

“The Master of the House” GLOSSARY

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Bauhaus - “The White City” of Tel Aviv, Israel, has the largest concentration in the world of buildings built in the “International” or “Bauhaus” Style. The Workers Housing complex in which *The Master of the House* takes place was designed in 1933 by architect Aryeh Sharon and built in 1934—one of 2,700 buildings constructed in this style in Tel Aviv between 1931 and 1937. In July, 2003, UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, proclaimed “The White City” a World Cultural Heritage site. The Bauhaus style was created by German architect Walter Gropius, who took over the Weimar School of Arts and Crafts in 1919 and advocated an innovative functional, un-ornamented style that was intended to make the best use of new technologies in building construction—such as poured concrete—and manufacture, such as mass production. Among Tel Aviv’s planners were architects who studied with Gropius or were influenced by the Bauhaus style, many of whom had fled Nazi Germany to settle in Palestine. Characteristics of Bauhaus residential architecture in Tel Aviv include balconies, building pillars, and flat roofs designed to take advantage of the warm climate and cool Mediterranean breezes.

David Ben Gurion – The first prime minister of the State of Israel. Born in Poland, he came to Palestine in 1906, but was expelled for political activities by the Ottomans in 1915, and then he settled in the U.S. After World War I, when the British took over Palestine, he returned and took a leading role in the founding of the new state. He was a charismatic figure, noted as well for the wild locks of white hair surrounding his bald head. Many Israelis remember an image of Ben Gurion standing on his head, which he did on the beach to alleviate chronic back problems. Ben Gurion died in 1973.

“Black March” – In March 2001, the time in which *The Master of the House* takes place, Israel experienced a spate of terrorist bombings associated with the second Palestinian “Intifada” (uprising).

Dahaisheh Refugee Camp - Palestinian refugee camp near Bethlehem and Hebron, founded in the aftermath of the 1948 Israeli War of Independence by approximately 3,400 refugees from 45 villages. The area was part of the territory captured by Israel during the Six Day War in 1967.

Dizengoff Mall – A popular shopping destination in central Tel Aviv where, on the afternoon of March 4, 1996, a horrific suicide bombing took place, killing 13 and injuring more than 100 others who were celebrating Purim, a festive Jewish holiday when people dress in costume. This incident is referred to in the play.

Hapoel Tel Aviv - Hapoel Tel Aviv is an Israeli football (soccer) club, formed in 1923, that plays at Bloomfield Stadium in Jaffa. Politically associated with the socialist, left-wing ideology and with the [Histadrut](#), Israel's largest trade union, it is one of the first and leading football clubs in Israel. The team color is red. Over the years, the club has won 13 championship titles and 11 state cup titles. In 2001, the time in which *The Master of the House* takes place, Hapoel Tel Aviv rose to the quarter finals of the UEFA (European) Cup, beating such powerhouse teams as Lokomotiv Moscow, England’s Chelsea Football Club, Parma and AC Milan. In its quarterfinal re-match against AC Milan, Hapoel lost 2-0. This was the best performance in history by any Israeli football club. Its main rival is Maccabi Tel Aviv (team colors: yellow & blue), which is best known for its winning basketball club.

“The Internationale” – In one of the scenes in the play, this song is heard in a triumphal rendition. The words were written in 1870 in France and intended to be sung to the tune of *La Marseillaise* (the French national anthem), it was set to its current tune in 1888. It became the anthem of international socialism and, from 1918 to 1943, was the national anthem of the Soviet Union. In the play, it reflects the socialist heritage of the early settlers of Tel Aviv, including this family’s patriarch.

Jaffa – An ancient city on the Mediterranean, adjacent to which the modern city of Tel Aviv was built.

Kibbutz – A voluntary collective community formed by Jewish immigrants to Palestine, the first of which was Degania in the Galilee region in 1909. These communities were mostly founded upon ideological lines: secular, socialist, communist, religious. While most were formed as agricultural collectives, owing to the farm backgrounds of many of the Eastern European Jewish immigrants who populated them, some also established industries. Some kibbutzim (plural) were also located strategically near borders for defense and security purposes. The impact of the kibbutz movement upon the early history of Israel was profound, and kibbutz members became military and political leaders in the young state. In the 1970s, however, the kibbutz movement began to decline for economic and social reasons. Today there are about 250 kibbutzim still functioning, but most do not operate along the strict ideologies on which they were founded

Golda Meir – The fourth Prime Minister of Israel, 1969-1974, its first and to date only woman in that position. Born in Russia, she emigrated to the U.S. in 1906 and to Palestine in 1921. Despite her kind grandmotherly looks, she was called an “iron lady” by the BBC (before that term became popular for Margaret Thatcher years later). Meir is said to have held off striking pre-emptively in October 1973 when Israel was attacked by its Arab neighbors during what was to become known as the Yom Kippur War, and there remains considerable disagreement over the wisdom of that decision. She died in 1978.

“Mensch” – A German noun literally meaning “a human being,” it became an American English expression now in wide use from the Yiddish (a Jewish language variant of German) meaning “a good person,” “a role model,” “a noble character,” “a stand-up guy.”

National Theatre – Israel’s National Theatre, Habimah, was actually founded in 1918 in Russia by under the auspices of the famed Moscow Art Theatre.

Hannah Rovina – The Russian-born “first lady of Hebrew theatre” was a founding member of the Habima, Israel’s National Theatre, and became famous for her role as Leah, the young bride possessed by a demon in the classic play *The Dybbuk* (The Demon) by S. Ansky, which she performed all around the world. Legend has it that she had many lovers, including playwright George Bernard Shaw. She died in 1980.