

PERCHIK

(speaking to Hodel)

Great changes are about to take place in this country. Tremendous changes. But they can't happen by themselves. Many people, Jew, Gentiles, many people hate what is going on. Don't you understand? Hodel, your father, the others here, think what happened at Tzeitel's wedding was a little cloudburst and it's over and everything will be peaceful again. It won't. Horrible things are happening all over the land ... pogroms, violence; whole villages are being emptied of their people. And it's reaching everywhere, and it will reach here. I have work to do. The greatest work a man can do. Before I go (he hesitates, then summons up courage) there is a certain question I wish to discuss with you, A political question. The question of marriage. And I personally am in favor of it. Do you understand?