Taboo)

And all the while, Freud continues preparing the ground, especially with his radical notion, here in Totem and Taboo, that religion can be traced back to the first patricide, the killing of their father by the sons of the primal horde.—

ANN

"The first patricide" ..."sons of the primal horde"?! You know how your would-be Moses sounds? -This primal horde business, why is it so significant?

AARON

(Holding high Totem and Taboo)_

Because with this revolutionary account in 1913 of the beginnings of religion, Freud prepares the way for the essential hypothesis of Moses and Monotheism—

ANN

His farshtunkeneh speculation that Moses was a high-born Egyptian?

AARON

Ann, that's not the essential premise. Rather, it's Freud's hypothesis that the Israelites repeated that first patricide—that is, banding together, they killed Moses.

(Mimes stabbing Moses statuette.)

—And here is the key point—

ANN (Lifting the Bible)

Now he rewrites Deuteronomy! Moses died when he was 120. And for this desert fantasy Freud has evidence?

AARON

Not really, he's clutching at straws.

(ANN presses palms on temples, as though a headache is coming on.)

Now, Freud goes on to claim—and this, Ann—

(Notices Ann holding her head)

ANN

Aaron, all this is giving me a headache.

AARON

Ann, we're almost there. Okay?

(Places his arm around her shoulder.)

ANN

Okay.

AARON

Now, Ann, here is the key point: like Akhenaten's monotheism, Jewish monotheism is nothing but a reaction-formation stemming from the Jews' guilt and remorse over the killing of Moses.

ANN

The alleged killing of Moses. And this is how Freud accounts for Judaism?—

AARON

Not only for Judaism but also, against all odds, its persistence. You see, according to Freud, from generation-to-generation each and every Jew possesses indestructible unconscious memory traces of that traumatic event and terrible deed— along with the related patricidal sense of guilt and remorse.—

ANN

Such torturous speculation. Aaron, I'm sorry, but he sounds like a crank. A deluded, opinionated crank.

AARON

That may be, but to bring it back home: Ann, in my unconscious, I'm one of the rebellious Israelites who had banded together to kill Moses—

('Stabbing' Moses, to the floor.)

ANN (Raising hand, hesitantly)

I'm afraid to ask, Just how does this account for Judaism's persistence?

AARON

Ann, consider me transgeneration Everyman Jew. Understand, all this is unconscious: by abiding by the Law I expiate, or atone for, my having taken part in the murder of Moses; hence Judaism endures—

(Dusting off the Tablets of the Law, and raising Moses high, AARON kisses the Law.)

ANN

Let me see it I have right. Like the subsequent primitive religion of the Primal Horde, Judaism originated in the killing of the father of the clan, Moses. And if Judaism, like Totemism, is just a, a, reaction-formation, then the Law,

(Points to the Tablets)

being a mere creation of man, is not divine--and Christendom and anti-Semitism are annihilated.--

AARON

You got it--that's his secret game plan.

(Replacing Moses on the bookshelf.)

ANN

A game plan which is fatally flawed: Aaron, the unconscious memory traces of the killing of Moses are, as you have just said, indelibly imprinted on the Jew's DNA-- never to be erased or destroyed-- forever stamped!

(`Stamping' with hand Aaron's forehead.)

According to his own theory then, Freud's `messianic ambition' is doomed from the start, isn't it ?

AARON (wincing.)

Ann, Freud pinned his hopes on Reason or the Intellect prevailing. To quote Freud, "The voice of reason is a soft one, but it does not rest until it gains a hearing..."—

ANN

That'll be the day!

(Doing a two-step, her headache returns; she holds her head.)

Oy! I hope I can still work on my papers.

AARON

I'll help.

ANN

Aaron, that's all I need.

AARON

Anyway, we're almost through . . . The powerful Jung has just lifted and carried Freud from the hotel dining room to a couch in the lounge. Here, Jung relates what happened next. (AARON reads):

Freud half came to, and I shall never forget the look he cast at me. In his weakness he looked at me as if I were his father.

"As if I were his father."

ANN

I got "father" without your help. Aaron, if, as you say, Freud is bent on destroying the Torah then his sense of guilt at the time of the fit has got to pertain to Jakob-

AARON

Freud's guilt of course pertained to Jakob, his beloved first instructor in Torah. But, Ann, during the fit, Freud's messianic ambition was called up, the realization of which, again, requires what?... That Moses die, once and for all, right?! So, Freud's guilt had to pertain as well to the great man who--to re-quote Freud--"created the Jews," Moses.

(Again, AARON lays the Moses figurine on the floor.)

Or, to paraphrase Freud on Dostoevsky:

The attacks have the value of a self-punishment. Freud wished Moses dead, and now this impious striver who would be Moses is Moses,

(Miming Freud, AARON falls away to rug next to Moses)
and is dead himself...

(With his fingers, he closes his eyes.)

ANN

(Dusting off and replacing Moses on bookshelf.)

And Freud's terrible guilt from childhood? It's time, Aaron, don't you think?

AARON (Getting up)

After Sol's, er, Jakob's death at age 81 in 1896, Freud, feeling as though he had been torn up by the roots, begins his systematic self-analysis, mainly by studying his dreams.

(Mimes Freud at desk with pen in hand, writing on a large writing pad.)

Only to discover to his horror

(Miming Freud, anguished, hunched over desk, his left hand covering left eye in the manner of one of the doomed in Michelangelo's Last Judgment.)

that he is a Cain!

ANN

A Cain? --.

AARON

Psychoanalysts call it a "return of the repressed." Freud believes that his jealous, hateful wishes had killed his baby brother, Julius-

ANN

When was this?

AARON

In his birthplace, the little Catholic town of Freiberg, in Moravia, and where Jakob had been abused by the good Christian. Freud was 23 months old, and Julius was either six or eight months old.

ANN

With all his brilliance he continued to believe his hateful wishes had killed Julius?

AARON

He just couldn't shake it-

ANN

How he must have suffered..

AARON

And in silence...Freud's atheism, I am convinced, can be traced back to Julius's death-

ANN

"If there was a God in Heaven, would He have allowed Julius to die?"-

AARON

You got it, Ann-- His atheism wasn't reasoned out. It was that of a tormented, lost soul... Now, soon after the second spell, here is what Freud related to another disciple, Sandor Ferenczi. ... It's relevant.

(AARON hands Ann Vol. 2 of Ernest Jones's authorized biography of Freud.)

ANN (Reads:)

Freud...expressed the opinion that all his attacks could be traced to the effect on him of his younger brother's death-

AARON

And what more fitting way for this tormented Cain to redeem himself than by ___ ? Come on, Ann ...Think!

(gesturing, encouraging...)

ANN

By delivering der Kinder, other Juliuses

(Heads for a large wall photo of their granddaughter.)

and Miriams...

AARON

This is his salvation--.

ANN

Aaron, I hate admitting it, but I'm intrigued.

AARON

It's contagious, isn't it?

ANN

Aaron, a thought. Couldn't it have been the case that just as he had wanted Julius out of the way, that Freud wanted Jung out of the way?, that rather than Jung wanting to kill Freud, that Freud, at dinner

(Eyeing and handling the knife-shaped letter opener)
was sorely tempted to sink his steak knife into Jung?

AARON

Ann, this helps! (He jots feverishly.) Were the increasingly rebellious Jung to defect, as seems just a matter of time – Jung especially resented Freud's making the Oedipus Complex into a dogma-- Freud's redemptive Promised Land could be nipped in the bud.

(Snaps pencil in two.)

ANN

Reason enough for Freud to want his "Joshua" dead!...

AARON

Which would make his death-like spell purposeful—it kept Freud from acting on his increasingly aroused murderous feelings.

ANN

A most effective defense, no? ...
Of course! (Slapping her head!)
It's the other way around!

(Massaging her pained head)

AARON

What's the other way around?!

ANN

Freud wanted Jung to murder him!

AARON

Hm!..."How sweet it must be to die."

(Lifts Vol. I of Ernest Jones's biography of Freud.)
Those were Freud's first words upon awakening. "How sweet it must be to die."... Finally, this Cain would be out of his misery. At last, no more inner torment--

ANN

Some psychologist! The father of psychoanalysis killed by one of his rebellious sons. ... Think generations!--
...Think primal father of the clan--

AARON

Freud ...the new Moses!--.

ANN

No longer "seen from afar," his redemptive Promised Land realized at last. A reaction-formation Freud could live with, no? And for all eternity!

AARON

(Rapidly jotting bold letters with a felt-tipped pen on a blank sheet of the yellow legal pad, HE says:) Ann, as the great Maimonides said, "The gates of interpretation are always open!"

(Tossing the pen, AARON, now manic, and armed with his yellow pad or 'tablet' cries:)

From Moses to Moses who is like unto thee?!

(Turns 360 degrees for all to see in bold letters the new 'Law.')

"Know Thyself!"

(Suddenly grief-stricken, the 'Law' slipping from his hands, AARON lowers himself and sits on the footstool.)

Ann, I miss Sol. (Breaking down.)

Tomorrow it will be three years. Klein keeps telling me I've got to bury him.. How the hell do you bury your father ? ...He was a milkman--All Jews have money. Right?!... What do I do? Sit *shiva* another three years?! (pain)

(Area darkens)

ANN

You realize, Aaron, that's almost how long ---

AARON

I've been working on Freud!

(An awareness; lost in thought...)

ANN

Aaron, do I have your attention?

(ANN taps AARON's shoulder.)

(AARON jumps.)

Even as you were analyzing or dissecting Freud, you were taking him in to yourself.

(Closing eyes, ANN swallows matzoh, like a Roman Catholic taking Communion Wafer at Mass.)

And because not even Freud can replace Sol, this, this, cannibalism has naturally failed to fill the hole in your heart---

(ANN puts down remainder of the matzoh.)

AARON

Last session, suddenly at the hour's end, Klein, like a Hebrew prophet of old, stands over me in the half-gloom:

(AARON Mimes Klein, with German or Austrian accent:)

Aaron, you cannot be blind--To no avail have you been internalizing Freud. Aaron, you must your longing embrace! Your sorrow, it must flood you.

ANN

And so you bolted!--So, it wasn't the two-hour drive to the psychoanalytic institute in Cincinnati, after all! Freud, I see, is not the only careful concealer--

AARON

(Now lying on couch)

While Klein is embracing air, quiet as a mouse, Jakob, I mean Sol, appears, wearing his black pea coat and favorite Cubs cap, The Courier-Journal folded in his pocket and carrying a milk gallon from the plant.

(In a trance-like state, AARON--re-experiencing his acute longing for Sol which had 'broken through' or surfaced that session--rises, tries in vain to embrace 'Sol'; overwhelmed by grief, AARON breaks down, as he sinks onto the footstool...)

ANN

(To self, as SHE moves to comfort him,
but forces self not to.)

Ann, don't you dare! He must go through this!

AARON

(Steadying self and wiping his eyes, He heads for the file cabinet, from the top of which AARON gets Sol's Cubs cap.)

There are times that I smell Sol ... Ann, I don't want his smell to go away. Does that make sense?

(As HE again breaks down ...)

(AARON, collecting self)

But back to Cincinnati.

(Replacing the Cap tenderly.)

Catching myself falling asleep at the wheel-

(Mimes trying to stay awake while driving)

ANN

Aaron, spending the night was the sensible thing to do.
Over the phone, I could barely hear you.

(Mimes holding phone, trying to listen.)

AARON

(Looking at Ann out of corner of his eye,
AARON opens up:)

Ann, in the Ramada that night I had a distressing, but eye-opening dream... it was all but transparent.

(He seats self at 'hotel' desk and writes,
'analyzing' his dream:)

A large black labrador with a long leash is running free. Frantically, as though it's a matter of life and death, I try getting hold of his leash..."Black Labrador"-- black dog-- Churchill's "Black dog!" "Black dog" is what Churchill called his bouts of depression. Hm! I've been trying reign in or choke off my huge black dog, my depression.... Black, black, Sol's black pea coat. The black dog of the dream, he is as elusive as Sol was this afternoon in Klein's gloomy office-

(Mimes vainly attempting to embrace Sol.)

Is the elusive black dog of the dream then also Sol, whom I've been trying so desperately to hold on to, "as though it's a matter of life and death"?-- But if I don't let Sol go, if I don't face head-on my grief, I'll never come back to myself, never be whole, never rid myself of my

AARON (CONT'D)

"black dog" depressions. But to be whole, to have a life without Sol, how's that possible?

(Anguish)

Let alone not to crack-up?

(ANN resists comforting him, an inner struggle.)

(AARON now turns to ANN)

So, naturally-- to use your apt term, Ann--your brave husband-- "bolted."

(AARON, as wipes His glasses:)

I left my good glasses at Klein's office. Freud says there are no accidents--

(AARON writes on desk calendar:)

"Call Klein." Ann, this might not look like it, but it's written in stone!

ANN

Already, I'm jealous of *Zoftig* Sophie.

AARON

I confess, I do tell her things I don't tell you.

(Starts pouring Mogen David into two wine glasses.)
But it's just talk.

ANN

That's a relief!

(AARON laughs, almost spilling the wine.)

Careful! What's so funny?

AARON

I was just seeing myself being wheeled into Our Lady of Peace:

(Bent over like Groucho, wine glass in each hand,
He stretches arms laterally.)

"Schwesters, make way for the rebbe!...Sisters, make way for the rebbe!"

ANN

Aaron, that is funny! (Giggling)

AARON

After two thousand years, a fitting reversal-- the Church making way for the Jew!

(AARON hands glass to Ann.)

ANN

Nu, meschugganah lunatic, when do we broadcast?---

AARON

A rebbe and rebbetzin from Louisville, Kentucky, who'd listen?

ANN & AARON (Together they toast)

L'Chaim! L'Chaim!

To life! To life!

ANN

Next year in Jerusalem!

AARON

Not the flesh-pots of Egypt?! ...

(THEY kiss passionately.)

ANN

This was some session, don't you think?!

AARON

(Looks at watch.)

Worth every Shekel! ... My Ann, an analyst. Who'da thunk it!?

('Belly dancing' backward, ANN,
blowing a kiss, EXITS.)

AARON

(Gathering HIS papers, AARON spots and lifts the yellow "Know Thyself!" legal pad-)

"Know Thyself!" Yes, Ann, my love, it was quite a session!

(Gathering his research pages.)

That's all we need, Sol-- Good Christians armed with yet another club.

(HE rips the papers...)

(From the top of the file cabinet, HE takes the Cubs cap, smells it; puts it on his head. And then dials ...)

Dr. Klein, this is Aaron Handel...

CURTAIN

