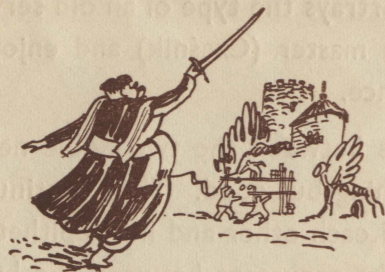


# THE STORY OF THE PLAY . . .



## ACT I. Scene I.—A room in Cześni<sup>1</sup>k's Castle.

Cześni<sup>1</sup>k tells Dyndalski of his intention to marry. He is not sure whether Klara or Podstolina should be his choice. Finally he decides to marry Podstolina. There follows a conversation between Papkin and Cześni<sup>1</sup>k. When at last he manages to stop Papkin's boastful speeches, Cześni<sup>1</sup>k orders him to ask Podstolina to marry him. Podstolina is actually willing to marry Cześni<sup>1</sup>k but she does not show it to Papkin.

## Scene 2.

It appears there has been some trouble at the wall. Rejent has ordered the hole to be mended, but Cześni<sup>1</sup>k sends out some of his armed men under the command of the frightened Papkin to remove the Rejent's workmen. A love scene between Klara and Waclaw follows, then a heated brawl at the wall, at the conclusion of which Papkin captures Waclaw (who insists on being captured).

## ACT II.

Papkin brings his prisoner before the Cześni<sup>1</sup>k, who tells Waclaw to get out of his sight, and expresses amongst threats his opinion of the Rejent. Waclaw tries to appease him and talks in vain about the necessity of an understanding between them. Waclaw, who wants to remain in Cześni<sup>1</sup>k's castle, manages to bribe Papkin without any difficulty. Papkin, who is also in love with Klara, discovers a rival in him. Papkin goes out and Waclaw meets Klara, who thinks that Podstolina's influence with Cześni<sup>1</sup>k might help them. Waclaw with a shock recognises his old sweetheart in Podstolina, who still has a soft spot for him. He is embarrassed when Klara comes in and goes out with Podstolina to "look through the documents involved in the dispute." Papkin sees Klara alone and declares his love in flowery and pompous words. Klara laughs him out. After taking another bribe from Waclaw, Papkin tries to persuade Cześni<sup>1</sup>k to take the young man into his household. In the meantime Cześni<sup>1</sup>k has been accepted by Podstolina.

## ACT III.—Rejent's Castle.

The cunning Rejent is writing a report of the incident at the wall and persuades the workmen to state that they really suffered injuries. After they signed it he refuses to pay for their work. There is a heart-to-heart talk between Rejent and Waclaw, during which Waclaw discloses his love for Klara. Rejent would not hear of it and says that he intends Waclaw to marry Podstolina. He actually hopes that Cześni<sup>1</sup>k would die if his plans came true. Papkin comes in and, after introducing himself as a great warrior, persuades the stingy Rejent to offer some wine which he discovers is cheap and insipid. He says then that he has a message from Cześni<sup>1</sup>k. Rejent calls in four servants and a wonderful change comes over Papkin, who cools down immediately. He tells the Rejent that Cześni<sup>1</sup>k challenges him to a duel. Rejent promises to give a written answer. Podstolina enters and it seems that she has jilted Cześni<sup>1</sup>k and decided to become Rejent's daughter-in-law. Papkin implores her to change her mind but only succeeds in having himself thrown out of the castle. Podstolina's wedding to Waclaw is supposed to take place to-morrow.

## ACT IV.—Cześni<sup>1</sup>k's Castle.

Cześni<sup>1</sup>k gives out last orders for the wedding ceremony. Papkin comes in and informs him about Podstolina's decision; that makes Cześni<sup>1</sup>k furious. At the suggestion that Rejent's wine was probably poisoned, Papkin falls into despair. In the meantime Cześni<sup>1</sup>k decides to capture Waclaw with the help of a faked love letter from Klara. As Dyndalski's writing abilities prove to be small, a boy is ordered to take a message to the young lover. Waclaw comes in and is confronted with two possibilities: marriage with Klara or the castle cellar. The lovers are happy. Rejent arrives and shortly after him Podstolina. They meet the newly-weds and their hearts melt. The former enemies shake hands amidst the gay shouts of everybody.



# Zemsta

Romeo w 4 aktach  
A. hr. Fredry



Przedstawienie przygotowane przez "Czoł<sup>1</sup>wkę Teatralną" Wydziału Kulturalnego Inspektoratu Polskich Sił Powietrznych.

LIPIEC 1941 r.



## NOTES ON "ZEMSTA"

The action of the play takes place in the adjoining estates of Cześnik<sup>1</sup> Raptusiewicz and Rejent<sup>2</sup> Milczek sometime at the end of the seventeenth or beginning of the eighteenth century.

The characters introduced are Polish nobles. The two most prominent and diametrically different figures are those of Cześnik and Rejent. Cześnik is rich, generous, loving life, but very impetuous. Rejent again is very modest, pious, quiet, but somewhat stingy—and according to Cześnik, there is a devil in him. Papkin is a wonderful type of fanfaron, a liar with imagination, a coward eternally boasting about his victories and successes. He never has any money and never refuses bribes. Cześnik knows a little about his doings and that makes Papkin his slave. This character introduces humour and binds the action of the play together.

Podstolina (wife of a Podstoli<sup>3</sup>) had buried two husbands but is still full of life and would not mind getting married again. She is very rich and quite attractive.

Klara and Waclaw are the lovers of the play. They are both young, simple, and very much

1. "Cześnik" was an honorary office. It actually means: cup-bearer. In the period in which the play takes place it was only a title.

2. "Rejent" corresponds to an English notary dealing with land estate transactions.

3. An honorary office. Later only a title.



# Zemsta

## Komedia w 4 aktach

### A. hr. Fredry

Cześnik Raptusiewicz . . . . .	Skwirczyński Leopold
Klara, bratanica Cześnika . . . . .	Wujastykowa Grażyna
Rejent Milczek . . . . .	Urbanowicz Bohdan
Waclaw, syn Rejenta . . . . .	Pawlikowski Mieczysław
Podstolina . . . . .	Paczowska Irena
Papkin . . . . .	Laskowski Stefan
Dyndalski	} służba Cześnika
Perełka	
Śmigielski	
Murarz I. . . . .	Nowak Jan
Murarz II. . . . .	Podgórski Mieczysław
Służba.	

Reżyseria : Skwirczyński Leopold.

Kostiumy : Grzeszczykowa Helena

Dekoracje : Faczyński Jerzy



## CYTATY ZE SZTUKI

CYTATY ZE SZTUKI :

Akt II. Waclaw :

" Nie rzucajmy na bok okiem  
Bo przepaści pewnie wkoło  
Ale, w niebo wzniośszy czoło,  
Śmiałym naprzód idźmy krokiem.  
A jeżeli stałość będzie  
Towarzyszyć w naszym pędzie  
Mimo sporu, przeszkód wielu  
Dojdziem wreszcie kiedyś celu . . . "



Akt IV. Cześnik :

" Niechże będzie dziś wesele  
Równie w sercach jak i w dziele  
Mocium panie z nami zgoda "

Wszyscy :

" Zgoda, zgoda "

Waclaw :

" Tak jest, zgoda  
A Bóg wtedy rękę poda "

in love with each other. Waclaw is impatient and ready to fight.

Dyndalski portrays the type of an old servant devoted to his master (Cześnik) and enjoying his full confidence.

The relations between the two noble neighbours are anything but good. They continually threaten to kill each other and hurl epithets at each other. The argument between the heads of the families becomes a war between the two households—and the love between the Rejent's son Waclaw and Cześnik's ward, Klara, has to be kept a secret.

The cause of the enmity lies apparently in an old wall which separates the two estates. There is a hole in it, and while the Rejent wants to repair it, Cześnik opposes the idea by all available means. The old Polish saying that "a nobleman possessing only a small cottage is just as good as a high dignitary" seems to be a more reasonable explanation. It is actually the pride of the two and the conflicting ideas of their own self-importance that are in conflict.

The moral of the comedy is simple. It tends to show that brawling and lack of certain moral standards are wrong things and never achieve their ends. True love of two honest people wins and compels the two unscrupulous enemies to shake hands.

