

Chapter 17_August Krapptauer Goes To Valhalla

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In the chapter titled "AUGUST KRAPPTAUER GOES TO VALHALLA," Vice-Bundesfuehrer August Krapptauer showcases his unexpected youthful spirit by descending the stairs to retrieve Helga's luggage from Jones' limousine. This act, however, raises concerns from Jones and Keeley due to Krapptauer's frail health and syncopated heart. Despite their protests, Krapptauer insists that risking his life for Howard Campbell's wife—someone linked with Adolf Hitler—is a matter of honor. Tragically, he collapses and dies before their eyes.

Efforts to revive him are futile, leading Dr. Abraham Epstein, who lives nearby, to confirm Krapptauer's death in a rather rough manner. The two former fascists, Jones and Keeley, maintain a surprising respect for the doctor, despite the tension in the air. Jones covers Krapptauer with a blanket, lamenting that the old man had just begun to find purpose in organizing a group called the Iron Guard of the White Sons of the American Constitution, which aimed to bring together young people in a disciplined manner. Their nostalgia paints Krapptauer as a devoted figure who inspired youth from various backgrounds.

Jones recalls that Krapptauer admired Campbell during his broadcasts, listening diligently even during his imprisonment. Jones expresses his hope that Campbell would take on the role of Idealism Officer within the Iron Guard, showcasing their high regard for him as a leader. There's a palpable sadness as they reflect on Krapptauer's potential contributions, underscored by Keeley's emotional response.

The scene takes a twist when Robert, Jones' chauffeur—an elderly man with a complex background as a former Japanese ally and a self-proclaimed "Black Fuehrer of Harlem"—arrives. He doesn't extend his hand and reveals his disdain for Campbell, suggesting their ideological discord. Robert insists that colored people will rise against the white populace, prophesying a future where they dominate. His comments lead to a dialogue tinged with historical references and racial tension, ultimately prompting skepticism from Campbell, who questions Robert's assumptions about racial identity.