

THE FIRST PART

I. NEW OF THE COMING

Futaki woke up with the sounds of the bells during the long autumn. He propped his head and tried to locate the where the sounds of the bells came from. He held his breath but could not hear it again. So, he tried to nod off, then he heard them again. He could not sleep so he put his arm around Mrs. Schmidt. She woke up with a bad dream. In her dream, she was trying to ward off a bad man with a knife. Futaki told her that he woke up with the sounds of the bells. Then he got off the bed and left the house via window so as not to notice by the neighbors but came back again at the front door. Mr. Schmidt was about to open the front door, when Futaki came in. Mr. Schmidt wanted Futaki to lend his shares for a year. Futaki said that he did not trust Schimdt, so he could loan none. They planned to leave at night to the estate. Mrs. Schimdt was worried that they would be stopped by the police. Futaki comforted her. Then they tried to count the money and divide it into halves. Mrs. Schimdt hold a flashlight while Mr. Schmidt and Futaki counted the shining banknotes. When they were about to finish counting, they heard a knock. Mr. Schmidt grabbed the flashlight and turned it off. Futaki run inside the cupboard to hide. It was Mrs. Halics. Mrs. Schimdt chatted with her and came back. She told her that she was fixing the light bulb. Futaki came out. They sat at the table again, and Futaki said that he did not trust the story. So, Futaki and Mrs. Schimdt tried to check on it. But Mr. Schimdt barred their exit. But they agreed that Mrs. Schimdt alone should check on it. So, she went running into the darkness. Sometime later, she came back with Mrs. Kreater who confirmed it and they all decided that they should leave.

II

WE ARE RESURRECTED

They were sitting on a chair near the table, and it was quarter to ten. They could hear the metals. It was clear when they got a formal summon letter to clarify 'the shadow of doubt fell upon them'. It would be a waste to call for a public trial. It was 12 when an official appears. But he went out again. Then another officer came out and called them to come in.

The chief was in the room. The younger one, Petrina, talked to him that they could do anything like a trader or so to supply information. The chief was puzzled and asked a captain to check on them. The captain found out from the summon letters that they were on the wrong floor. This floor is for the department of RP (Registry of Prostitute). The captain shouted at them and took them to the appointed floor. A sergeant gave them a letter with an instruction. When they were reading the instructions, the sergeant told them that they could never get out of this place.

After filling the form, the captain started talking to them, he wanted to know each other. He prattled about how they should work for him. Irimias and Petrinias did not understand a thing what he was talking about. The captain told them that they should understand the law of relative power and ordered them to do as he told as there was a crisis brewing outside. When Petrinias tried to interrupt the conversation by talking about rights, the captain snapped. He told them to leave and come back at eight sharp. They went out of the office. They were angry about the whole thing. So, they stopped at a bar and ordered some drinks. Then they heard the humming inside the bar but could not find who or what is humming. Irimias lashes out at it and told all that he would blast them all one by one. Then they left the bar. Petrinias had a hard time following behind Irimias who was rushing towards something. He then showed Petrinias the frozen ducks and told him that he was going to the estate, and he could follow him or go wherever he pleases. They walked along the fields in the countryside. Then a boy called them from behind. He was coming to redeem his favor. He had told them that Petrinias was dead, and he wanted them to keep their promise of fixing him up with Mrs. Schmidt. But they do not care to heed of the boys' claims. Then the boy showed a photo of Irimias and Petrinias in front of the merry-go-around and told them to fix him up with the bar owner's wife, if they want the picture. Then the boy kept talking about Mrs. Schimdt fooling around with the cripple, and his sister being beaten by his mother all the time. Then he told them that Schmidt and Kraner were bring money home for poultry. The boy kept on prattling about his sister and the bar owner's wife. He mentioned that the bar owner's wife lived at the estate while her husband visited once a month. Then Irimias saw the window of the bar and tried to enter.

III. TO KNOW SOMETHING

Hungary sunk during the Paleozoic era like other European nations. The doctor was fixing on his daily observational post beside the window, watching over the estate. It was a habit and a necessity for him to sit at there. He had relied on his food supplies from Mrs. Kreaner.

He examined whoever approached the door by looking at their eyes to see if those eyes reveal any intent to betray him.

There is a corner outside of the house, that was messy with mud and plastic. The doctor - who loves the orderliness - did not do anything to remind himself the opposite of what he is outside the wall. Mrs. Kreater came here every three days to fill the bucket and always complained of the stench that sinks into her skin. From his observation post, he could see the house of the Schmidt and the headmaster. The wind was gaining momentum, and he thought that the storm was coming. Then he continued reading how the outer layer and inner layer beneath Hungary was founded during ancient periods. He then noted down that Futaki was still inside. For a moment, he thought that he heard a bell. Then he saw Futaki looking for something above the house and noted it down as well.

He went on reading about how lowlands were flooded as well as dried throughout the times. He could not comprehend whether it was about the history or the imagination. Then he noted down again that Futaki went out and knocked on the door and entered again, the headmaster had gone out, and Mrs. Kreater was carrying her trash. He downed his drink but did not fill it again and fell into anxious sleep. When he woke up, it was eleven. He thought of going out to find more drinks, but the rain has been pouring for some time. Then he heard a key jiggling, it was Mrs. Kreater. She came to tell him that she would not be doing her usual chores for him during the rain. Then she asked him where to put the keys and left. He searched the notebook named 'Mrs. Kreater' and jotted down that she had resigned. He could not find out what she was planning. The doctor thought of whom to replace Mrs. Kreater. Then he saw Mrs. Halic talking to the Schimdt, and the headmaster was carrying a projector.

The evening was getting closer, so he tried to put on the lamp. The drink made him dizzy and so he felt down with a thud in his head. When he recovered, he did not know how many times had passed. He thought of going to the landlord himself after some time. He also needs to refill his drinks and all those small yet necessary items. So, he grabbed a fur coat and went outside to the mill. He chose the less traversed path to avoid neighbors and others. When he reached the mill, he heard some noises. It was the conversation between two girls near a fire. So, he asked them to let him sit down to warm himself.

They were the Horgos girls and trying to save some cash to escape this. One of the girls has a younger sister named Esti, and a brother. The doctor thought of going to the bar. So, he went outside and went to the bar. He had to rest at some places so that he would not collapse. After several struggles, he reached the bar. When he was about to enter the bar, he saw the young girl Esti holding his coat firmly. He tried to shake her off but could not. Then she ran away. He decided to follow her but found that he could not catch. By the time

he realized it, he was too far away from the bar. Then he slips and collapsed on the mud. It took some time to come to himself after the collapse. Then he saw two rogues figure walking on the road while a boy is explaining things to them. He tried to shout at them, but they could not hear them. He then clearly saw the two rogues who he thought were dead were still walking. When the morning came, he walked towards his home. Then he hitch-hiked a cart for the rest of the road.

IV

THE WORK OF THE SPIDER I

Kerekes, the farmer, was putting the light on as horseflies were swarming around the cracked lamps. He was in a bar with Halics and the landlord. Kerekes had a massive body and Halics was afraid of him and tried to appease him as any cowards would behave. At first, the landlord did not engage in any conversation. But after Kerekes had some drinks and sitting on a chair near the Billard table, the landlord started talking to Halics. Halics mentioned that the Schimdt would arrive soon. It was raining hard outside. Then a loud noise was heard over the sky, and they could see the flash from the bar. Then they heard loud knocks on the door, and when the landlord opened it, he saw Keleman, the driver.

He was angry at them for not opening the door earlier as he might have been struck by the lightning. He wanted to tell them something but decided that it was not the moment, and so he sat down. Meanwhile, Mrs. Halics was walking towards the bar and saw a star fell from the sky, so she went back home and took the bible under her pillow. She thought of a good phrase before entering the bar. Then she sprung open the bar's door and shouted 'Resurrection'. It scared all of them, the landlord, Mr. Halic, the farmer, and the driver. Mr. Halic calmed her down and made her sit on a chair. The landlord went inside the storeroom to find more drinks. He realized that he was allowing too much free drinks, he took out the ledger and noted down the numbers. It made him swelled with indignation. He found that Irimias had been drinking free for fourteen days. The landlord let him drink in the past as Irimias had given him advice to plant onions that made him possible to buy the bar. But he could allow no more. He saw spiders crawling in the storeroom. Mrs. Halics was the only one who realized how long the landlord had spent in the room when he came out.

Kelemen, the driver, started recounting the events at the bar, where he met Irimias and Petrina, the latter of them told him everything. Mrs. Halics did not believe any of those stories. Kelemen told them that Irimias was discussing about ammunitions. Then Mrs. Schimdt came in and told them that she had heard it as well. The thought of Irimias being

still alive thrilled her as she believed that there was no one who thrilled her in both bed and life as him, not even Futaki, and not even her husband, Schmidt. Meanwhile, the landlord was pouring drinks into her cup, like a spider luring a prey into his web. Mrs. Halics saw it. Mrs. Schimdt told them that there were to meet with Irimias in the morning.

V

Unraveling

Back then, it took her two days just to work out where to land her foot. Little Esti found herself on the loft watching through the window. She was afraid that her brother and her mother would find her here and ban her from coming here. She was living in the Horgo farms with her sister, brother, and mother since the passing of her father. She thought of her past misdeeds and her brother's insults. But recently, her brother, Sanyi, had disclosed a secret of money tree to her. She was confident that it was the path to regain his trust in her. So, they went together to the canal bank. Little Esti put her money in the hole and were asked to water it twice a day. Her brother stayed behind to say some magic words while she was sent home. Nothing had come of it and her brother kept saying to wait at least four days.

It was the fourth day, and she saw the mist gathering through the window. Then she heard a black cat coming in the kitchen. It was 'Micur'. Esti called her and caressed her, then she realized how strong she was compared to the cat. So, she planned all the holes and cracks in the loft are sealed by the slats. Then she grabbed her from the neck and tried to shake the cat. The cat was stupefied at first and then attacked her with her claws. The cat tried to defend itself by choosing a corner far away from Esti. She smelt something, the cat had shit itself. Esti then had an idea; she came down to the kitchen and grabbed a bowl of milk and cardigan. She cajoled the cat with the milk; it was hesitant at first but came closer later. It was when Esti jumped onto the cat, locking her neck with her grip. Then she put the cat's head into the milk. After that, the cat laid still beside the empty bowl. Esti then rushed to the seedling spot where she could find her brother, Sanyi, holding the corpse. When she reached the canal bank, she just found a hole in the place of the seedlings.

She thought that someone had stolen it, so she put down the Micur and went the other direction to find her brother. She was stuck in the mud, when she heard her brother's voice. She tried to persuade him to help her find the thieves. Her brother scolded her for being thick and told her that it was he who used the money. He bought a wine and asked her if she wanted to take a sip. Then he found a paper bag with rat poison in the pocket of his

Mam's Cardigan. Esti then went running towards the direction of the bar. She was soaked with the rain, when she reached the bar. It was where he heard the voice of the doctor coming towards her. She remembered the time when the doctor spent several hours tending her. So, she grabbed hold of his coat and would have cried if the doctor had hugged her. But the doctor tried to get rid of her. So, she runs and he chased. Then he disappeared in a hole. When she reached the canal bank, she picked the Micur up. She decided to go to the Weinheim castle. The body of Micur kept her warm. When she reached the castle, the first ray of the sun was coming out. She put the body of Micur on her right, divided the content into half, and took the half with some rainwater. She put the paper bag on the rotten board for her brother to notice. She put her thumb in her mouth and found peace.

VI

The work of the spider II

The devils' tit, satantango

What is behind me remains ahead of me. Futaki was thinking why he could not rest. He was drinking his seventh, after lighting up a cigarette. He had developed a violent headache. Mrs. Schimdt saw that he was suffering but he did not reply anything when asked by her. They were waiting for the meeting with Irimias and Petronas for their proposed plan at the bar. The landlord was there too. Mrs. Schimdt asked the landlord to lower the heater, but he did not respond anything, so she unbuttoned her upper shirt. It was going according to the plan of landlord. He was intentionally putting the fire on for that. Since he laid eyes upon the acts of Mrs. Schimdt with a young tractor, he could feel the intense attraction towards her. Every rejection from his advances makes him suffered more. The landlord thought of planning to talk to Irimias but decided to focus on Mrs. Schmidt instead. Out of all people, Schimdt was the one chosen by her. She still called him headmaster, even after he was out of his school. She knew that he was waiting for the right moment. Mr. Halic saw what the landlord was planning and why he was fixing his eyes on Mrs. Schmidt. Kraner and Keleman, the diver, was arguing furiously. The landlord tried to calm them but no avail. Then Kraner accidently slipped his hand into the chest of Mrs. Schmidt. Things got heated, the landlord sprung up and tried to remove him. Mrs. Kraner was also shouting at him. She told everyone that her husband was a decent, and hard-working man, and this was the doing of the booze. Meanwhile, Futaki went outside of the bar unnoticed. He was deliberating what is the point of being him. He put himself directly under the pouring rain. Then he realized that it was pointless to get soaked. So, he asked landlord to help him dry

the cloth. The landlord gave him soap and told him to put his clothes on the stove. When the landlord came back with two croissants, Futaki was sleeping. Landlord did not come back to the Schimdt and thought of his incomes and the ever-sprawling spiders. He had no knowledge of spiders being the problem here before he bought this place. It did not cause the customers much trouble either. Only after all the customers had left, they started covering all the corners of the bar with their fine web. But the landlord never had a chance to see an actual spider, all he saw was their cobweb. The landlord saw someone is coming. Everyone thought it might be Irimias but was only Mrs. Hogo looking for her daughter. She drunk a beer and left saying that she would beat her daughter when she found her.

Futaki was thinking what to fix like the engine room when he meets Irimias. It was nearly dawn and there was no sign of them yet. Mrs. Halics asked the landlord to play the accordion. Then the tango started. The Halics danced well, and excited everyone with their performance. The headmaster danced with Mrs. Schmidt and kissed her on the neck. Mrs. Kraner was tired from her dance. But Halic refused to back down. He hangs around Mrs. Kraner and kissed her on the mouth. But nothing happened, as Mrs. Kraner pushed him away. Everyone was falling asleep, and the only person who was awake was Krekes. So, he garbed the accordion and played a sentimental tone. The spiders stimulated by the music covered all the things in the bar including the faces with a lightning speed. So, when Irimias and Petrinas arrived, everyone was asleep.

Second Part

VI

Irimias makes a speech

Irimias told everyone that he was as confused as everyone else. He also announced the unfortunate loss of a child. He suggested that they should get some sleep and wake up with a fresh start. Irimias explained that the death of an innocent child is a tragedy and everyone is responsible for it in a way. The locals in the bar were half asleep and half awake, some even had pillow rings on their face. He went on explaining that him and Petronas coming to the bar was a mere incident, they did not know in advance that the bar still exists, nor the locals were still there. The bar was just in their way and their matters at Almassy Manor was delayed. He then scolded Futaki for being dwelling in the past and told him that he himself was culpable of what had happened. Irimias said he will focus on the matter of the child first, and then if time permits, he will discuss other things. The whole locals were hurdled and feared for his words. He went on saying that the little Esti was an

embodiment of innocent, and they were the embodiment of guilt, and her sacrifice should lead us to a fairer future. These last words made the whole group hopeful. Then Irimias proposed an economy model, which is to establish an island where no one gets hassled. As soon as he mentioned that he needs money for lease, everyone began pouring their savings in front of the table near him. Irimias asked them to take time and consider for it before giving their hard-earned money to them. He then asked the landlord to bring out drinks for the group. Mrs. Hogo was at a loss. Irimias told her that some of the money will pay for the funeral of her daughter.

V

The Perspective, As Seen from the Front

Mrs. Halics would talk for years that they watched till the figures of Irimias, Petronas, and the demon child, disappeared from their sight from the front of the bar. The landlord tried his plans to deter Irimias but no avail. Mrs. Halics and Horgo made fun of his failures. The landlord believed that Irimias was nothing but a scam, who is trying to swindle them all. But nobody was listening to his words. So, he also left the bar and went back to his home in the town. The parties had agreed to meet with him at the old engine in about two hours. So, they started packing their essentials. Single men finished first in packing their things in the suitcase. Futaki went to the Kreaners to check on them and found out that they were smashing all their furniture inside their house. The headmaster was doing the same, as they do not want the gypsies to take all their things. After finishing these things, they set off, hearing the words of Irimias inside their head. They felt happiness that they had felt for a long time when they reached another estate: Hochmeiss. The rain was soft and they walked on for another mile. But things got heavier and they rested and shared a bottle for a while. But they kept moving on with the cart. They noticed that Mrs. Schmidt had not spoken a word since they met Irimias. They suspected that she and Irimias had something going on between them. Meanwhile, Futaki was suffering pain from his straps and limbs. He could not keep up, so he took off from the road and rested under a tree. When he woke up, he got back on the road. He heard some strange noise along the path but could not locate what it was. When he caught others, they do not know what noise it was. They reached a manor overgrown with trees and weeds. They took a tour of it. The place was so warm, so they decided to sleep for the night at there. The group chatted and joked for a while before they fell asleep. They had a dream that their houses are on fire and they are

mocked by others who passed the scene. It was neither dark nor light, it was the dawn, when they looked out the window.

IV

Heavenly Vision? Hallucination

He no longer felt the sleepiness after they left the group at the bar. He was glad that Irimias had chosen him to come together with them. He followed Irimias and Petrinus ten paces behind. Petrinus was telling Irimias to back off from this. But Irimias explained that he had woven a spiderweb and it will work. The kid did not like the fact that Irimias was only speaking to Petrinus, so he complained about it to Irimias, who replied that he will tell what is necessary for anyone. The kid had decided to follow his instructions faithfully. Then they heard some humming and so looked around but could not locate where and what it is. They only saw the white veil in the sky. Both Irimias and Petrinus thought it was a bad sign. They were thinking of turning back but nobody did. They rested when they see the ruins of Weinheim since they have much to walk ahead. Petrina did not want to continue but could not resist Irimias. They saw a party near the ruins, and so they had to crawl to reach the summer house. Then they saw the corpse of the girl rising and disappearing in the fog. They were all so scared, and questioned the existence of heaven, hell, and afterlife. Irimias then snapped at them for it. Soon, they reached a bar and ordered some drinks and left for the town center. The town was empty, and they saw no one on the street. They then reach to the Steigerwald's bar, who was trying to turn his TV on. Irimias asked a truck from him and told him that he would give it back. He also asked the kid to call payer. The payer came later in his pajamas. The payer usually deals with guns, and Irimias wanted to deal with him for some materials. They rested their night at the bar.

III

The Perspective as Seen from the Back

The dawn is breaking and Mrs. Schmidt was awake and others followed. They were promised that Irimias will come before dawn. They thought of being conned. Mrs. Schmidt thought of her brief affair with Irimias and being a filthy liar. The group had regarded the manor as the start of the new life but saw it as a wasteland. Schmidt and Futaki had a fight,

and Futaki got knocked out. Then they heard a voice asking what is happening. It was Irimias. He asked what is happening and no one dares to explain why. They were ashamed of themselves for behaving like this and doubting their savior. Irimias laid out his change of plan; the group must be lay low separately for a while and then went back to the manor according to the original plan. He had prepared a truck at the end of the road. They put their bags and belongings on it. All had a great time enjoying the speed of the bus except Mrs. Halics, who was praying hard not to have their neck broke due to the speed. The bus stopped at the station. Irimias gave instructions to everyone about where they must go. Some had to go to the butcher's place, some to the church, and some to other places. He promised that he would visit these places to check on them and handed out a thousand forint each for the expenses. Futaki looked muddied and swollen. The kid, in the driver's cab, asked Irimias why they need Payer and all those explosives. Irimias was furious at that question and answered that he did need Payer and told the kid to stay out of grown-up business.

II

Nothing but Work and Worries

All the paperwork were drafted and handed to the clerk. The clerks found them hard to convert into official language. When they translated the parts related to Mrs. Schimdt, they had a roadblock as the original letter used foul languages with metaphor. It took them several hours until their lunch break. They could not even enjoy their lunch. Then they found translating languages referred to people like headmaster and Futaki very hard to translate. When they got back home, they were tired.

I

The Circle Closes

The doctor looked at the estate and noted down that it was all right. He stubbed out the cigarettes. He was told by the hospital chief that if he did not stop drinking or smoking, he should call the priest. He came back to his house after his condition had improved, in an ambulance. The strange thing is that there was no neighbor to inquire about it. Everything in the estate looks empty and deserted. His place was not disturbed; everything was exactly

as it had been before. He took the usual observational post. He saw the broken windows and no movement in the estate. Then he heard the sounds of the bells. He fell asleep after that and woke up with sweat. He tried to imagine what the Schmidt and Kraner would be doing if they were in their houses. But the desire to know where the sound was coming for was too great, so he went out to the old and damaged church. He found a madman inside the chapel, who was hitting the bell with the iron bar. He was disappointed that it was the sound of the bell from the madman, not from the heaven. So, when he arrived back home, he hit the door of his house with nails and hammer. Then, he started writing what Futaki would be doing. He started with a paragraph saying that Futaki woke up with the sound of bell on an October day before any drop of autumn rain hits the ground. He tried to find the source of the sound but could not find it. Then he opened the window and the cold wind rushed in. Futaki thought about the town he is in. The town used to be bustling.

Summary written by Thura Htoo,

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