

## XXXIX

### Three Ghettos

The *Hauptmann* issued a new regulation to the effect that, in the “labour camp”, the men should be separated from the women. He decreed that men should live on the Nadrzeczna alley, women on ul. Kozia and married men and women on the Garncarska alley.

In this manner, the “labour camp” was, once more, divided into three ghettos.

The *Judenrat* now received a new task - to carry through the change of residence of several thousand people.

This change had to be carried out over the course of one week – and only in the evenings, when the labourers had returned from work.

There were frosts just then and the people, who returned from work hungry and frozen, were forced to drag their meagre piece of “furniture” - the little beds and cabinets - in the dark, through slippery, narrow alleyways, from one damp, cold house to another even worse flat somewhere on the third street, into the corner of a room, together with five or six other people.

Within this entirely horrifying situation, there were nevertheless some *Judenrat* members who, at this opportunity, had in mind to set up women, with whom they had “left-hand love<sup>1</sup>”, in better dwellings.

Due to the general characteristic of the ghetto and of the “Jewish leaders” there, it is perhaps worthwhile to raise the fact that *Judenrat* members - some of them even older family men with adult offspring - took advantage of the general sorrowful conditions and their “power” to procure for themselves lovers amongst the lonely, tragedy-stricken women, who had lost their husbands or parents. This “love” was won for the price of providing lighter work in the “labour camp” and a better dwelling.

Not only the “Jewish leaders”, but the *Hauptmann* himself also had a Jewish lover in the ghetto. Her family had been sent away during an *akcja*, and the *Hauptmann* had retained her.

The Germans called her “the beautiful Helenka”. The *Hauptmann* arranged a fine dwelling for her in the ghetto. Every morning, she went to the *Hauptmann’s* house, where she managed the housekeeping and, in the evening, returned to the ghetto. She was the only one who had the privilege of being permitted to go about the entire city. The gendarmes and policemen knew her.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Illicit love affairs, in modern parlance.]

When “the beautiful Helenka” celebrated her birthday, that morning, the *Hauptmann* sent her flowers with his servant-gendarme. The gendarmes, in fact, grumbled and said, “What has love driven the *Hauptmann* to - sending flowers to a Jewish girl!”