

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

Musicker: the protagonist; a musical soul
Tribunal: judicial body that convenes just outside Blessed Oblivion
Tshaya: boy born of Russian father and Gypsy mother
Raklo: "boy who is not Gypsy", nickname given to Tshaya
Grandmama: Tshaya's mother's mother
Betshi: old man storyteller
Beng: Gypsy name for the Evil One
Dmitri: Russian name given to Tshaya
Babushka: Dmitri-Tshaya's father's mother
Staaln: Beng's lieutenant in control of the empire called 'Soviet Saiyuz'
Gitler: Beng's lieutenant in control of the empire called 'Reich Number Three'
Vsevolod Stefanovic: orphanage teacher
Sasha: driver of lorry
Kapitan: boat captain
Rom: "The Gypsy"; a partisan

SETTINGS

Chapter One : Doorstep of Blessed Oblivion
Chapter Two : Bessarabia, region located in Ukraine and Moldova
Chapter Three : Leningrad (St. Petersburg)
Chapter Four : Volga River
Chapter Five : Stalingrad (Volgograd)
Chapter Six : Zaporizhia, region in south-eastern Ukraine
Chapter Seven : Wolfsschanze (Wolf's Lair) located in north-eastern Poland



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RECAP OF EPISODES I & II

Episode I: The Musicker's Tribunal. In this episode the Musicker and his dilemma are introduced. He has signed a Contract of Living which requires him to continually remanifest in the 'Realm of Substance' until he can die in a mood of satisfaction. Until he can do so, he is barred from entering 'Blessed Oblivion'. He fails to find that necessary satisfaction, first as Lorance Johnson (trombone-playing veteran of the American Civil War); then as Gylych Rokhim (suona-horn-playing slave in Ghengis Khan's army); next as Dmitri Andreyev (reluctant soldier in the Red Army during WWII); next as Tomita Kyu (Japanese man caught in Hiroshima during the dropping of the atomic bomb); and lastly – after complaining that he is being put into situations which are impossible for any soul to die satisfied in – he agrees to try living in the United States empire at the turn of the 21st Century.

Episode II: The Musicker's Lantern. In this episode, after a life of dissatisfaction in 21st Century America, the Musicker – while being escorted to face the Tribunal – makes a daring escape into the 'Nether Realm' (that realm which exists between the 'Realm of Substance' and 'Oblivion'.) In the Nether, he attempts to get himself so lost that the Tribunal will never be able to find him and send him back to the Substance. The episode ends with the Musicker seeking final escape to a place called the 'Forbidden Sea'...

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