

COL. LANDA

Well, I guess that should do it.

He begins gathering up his papers and putting them back into his attache case.

The farmer, cool as a cucumber, puffs on his pipe.

COL. LANDA

However, before I go, could I have another glass of your delicious milk?

PERRIER

But of course.

The farmer stands up, goes over to the icebox, and takes out the carafe of milk.

As he walks over and fills the Nazi colonel's glass, the german officer talks.

COL. LANDA

Monsieur LaPadite, are you aware of the nickname the people of France have given me?

PERRIER

I have no interest in such things.

COL. LANDA

But your are aware of what they call me?

PERRIER

I'm aware

COL. LANDA

What are you aware of?

PERRIER

That they call you "The Jew Hunter".

COL. LANDA

Precisely! Now I understand your trepidation in repeating it.

Heydrich, apparently hated the moniker the good people of Prague bestowed on him. Actually, why he would hate the name "the Hangman" is baffling to me.

It would appear he did everything in his power to earn it.

But I on the other hand, love my unofficial title, precisely

because I've earned it.

As the "Jew Hunter" enjoys his fresh milk, he continues to theorize with the French farmer.

COL. LANDA

The feature that makes me such an effective hunter of the Jews is, as opposed to most German soldiers, I can think like a Jew, where they can only think like a German or, more precisely, a German soldier.

Now if one were to determine what attribute the German people share with a beast, it would be the cunning and predatory instinct of a hawk.

But if one were to determine what attributes the Jews share with a beast, it would be that of the rat.

Now the Fuehrer and Goebbels propaganda have said pretty much the same thing. Where our conclusions differ, is, I don't consider the comparison an insult. Consider for a moment the world a rat lives in. It's a hostile world indeed.

If a rat were to scamper through your front door, right now, would you greet it with hostility?

PERRIER

I suppose I would.

COL. LANDA

Has a rat ever done anything to you to create this animosity you feel toward them?

PERRIER

Rats spread disease, they bite people--

COL. LANDA

Rats were the cause of the bubonic plague, but that was some time ago. I propose to you, any disease a rat could spread, a squirrel would equally carry. Yet, I assume you don't share the same animosity with squirrels that you do with rats, do you?

PERRIER

No.

COL. LANDA

Yet they are both rodents, are they not? And except for the tail they even rather look alike, don't they?

PERRIER

It is an interesting thought, Herr Colonel.

COL. LANDA

However interesting as the thought may be, it makes not one bit of difference to how you feel. If a rat were to walk in here right now, as I'm talking to you, would you offer it a glass of your delicious milk?

PERRIER

Probably not.

COL. LANDA,

I didn't think so. You don't like them. You don't really know why you don't like them. All you know is, you find them repulsive.

(lets, the metaphor sink in)

Consequently, a German soldier conducts a search of a house suspected of hiding Jews. Where does the hawk look? He looks in the barn, he looks in the attic, he looks in the cellar - he looks everywhere he would hide. But there are many places it would never occur to a hawk to hide. However, the reason the Fuehrer brought me off my Alps in Austria and placed me in French cow country today, is because it does occur to me. Because I'm aware what tremendous feats human beings are capable of once they abandon dignity.

(changing tone)

May I smoke as well?

The farmer's cool facade is little by little eroding.

PERRIER

Please, Colonel, make yourself at home.

As the Nazi colonel busies himself with his smoking, he continues to hold court at the Frenchman's table.

COL. LANDA

Now, my job dictates that I must have my men enter your home and conduct a thorough search before I can officially cross you family's name off my list.

And If there are any irregularities to be found, rest assured, they will be.

That is, unless you have something to tell me that will make the conducting of a search unnecessary.

(pause)

I might add also that any information that makes the performing of my duty easier will not be met with punishment.

Actually quite the contrary, it will be met with reward.

And that reward will be your family will cease to be harassed in any way by the German military during the rest of our occupation of your country.

The farmer, pipe in mouth, stares across the table at his German opponent.

COL. LANDA

You are sheltering enemies of the state, are you not?

PERRIER

Yes.

COL.LANDA

You're sheltering them underneath your floorboards, aren't you?

PERRIER

Yes.

COL. LANDA

Point our to me the areas where they are hiding.

The farmer points out the areas on the floor where the Dreyfuses are underneath.

COL. LANDA

Since I haven't heard any disturbance, I assume

that while they are listening, they don't speak english?

PERRIER

Yes.

COL. LANDA

I'm doing to switch back to French now, and I want you to follow my masquerade - is that clear?

PERRIER

Yes.

Col. Landa stands up from his table and switching to FRENCH says,
SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA

Monsieur LaPadite, I than you for your milk and your hospitality. I do believe our business here is done.

He opens the front door and silently motions for his men to approach the house. The soldiers enter the doorway. Landa silently points out the area of the floor the Jews are hiding under.

COL. LANDA

So, Monsieur and Madam LaPadite. I bid you adieu.

He motions to the soldiers with his index finger.

They TEAR UP the wooden floor with MACHINE GUN FIRE.