

The Parnas: A Scene from the Holocaust

Silvano Arieti

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"The psychiatrist's insight and the storyteller's skill offer an absorbing tale."—Elie Wiesel

"A book to read again and again with the same piety with which it has been written. A rare event in publishing: at once an accurate and documented historical study, and in the interpretation made by one of today's greatest psychologists of a strange and symbolic disease."—Primo Levi

The Parnas recreates the final days of Giuseppe Pardo Roques, the lay leader, or parnas, of the Sephardic Jewish community of Pisa, Italy, who was killed in his home by the Nazis in August, 1944. Pardo was a mentor to the author, and, indeed, he was a figure adored and celebrated not only by the Jews of Pisa but by the Christians as well. He was learned and generous, but he was also profoundly phobic. Animals terrified him: so much so that he almost never left his house—except to go to the synagogue—for fear of encountering stray dogs or cats. At the outbreak of World War II, Arieti fled to America where he became a renown psychiatrist. But the parnas, despite a wealth of connections that could have helped him escape, was too phobic to flee Pisa. On the morning of August 1, 1944, Nazi soldiers, searching for Pardo's fabled riches, entered his home. The soldiers found neither gold nor silver, but they did find the parnas, along with six fellow Jews whom he was sheltering and five Christian neighbors. All were murdered. In The Parnas, Arieti imagines what took place in the home, and in the mind, of this devout, kindly, and tormented man in the last days of his life, providing, in the process, an overview of Italian Jewry. Arieti hopes to show "that tragic times have a perfume of their own, and smiles of hope, and traces of charm, and offer olive branches and late warnings that may not be too late."

"This is one of the most extraordinary stories yet to reach us from the bitter ashes of Nazism...Dr. Arieti weaves his story so beautifully that to unravel it would mean losing its dramatic effect. Suffice it to say that God, Jews, Christians, fascism, cowardice, and bravery are discussed throughout the story in such a way that the reader is at once shaken and enlightened as the plot unfolds. It is like a parable, suffused with the dignity of both the parnas and the author...a work of art."—New York Times Book Review

From the Foreword by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner: "In this brief, deceptively simple narrative, Arieti has told the story of Giuseppe Pardo, parnas (lay leader) of his native community of Pisa, and of his death at the hands of the Nazis. Pardo was the leading citizen of a small Jewish community that produced more that its share of distinguished Jews. He was a learned man, familiar with Bible, Talmud, and secular subjects. He was a wealthy man, and charitable to Jew and non-Jew alike. (He ultimately met his death together with six fellow Jews and five gentiles who had sought the protection of his home.) And he was a profoundly neurotic man, who had an irrational fear of animals, especially dogs. When he walked in the streets of Pisa—which was not often because of his fears—he would swing a cane from side to side behind him to drive away the imaginary animals. The distinguished psychiatrist tells of his strange life and equally strange death."

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Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take The Parnas: A Scene from the Holocaust as the daily resource information.

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Exactly why? Because this The Parnas: A Scene from the Holocaust is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning completely. So, it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So, still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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