

**Rafał Federman**  
•  
**From the Warta River**  
**to**  
**the East River**

The printing of this book was completed on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1957

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# פֿײַ די טײַכן זואַרטע און אײַסט רײזער

פֿון  
רפאל פֿעדערמאַן

אילוסטרירט פֿון  
נאַטע קאַזלאָוסקי

איניציאַלן פֿון  
בֿרֿיציון צוקערמאַן



אַרויסגעגעבן פֿון רפאל פֿעדערמאַן  
175 אײַסט ברֿאָדוויי, ניו־יאָרק 2, נ. י.

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תש״ז — ניו־יאָרק, נ. י. — 1957

[Original English-language title page follows below]

# BEI DI TAICHEN WARTE UN EAST RIVER

(From the Warta River to the East River)

By **RAFAL FEDERMAN**

Illustrated by  
**Note Koslowsky**

Initials by **Ben-Zion Zukerman**

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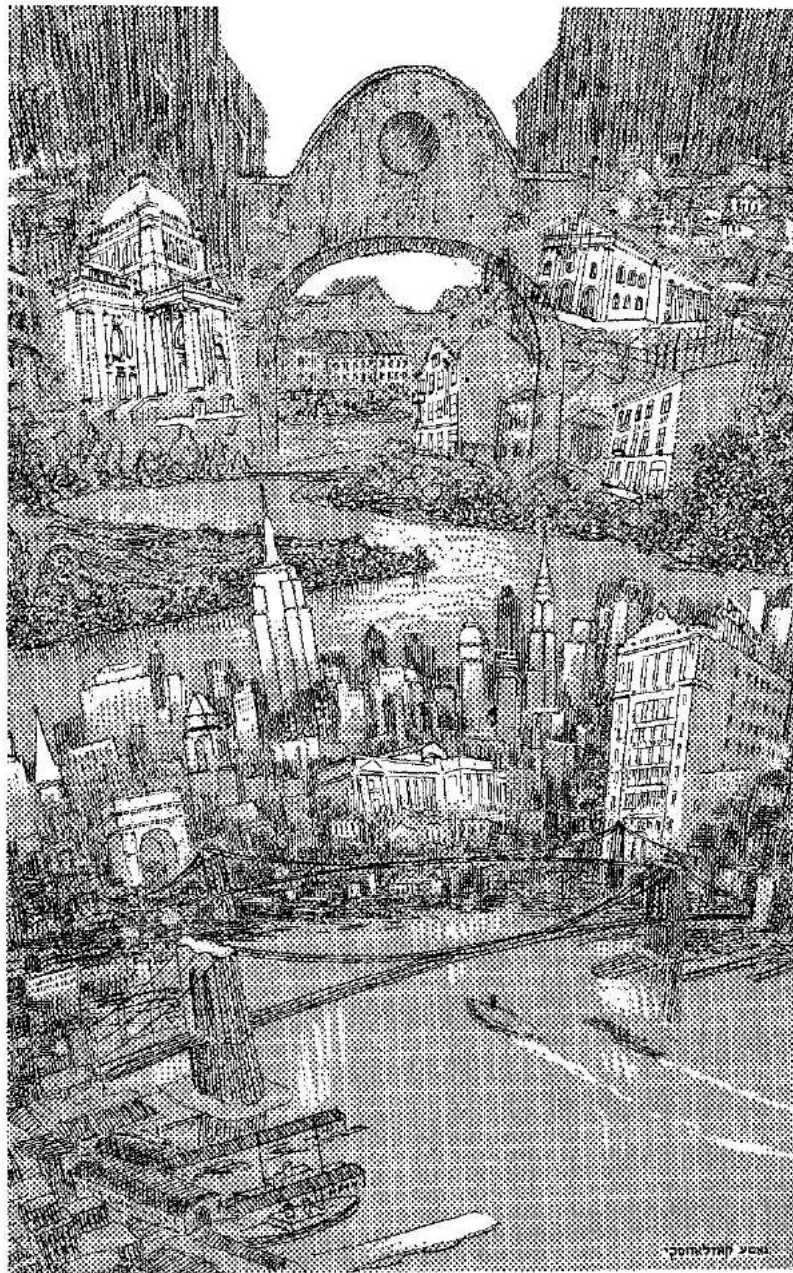


אית פריינדשאפט  
צו ל. בוקמן

רפאל פֿעדערמאן

[With friendship  
to L. Bukman (?)  
Rafal Federman]

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*This book is dedicated to the cherished memory of my family – my parents, my brothers and my sisters, of blessed memory; to the members of the Bund; to the heroes and martyrs; to the Jewish community of Częstochowa, my town; and [to all] those annihilated by the Nazi murderers.*

***Honoured be their memory!***



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## **A Few Words from the Author**

It is with an uneasy feeling that I bring this book, *From the Warta River to the East River*, before the reader.

My sole intention was to record a chronicle of the times and the environs in which I lived for over sixty years.

I have lived through many things in all those years of my life - two world wars, suffering and pain - both my own and that of my friends, which I witnessed. And currently, the horrific devastation of Poland, the destruction of my home and the annihilation of my nearest and dearest. All of this sought an expression in me. I thought, "Let at least some of my experiences and those of my friends be recorded somewhere."

However, not all that I recount here has to do solely with suffering. It was also a life filled with joy, as well as with hardships and stumbles. I felt I must tell about that, too - otherwise, it would not be the chronicle of a complete life. Where there is light, there must also be shadow. In this book, I also wished to bring out the shadowy sides of myself and of my peers.

Have I done well?

I do not know! I leave this for the reader to judge!

With this book, I had no intention of writing some artistic novel, Heaven forbid. This remains for the true artist, who will, hopefully, sometime be able to make use of this abundance of images and events - some real, from my own life, and some from the lives of others.

The town Warta is not on the map, but Warta can be my town and yours, and the characters - my acquaintances and yours. Also, Josef, the protagonist of these episodes and images, is, in my modest opinion, more than one specific hero. I have the feeling, that more than one modern Jew will recognise himself in the pages of this book.

Should the reader find, in any of the characters, a similarity to persons known to him, this is an absolute coincidence.

**Rafał Federman**

New York, August 1955

*Man's life is [just] a shadow –  
Oh yes, this is so.  
He chases joy, but finds its neighbour;  
He chases and falls – oh, woe!*

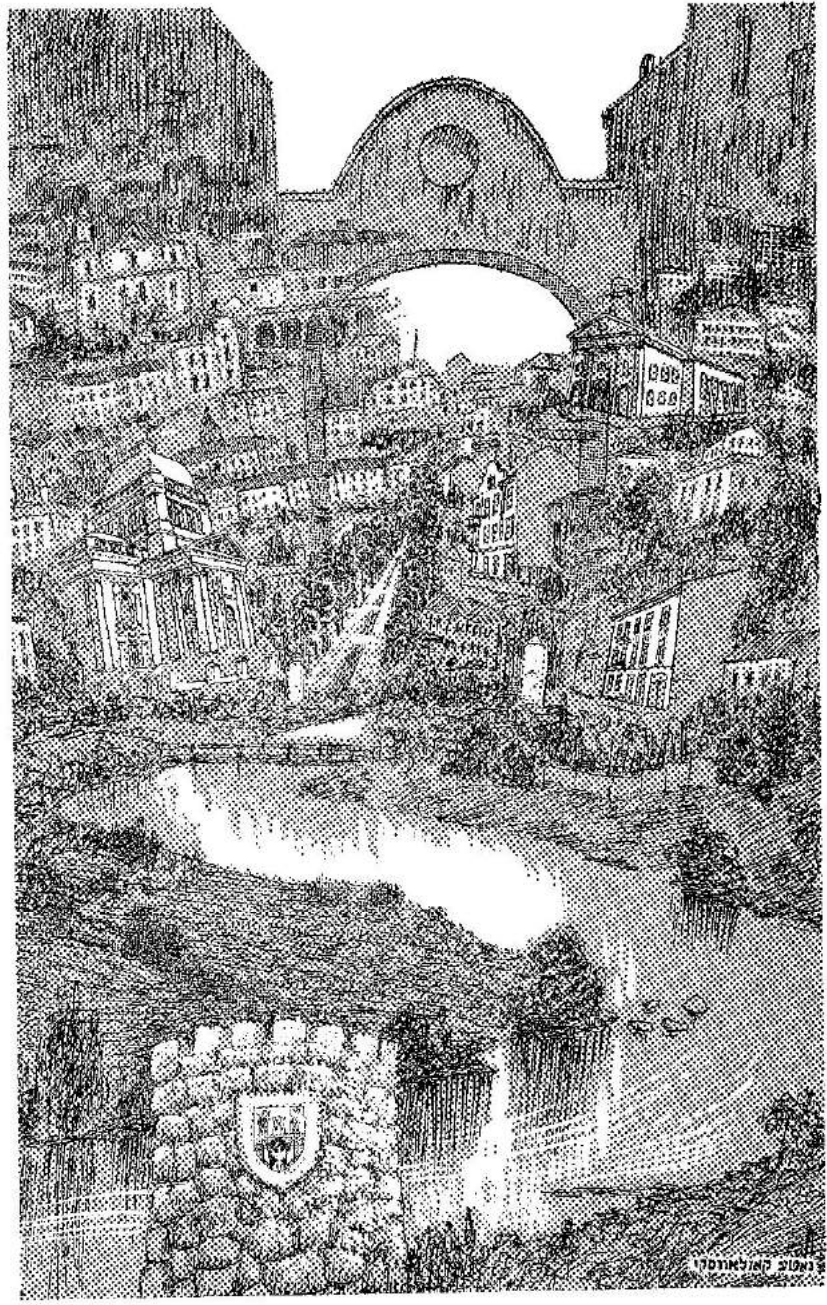
**H.D. Nomberg**

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# **By the Warta River**

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