

The Imported Bridegroom:

Characters: Flora, Shaya, Asriel, Tamara, Reb Lippe, Reb Tzalel, Teacher, Congregation.

Scene 1: Asriel's house. (Ppg. 93 – 99)

Asriel returns from prayers at the synagogue and announces to his incredulous wife Tamara and daughter Flora that he has decided to return to Russia to see his home village once more before he dies.

Scene 2: The village cemetery. (Ppg. 112 – 119)

Asriel visits the cemetery outside Pravly, where he prays at his father's grave. (A short scene; really more of an excuse for a song.)

Scene 3: The synagogue at Pravly. (Ppg. 99 – 115)

Asriel arrives by wagon in the village of Pravly. He attends a Sabbath service where he is introduced by Reb Lippe, a local grandee, to Shaya, a rabbinical student of great promise. When Asriel, whom he derides as a boor, is offered the chance to read a scriptural passage, Reb Lippe demands that the privilege be auctioned off, and when both men claim to have won, a dispute breaks out. Asriel apologizes but, to better his rival, shows Shaya Flora's picture and offers a larger dowry than Reb Lippe can afford. Shaya and his family side with Asriel.

Scene 4: Asriel's house. (Ppg. 119- 126)

Asriel and Shaya arrive home in New York, where Asriel presents the dumbstruck Flora with her future husband. Flora protests at first, then takes a liking to Shaya even as she mocks the idea of marrying him.

Scene 5: Asriel's house. (Ppg. 126 – 134)

Asriel entertains the elders of the synagogue, to show off Shaya's skills and celebrate the couple's betrothal. Shaya distinguishes himself, but Flora will have none of it.

[An act-break should come about here.]

Scene 6: Asriel's house. (Ppg. 134 - 141)

As Flora helps Shaya with his English, and he confesses his interest in other, secular subjects; as their studying draws them together, she agrees to be his sweetheart and, hide his interest in 'forbidden' learning if he will consider studying medicine. To please her, he agrees, and the two form a pact of secrecy.

Scene 7: Asriel's house. (Ppg. 141 - 150)

Now formally engaged, Flora keeps watch for her father while Shaya secretly studies 'gentile' books. On the street outside Asriel's house, Asriel receives a visit from Reb Tzalel, a peddler, who brings him news that Shaya absents himself from the synagogue when he claims to be studying Torah.

Scene 8: Asriel's house. (Ppg. 151 - 158)

Having followed Shaya and seen him enter a public library, Asriel confronts Flora about the deception, declaring he will not allow her to marry Shaya. She insists otherwise and runs out of the room, leaving Asriel and Tamara alone. Resigned, Asriel agrees to give Flora to Shaya, and he and Tamara decide to marry and quit New York for the Holy Land.