



During the first days since his arrival, Mordche was in one of the HIAS hotels. Josef made efforts and helped find Mordche employment in his office, in order that he should be freed of HIAS' supervision as soon as possible. A week later, Mordche moved to a house on the East Side, not far from his sister and Josef.

With Mordche's arrival, Gołda's mood improved. She no longer felt alone in the world. She now had her brother next to her. She looked on with satisfaction as Josef and Mordche became close. Mordche quickly discovered what was facing Gołda. She needed to decide and give an answer - a clear yes or no.

Mordche kept quiet about this and by no means wished to tell her what to do - even if, in his heart, he wished that she would decide to become Josef's wife.

It was not long before Mordche also moved into the same building where Gołda and Josef were living. A family nest formed. When all three would eat and converse together, in their midst, there reigned the peaceful tranquillity of a family which, finally, had found each other after many wanderings, and had come together to ward off the loneliness of being alone in the world.

All three would often be seen together at social functions. As a trio, they would also visit the newly-arrived *landsleit*, who turned up after the great disaster. Like lonesome birds, the Jewish refugees flocked together in the great metropolis of New York, seeking their own kind and close ones with whom to become friends, so that the strange city and its streets should not gaze upon them, the newly-arrived wanderers, with such an unfamiliarity.

Among the new refugees, here in New York, Gołda also encountered friends from her youth. One of these was Karl, with whom she had studied together in school as a child, at the Peretz school in Warta. Karl had been in America since 1938 - one year prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. He had come to America thanks to a match his relatives had made for him. It was a match with a disabled girl. But the War, luckily for him, brought this match to naught.

Karl was drafted into the American army, which sent him off on a ship to fight the Japanese in the Fiji Islands. He was in Australia and New Caledonia. He participated in the heavy battles in Guadalcanal. After the War, Karl was released from military service, but his state of health was bad. He suffered chronically from malaria, which he brought with him from the tropical lands. Upon returning home, Karl was taken to hospital.

During his stay in hospital, Karl would receive little letters from young women and girls, who wrote comforting letters of encouragement to him and other wounded soldiers. The letters were filled with wishes that they should get well soon. The letter-writers knew full-well how

much strength and health all the war veterans had given away in the fight against Hitler's fascist hordes, for the protection of our country, America!

One such letter in particular made a strong impression on Karl. He recognised that this letter had been written by a Jewish daughter. He responded to her, and she - a Jewish girl from Vienna, who had fled with her family when the Nazis seized Austria - corresponded with Karl a couple of times, until they met, fell in love and, sometime later, were wed.

Josef became close with Karl through Mordche and Gołda. They would frequently visit Karl, spending time together and chatting animatedly, and calling to mind the good times in the home of old.