

# Chapter 45 \_The Tortoise and the Hare ...

In the chapter titled "The Tortoise and The Hare," the protagonist Howard W. Campbell, Jr. finds himself in Israel, facing a trial that he feels is imminent and overwhelming. He expresses a sense of resignation, remarking that while he is physically confined, the narratives of history and art are still at play. As the trial approaches, Campbell notes that many will testify against him, but no one will stand in his defense. The prosecution plans to introduce recordings of his broadcasts, making him his own harshest critic.

An array of characters joins the proceedings, notably Bernard B. O'Hare, who travels to irritate the prosecution with irrelevant testimony, and Heinz Schildknecht, a former friend turned adversary who brings a surprising credibility to his claims against Campbell. This dynamic is complicated by Schildknecht's background as a Jew and an active member of the anti-Nazi underground during the war, lending weight to his allegations.

Two other former associates, Dr. Lionel J. D. Jones and Iona Potapov (alias George Kraft), are unable to appear but send affidavits that provide little support for Campbell. Jones claims Campbell is a martyr for the Nazi cause, while Kraft suggests that Campbell was not solely a Nazi but merely an "idiot" in his political understanding.

As Campbell prepares for the trial, he examines letters forwarded from New York. One is from Creative Playthings, Inc., which attempts to appeal to his nonexistent role as an educator, discussing the importance of toys in fostering a creative environment for children. Campbell cynically responds, asserting that real-life experiences are far more impactful than toys, dismissing the notion that children should be shielded from the harsher realities of life.

The second letter pitches an investment opportunity in a tungsten mine, reflecting a commercial interest in him. The final and most surprising letter, from someone identifying as Harold J. Sparrow, reveals that he is the true identity of Frank Wirtanen, claiming to have recruited Campbell as an American agent during World War II and promising to affirm Campbell's effectiveness.

In the turmoil of impending trial and revelations of his past, Campbell contemplates his identity. He feels nauseated at the prospect of freedom, contemplating a symbolic hanging of his former self, Howard W. Campbell, Jr., as he grapples with the realities of his actions and their consequences .