CHAPTER III

I'M TALKING ABOUT JERUSALEM
Ada Kahn, the daughter of the ‘chicken soup’ family marries Dave Simmonds. They move to an isolated house in Norfolk where they struggle through a back-to-the land experiment. Dave makes furniture by hand. He wants to bring a change, in the society, at an individual level just like Christ.

The play opens in 1946 in Norfolk. Ada and Dave Simmonds have moved to the countryside. Sarah and Ronnie assist them. The house in the middle of fields with a large kitchen of the house, has a garden and an old barn. Ada and Dave are just moving into the house. Boxes and cases are kept around. Dave, the two removal men are making effort to move the wardrobe into the house. Ada is unpacking the cases. Sarah Kahn her mother, is buttering some bread on a table, Ronnie Kahn, Ada’s brother, is standing on a box conducting both the music and the movement of people back and forth. Dave, unlike Ada and Ronnie speaks with a slight cockney accent.

Ronnie is directing Dave and Removal man who are trying to keep the wardrobe inside. Dave seeks the help of Ronnie. But he says that, as he is organizing and inspiring there is no need of any help. As it becomes heavy Dave lowers it. Ronnie suggests to lower it gently as it is a work of art. Dave asks Ronnie to turn off the radio as he cannot cope up with Ronnie and music. Ronnie turns off the radio. He has shifted the things to and fro. As it is the last thing he thought of exercising his talents as a fore
man. Ronnie says to Ada that the sea is very near, not far away. Ada cannot hear the words of Ronnie and says that she has not put the kettle on. Ronnie calls them as a lunatic family. Dave encourages the removal men and he bends to lift the wardrobe. Ronnie goes ahead and pushes Ada, the box and Sarah and the table out of their path and shouts to make way. He calls them as army marching on its stomach as Dave and the two men are bent forward in effort. They stop at other end of kitchen and lower the wardrobe as there is not enough room for four to round the door. Dave wishes to get around along the passage, second. Removal man says that it cannot be bent. First removal man advises to saw it in half. Ronnie pretends to be offended and weeps upon it as original twentieth century piece and first removal man wants to saw it in half. First removal man enquires Ronnie whether he is still at school, as Ronnie talks a lot. Ronnie exclaims what he got to do with school. First removal man thought that he is not taught manners. Ada and Sarah come to his (Ronnie) rescue, Ronnie calls them as a “lunatic family.” First removal man says that he would have clipped Ronnie round the ear if he called him lunatic. Dave wishes to take the wardrobe back and use front entrance. Ronnie argues with them that if then don’t listen to him then what is he as a foreman. He pushes the table and boxes which the women had returned and again opens the radio. The men raise the wardrobe and struggle back. This time going back round, to the back of the house.
Ronnie surveys the scene war is over. He questions his mother whether she feel proud as they are first to pitch up ruins,

Ronnie: Of course proud! We just put a labour party in power didn’t we? It’s right they should be the pioneers good! Every-y-bo-dy is building out go the slums, whist! And the National Health Service comes in the millenniums come and you’re still grumbling, what’s the mother, you don’t like straw berries and cream? (157) p

Ronnie dreams for the disappearance of slums and coming up of National Health Service. They are witnessing a great saga as the labour party came to power. The wandering jews strike again. Sarah calls them as madmen. Sarah does not know how Ada and Dave are going to make their living in the village. There are no roads, just fields and only a house in the middle.

Ada requests Ronnie to get some water for tea. Ronnie remarks that they cannot enjoy running water. He wants to write Bible and Autumn journal. Ronnie recites a few poetical lines. Sarah hears those lines, appreciates Ronnie that he can try and get published. Ada and Ronnie break into uncontrollable laughter. Sarah does not know why they are laughing. She thinks that Ronnie has gone mad but Ada reveals that he is quoting a poem by a famous poet. Ronnie cannot understand how to get water. Ada gives instructions to him. He says that there is no water in the
well as he cannot see water. But there is water long way down the well. Ronnie comments that they can die of thirst before they get to the bottom. Sarah sighs that Ada and Dave are mad. She does not understand why they have come to the country as millions of people live in London. Ada replies that they will make lots of improvements by their next visit. Sarah wants to know why they want to go back to the middle ages. There are no roads, no electricity, running and no proper lavatory. Ada pleads Sarah to help them and bless them.

Sarah: I'm here aren't I? Silly girl. But how can I bless? I brought up two nice children and I want to see them round me – that's wrong? But all right, so you want to go away so you want to build a life of your won, but here? Why here? Explain it to me, may be I'll be happier, why here. (160) p

Sarah pours out her agony but Ada and Dave are determined and they are very much interested in the village life.

Ronnie shouts at Dave “how they are managing.” Dave orders Ronnie to make tea for the workers and warns him not to shout. Ronnie tells Ada to make tea for the workers and says that he has discovered by the well that they can shout and no one can hear them. Ronnie feels it as a marvelous experience. He goes into the garden and stands on a tea chest and shouts, jumps, spins, he rolls on the grass, bangs the earth with his first
with utter joy and sits up with wide eyes. He behaves like a child. On seeing all this Sarah swears that he is not her son. Ronnie crawls up to the kitchen and intervenes a story that Sarah is not his mother and his real mother was a gipsy and lived in a caravan. One day the gipsy came to the door. Instead of buying flowers from her they bought him. Ronnie springs up to prepare tea. It looks as though they have come for a camp. Sarah has finished buttering the bread. She brought chicken pie and chicken soup in the bottles. Ada has brought bread, cheese, tomatoes and fruits. Sarah understands that her children does not know how to organize their lives.

Dave and the removal men returns. First removal man questions Dave that what made him to move to the countryside and why he could not find a better and more convenient place. Dave says that he saw the job is an advertisement and also a cheap house for sale. So he grabbed it. Moreover it is not easy to find right place with little cash. Ada and Dave are the role models to Ronnie. Now Ronnie wants to know why they left communism and what they are going to do. Dave discovers that 'decision grows slowly.' Dave was in India at Karachi. He met Libby Dobson at Karachi. They used to do everything together. Libby Dobson made a good impression on Dave and taught him a lot. First removal man wants to know about Ceylon. Dave describes it as a beautiful island.

1st Removal Man: What was Ceylon like?
Dave: Beautiful island. Being a carpenter I used to watch the local carpenters at
work. They used to make their own tools and sometimes they'd show me. They'd sit out on the beach fashioning the boats or outside their houses planning and chiseling away at their timber, and they let me sit with them once they knew I was also building boats ... (163)

By watching the Indian carpenters he discovers an old truth, that a man is made to work and that when he works he gives out something of himself, something very precious. They do not see anything precious living in mud huts and working in disease. Dave tries to explain the way they work and not the conditions. He wants to live as a socialist and does not want to talk about it.

Dave: I know the city Sarah. Believe me sweet heart! Since being demobbed I've worked in a factory turning out doors and window frames and I've seen men having themselves while they are doing it. Morning after morning they've come in with a cold hatred in their eyes brutalized! ... (164) p

Dave is vexed of city life and he describes his own experiences in the factory.

If Dave works in the Colonel's farm for a year he will own a barn. He does not want to engage strangers except the colonels family. As its time to set off removal men points out that the socialists cannot even make
them a cup of tea. With that Kahn's family swings into action with regrets and apologises they thrust sand wiches and fruits into the arms of the startled lorry drivers. Removal men wishes them merry Christmas and good luck and go off. The family watches them leave. With the departure of the lorry they completely lost their contact with the city.

Sarah is unhappy. She sits in a chair away from all. She cannot understand what went wrong and what made Ada to be like that Ada consoles her mother that they are 100 miles away, they can come and visit them. Every one can come for a holiday they will entertain them in grand style. Ronnie named them as bourgeois (conventionally middle class) idealists.

Dave unpacks some of the things and goes upstairs to prepare some beds. Ronnie goes out to look over the district. He bets that there are hidden treasures and secret hideouts. The women are busy in making supper. Sarah feels that Dave does not like her that's why he has taken away Ada from her. She thinks that Dave has changed a lot. Sarah worries about Ada's children how they will be brought up.

Now an elderly gentleman appears. He is Colonel Dowhurst, the farmer for whom Dave will be working Colonel introduces himself to Ada. Ada invites him. He shake hands with Sarah. Ada complains about Sarah's unhappiness. Colonel says that it is fine to live in the country and there are thousands of places without sanitation and electricity. But it is a large
house with fresh air. Dave appears and shakes hands with colonel. Colonel
enquires when can he expect Dave, to work for him. He says that his
foreman is waiting to start some fencing and needs a carpenter Colonel
advises them to buy a tank to collect water. Colonel walks into the garden.
Dave and Ada follow him and suggests them to grow vegetables, apple
tree, use the barn for chickens. Dave asserts that a little bit of intelligence
can build anything. Suddenly Colonel becomes an employer and orders
Dave to come to work, wishes them good night and goes off. Dave and
Ada stand a second and looks at each other. As Colonel does not give
much time to settle they are worried and disappointed. Sarah watches them
sadly. She consoles them and advice them to settle in the house, gradually
work will get them into a routine. With the Sarah’s words they become
normal. They look for Ronnie. Sarah reminds that he has gone to explore
the hidden treasures in the mountains. Behind the barn Dave sees fire.
Dave and Ada rushes to the barn. Sarah stands, looking in the direction
they have gone. After a few seconds Ronnie strolls in. Sarah enquires what
he has done. Ronnie looks around and says that it is all very beautiful. Ada
and Dave appear and says that Ronnie made a campfire and nothing is
burning. They settle down to eat except Ronnie. Ada and Sarah requests
Ronnie to take off the raincoat. He does not listen to them, he sits down at
the table without removing the raincoat. Dave asks them not to worry and
leave him to wear the raincoat. Sarah goes to a corner of the room, and
finds an umbrella. Sarah sits at the table and opens the umbrella over her
and proceeds to eat. Every one looks at her in astonishment. Suddenly Ronnie bursts out laughing, jumps up from the chair and takes of raincoat. There is great merriment Dave calls them as the most lunatic family. Sarah reminds Hungary where she was born. She recollects her past. Ronnie begins to wash up. Ada and Dave standby the boxes and takes out the contents. Sarah takes a dishcloth and begins to wipe the dishes. Sarah begins to sing a folk song, all the family members joins her. A new life begins now.

Act II contains two scenes. Scene one takes place in July 1947. Libby Dobson who influenced Dave visits the village. Dave receives a warning from the Colonel in this scene.

Everything is more in order now. Twelve months have passed. A signpost saying Y.H.A. with an arrow, leans against a wall, waiting to be knocked into the ground. Dave appears singing carrying a roll of linoleum lays down by the backdoor. He has returned from the work. Ada is writing a letter. After sometime Ada appears. She is pregnant. She greets Dave, they both gaze outside for a while and inhale deeply. The corn is yellow in colour. Colours for each season. The children will love it. Ada wishes to teach her children to look and observe the things and make it into a sort of game for them. Dave enquires about Libby Dobson his wartime friend. Libby arrived late in the night and now went outside to look around. Ada says that Libby Dobson does not fit, the picture that was painted by Dave.
Dave accepts the view of Ada and enquires what he has done all day. Ada packed Libby some sandwiches and went out for a day's walking. God only knows where he is. Libby as a business consultant looks very sad and worn out. Dave says that Libby is a mechanic and Dave is very much disappointed on seeing him like that. Ada consoles Dave that Libby will be alright after a day's walk. Dave tells Ada about his future plans. He plans to build a chicken hut, lay a concrete floor in the barn, so that he can build a proper workshop and thinks to buy a soft water tank. They have a garden, stopped the roof from leaking, painted the rooms and all windows have curtains. Dave asks Ada to relax as she is carrying and be free from worries. Libby appears he is stocky about 30 years old, and looks as though he wants to be a fisherman and can only be one on holidays. Hopefully Dave asks Libby how he thinks of the country that he has seen. Libby feels it as a quite hideout, and youth hostel. Ada notices the linoleum rolls. Dave explains that it was thrown by Colonel and they can use that in the hall way. Ada becomes angry for getting linoleum from the employer without seeking his permission. Dave and Libby sits for supper. Ada arranges salad and reminds Dave not to forget the lamp. On looking at the lamps Libby says that they have really taken “backward march seriously.”

Dobson is on a holiday, and he does not want to recollect their war memories and will help Dave in chopping the wood. He is tired, does not want to search his heart.
Ada receives a letter from Ronnie, which suggests that he has come to the conclusion that similar people are not good to each other, so he is going to marry a prostitute. Dobson bets that then Sarah will be in the salvation Army. Ada and Dave laughs. Ada cannot imagine Sarah in the Salvation Army and Christ was the first communist to be born. Dobson is pathetic with the laughter of Ada and Dave, as they have lost their faith in communism. Dave could not understand why Dobson is expressing his disgust, as they lost their faith towards communism. Dobson says that there is nothing wrong with idealism. Only when it is soft and flabby (not fism) idealism becomes problematic. They cannot change the world, Libby advises them to go back home.

Dobson: Then go home. Be good children and go home because you'll never make the beautiful, rustic estate. (180) p

Libby Dobson, who inspired Dave to live as a socialist, now advises them to go back home. Dave cannot understand anything, as everyone accuses them for something or the other. In London they used to waste time in solving wrong problems, and leaving early to catch the bus. They do not feel it as a living. Now there is no servant to draw water, no gardener. They do not want to keep nanny to look after the child. Dobson feels that there is no point in living in the country without the plan of changing the world.
Endorsing the importance of social responsibility, Dobson remonstrates that some one has to work to produce screws and other modern necessities; without this farms and the rest of the industrial world would not prospect.

Ada: But God forbid we should ever imagine that we’re changing that world by living here.

Dobson: Then there’s not much point in doing this sort of thing is there?

Dave: Not even on an individual level?

Dobson: What do you mean, ‘an individual level’?

Libby explains they cannot imagine the world without cars, planes, electricity, houses and roads. If everyone tries to live on their own then there won’t be transport, no banks or offices, no commercial market. He asks Dave to imagine the world, when everyone tries to live on their own. He asks Dave to reorganize the world in order to gain universal happiness.

Dave: Now who’s being wet? Happiness? What do you mean by happiness? It’s the doing? Do you think we care that the city was large or smelt of petrol? It was boredom man – the sheer boredom. Nine to five! Mass production! Remember? It numbed us, made us soggy and soft. There! That’s being soggy and soft! Happiness! My God, you cynics are the soggiest.
Dave wants to know the meaning of happiness, if it meant doing work from 9 to 5 which numbed and bored them.

Libby Dobson relates a modern tragedy. He has tried socialism but got failed. He went to old Robert Owen. Robert left five thousand pounds for Libby. Libby felt blushed. It is not his money, so thought of a plan. He could share the money with four other young men, and open a garage without exploiting others. He kept a provision that as soon as there is an excess profit of another 10,000 pounds they have to find someone else to inherit it and expand. A chain of garages owned and run by the workers themselves but the people planned to buy Libby. Libby pours out his agony.

Dobson: Democracy? I spit it! Benevolent dictatorship for me. You want Jerusalem? Order it with an iron hand – no questions, no speeches for and against – bang! It’s there! You don’t understand it? You don’t want it? Tough luck, comrade – your children will! [To Ada] No peace? You’re right, Mrs.Simmonds. I’m dirtied up. Listen to me, Dave and go home before you’re dirtied up. (183) p

Ada warns of alcohol, Libby calls her as a real woman. He believes that woman change men, bruise and dirty up. He describes his marital life. Before the old man Robert died Libby and his wife used to go out for work. After supper they used to wash the dishes and after washing she sit at the
fire and fall asleep, she will not look at the newspaper or do a bit knitting. She always chews food, even before going to sleep and became gross, undirected and unfolding. All her grace has gone. Flesh is growing around her. For the second time just like Ronnie, he tries a simple lady. A real socialist enterprise and a simple wife. Libby wants to share his wealth but she longs to possess the things. Libby hates women as they have no vision but have self preservation with the words of Libby. Ada begins to worry. Ada reconciles at the things “The futile pursuit of an ideal. Suddenly it all makes me sick. Like eating too many good things.” (185).

Dave does not want to drag the discussion and say that “we are not going to go around apologizing for the way we live. Listen to people and we’ll go mad. Enough now!” (185) p

They hear some one coming from the lane. Colonel calls them. Ada opens the door, welcomes him and offers him wine. Colonel sounds ominous. The visit is not a social visit. Colonel says that when they started he has treated them well, helped them and advised them. They were grateful to him. But Colonel does not expect lies from Dave. Dave has stolen the linoleum. Colonel cannot understand why they are lying and they have come to the country. He says that country life is a different way of life. “They are slow, people, the country people – slow, but sound.” (186).

There is no right sort of master and servant relationship between Dave and Colonel. Colonel came to find out the two rolls of lino on finding them he
becomes furious and gives 24 hours time. He leaves Dave who is doubly caught for lying. He feels ashamed and humiliated. Ada is appalled and uncertain what to do. Ada advises Dave to start a workshop earlier. But they cannot afford it. To open the shop they plan to control their necessities.

Ada: Well we’ll have to afford it. I’m not giving up. We’ll eat less, we’ll buy less, we’ll do something but I’m not going away from all this. Thank God the house is still ours anyway. By Christ, Dave – your ideals have got some pretty big leaks in places haven’t they? (187) p

Dave is deeply hurt, Ada realizes that she has hurt Dave deeply. They wander round the room in silence. Ada says that she will help in mixing cement for the workshop. Dave looks at her greatfully.

Act II, Scene II begins in the year 1953. Dave with the help of Sammy makes a chair, Ada goes to London, to have a look at Harry. It is late in the afternoon. Six years have passed. Dave has learnt a lot in 6 years. The front wall of the barn has been raised. Dave steps out of the barn, carrying, triumphantly a chair that he and Sammy have just made. Sammy is Dave’s apprentice. Dave majestically lays the chair. Sammy calls it as a fine craftsmanship. Dave thinks to shape a wrinkle as the legs are too big. He gives a slight curve with the saw in between the joints and gives finishing touches Sammy enquires about Selby when he is going to
come to see his chair. Selby agreed to pay a good price for the chair. Dave asks Sammy about his son (Danny). Sammy says that the boy Jabbers and misses his mother as she has gone to London, to have a look at Harry. Harry is not feeling well, received second stroke, it knocked him quite hard. Danny is like all the Kahn's family, a funny kid, comes home with strangest stories and he is a smasher. Dave playfully throws a handful of shavings (shaved plank pieces) over Sammy's head and Sammy throws back. They are very cheerful. Sammy wants to say something to Dave and is uncertain to start.

Sammy wants to leave, he is not satisfied and wishes to work in the factory. Dave says that he is learning to do the things and describes the problems that he was going to encounter in the factory. Dave reminds him of the chair, shows the rack he made and the words he spoke while making them. The enjoyment they got while creating things. The sun reaches them and can see the colours of nature and when they are fed up they go for swimming. There is no one to climb on their back. They are free birds.

Sammy: You think I don't know these things, hell Dave. But I've seen the boys in the village, I know them, they don't care about things and I see them hang around all their lives, with two pence, half penny between them an half a dozen dependents. But I want to get on don't think I ought to get on?
Dave: A bait! A trap! Don’t take any notice of that clap trap for god’s sake boy. For every hundred that are lured only one makes it. One, only one. Factories? Offices? When you’re in those mate you’re there for good can’t? You see that? [No answer]. No you can’t can you? Of course you can’t Jesus, I must be mad to imagine. I could fight everyone Sammy, I’m sorry mate - I just.

Sammy decides to work in the factory. He does not listen to the words of Dave. Ada returns, looks pale and weary. Sammy retires quickly to have tea. Dave asks him to think again. Ada meets Selby in the village. Selby wants to cancel the order of the chair, as the price is too high. Dave bursts out with anger.

Dave: High? But we agreed the bastard. That’s the third persons done this on me. Blast them all of them. Twentieth century short sighted, insolent, philistine-type bastards. And the world depends upon them, you know that Ada? Oh sweet heart, what an awful welcome. (192) p

Dave enquires about Harry. Harry is in delirium by the time Ada went to see him. Second stroke affected his brain. He does not recognize her. Eyes have become large and he cannot focus on anything. He shouts for his mother and his sister Cissie. When brought into the ward he threw everything. There is a clot of blood that reached brain. Later he recognized
Ada and started screaming that Ada hated him. Ada breaks down uncontrollably. Dave holds her tightly as she cries and mothers her. Harry smiled and kissed her a lot before she left and she is surprised at the thought that of a murderer. She feels herself as a murderer as she does not tell Harry how much she loves Harry. Ronnie's letters are the bridges between them. Ada recollects her past when Dave was overseas. Sarah helped her a lot. Dave asks Ada if she has the opinion of returning. Ada says that she is just like her mother, who is also strong and she is ready to face any problems. Just like Sarah. Their son Danny comes home. They start playing with the boy.

Act III consists of two scenes. In Scene I Cissie and Esther Kahn maiden aunts of Ada visit the village. Ada and Dave are deeply hurt with the words of Esther. Scene I takes place in the year 1956. It is warm autumn. Three years have passed. The wall in front of the barn is lowered. No one works in the barn. Cissie and Esther Kahn are seated in the garden. Cissie is a trade unionist and Esther owns a market stall. Cissie is shelling peas, Esther is peeling potatoes. Esther is not at all interested incoming over there for a weakened. Ada and Dave call it as a guest house, but they have to jump 300 ditches before they reach the house. They advertise in newspapers to visit the shambles, for the sake of peace, quiet and a modest holiday. Esther feels it as a bloody holiday and they are the two maiden aunts working. They have not stopped working since they came. They
pulled weeds as agricultural workers. Cissie warns her to stop grumbling as she knows that she is also enjoying herself. Esther wants to tell Ada and Dave that people when go on holiday does not like digging gardens, feeding chicken Cissie thinks that, it is they, who are responsible for the spoiling of Ada and Ronnie.

Dave built a beautiful dressing table and had a lorry to collect it. As the driver took no care on the bumpy lane, by the time they reached the main road, had knocked all the corners of it. It is all his own design, worths 200 pounds got ruined. So he found a new workshop in the village. Though he works hard cannot earn money. Now Dave plans to buy machinery so that the work will be easier.

Esther: Now that's something I don't understand. I can remember him saying when he first moved here that he wanted to make furniture with his own hands. Now he's buying machinery, he'll be like a factory only not big enough to make their turnover. So where's the ideals gone all of a sudden? (200) p

Dave has changed his mind because of another socialist furniture maker, William Morris a famous person. He inspired Dave. "He used to say machines are all right to relieve dull and dreary works, but man must not become a slave to them." (200). Dave wants to buy machines one to
saw the wood and another to plane the wood, will save him a lot of unnecessary labour and can still be a craftsman.

Esther says that her niece and nephews are all mad. Ronnie working in a kitchen has fallen in love with a waitress. Beattie Bryant Cissie worries about Ronnie as he is like his father Harry does not stick to one job, the same thing all over again with Ronnie. Ronnie wants to spread socialism as everybody is busy with socialism and has finished making speeches and is going to marry a simple girl.

For Ada and Dave, Cissie talks to the bank manager but Dave cannot get the loan, he receives an overdraft of 200 pounds. Esther advises them to lay down deposit on two machines and pay off over three or five years. Ada starts crying. Dave reaches her to console. Both the aunts start fussing the couple but are unable to do anything except commiserate (sympathise) Ada and Dave are deeply hurt with the behaviour of their aunts. Esther suddenly reminds them of the letter is important because three days back. Dave got an order for an originally designed suite of dining room, he has sent an estimate of it and the mail might be the reply. Ada is going to have a baby, cries out of joy and surprise and the aunts fusses them more.

Esther wants to says something but they are tired and are not in a position to hear her. Dave knows what she was going to say that they are mad to stay in the village. Dave pleads to aunts to leave them alone. Esther
forces Dave to open the letter. Dave knows what is there in the letter. After having carefully considered the designs and estimate, they feel sorry to inform “God! I’m learning to hate people” (205)p. Aunts suggests that if he wants to be a craftsman and make beautiful things he should have patience and have faith in himself. Dave was fed up with the suggestions given to him. Dave pours out his agony.

Dave: Well what have you left me for God's sake?
You want an angel in me? Ten years I spent here trying to carve out a satisfactory life for my wife and kids and on every side we've had opposition. From the cynics, the locals, the family. Every one was choking with their experience of life and wanted to hand it on. Who came forward with a word of encouragement? Who said we may be had a little guts? Who offered one tiny word of praise? (207) p

Every one thinks of them as cranks and reduces. They need little praise if they wants to buy it from them, he is ready to pay. Dave forces them to take money. Esther comes to know that she has deeply hurt Dave. She feels sorry and asks them to build Jerusalem. Dave tries to open the letter but before he has had a chance to look at it the scene ends.

Act III, Scene II took place three years later in 1959. The Simmonds are moving to London. Sarah and Ronnie comes to help them. Ada is
attending to a third baby. Dave is just taking a box off stage, to where the removal lorry is waiting. Ronnie is beside a pile of books that are waiting to be packed. They are listening to the radio. The announcer in the radio announces that the liberal park forfeits its deposit and brings up the majority of conservative and will ensure to return to power in the house of commons for third time in succession since the end of the war. Ronnie remarks that Ada and Dave have chosen the right time to return. “You came in with them and you go out with them” (209)p. Ronnie complains that no one listens to him though every one loves him. They does not count him just because he cannot keep a job and cannot keep a girl just like his father. The removal is in its last stages. Dave is going round picking up stray tools to place in a tool box. Ronnie tells that “you realize you two that having come with explanations you must leave with explanations!” (209)p.

Ronnie wants to make a success of something the labour party by losing the elections again change their politics like a suit of clothing. Ada and Dave have put into practice but have lost faith in them. Ada asks Ronnie to forget about it. But Ronnie makes fun of them and says that they still have the chance to change their mind, unpack the things, pay for the removers and try again. Dave warns Ronnie to shut his mouth. Dave asks Ronnie whether he had heard about Beattie Bryant, the girl that he wanted to change. Ronnie says that he has not heard about her. Ronnie recollects his father’s words “you can’t change people Ronnie.” “You can only give
them some love and hope they will take it” (210)p. Beattie Bryant took his love but nothing happened. He has spent 3 years with the same girl. Ada is like Sarah strong enough to face the problems but Ronnie is like his father, charming and weak. None of them is returning heroes. They cannot squeezed tiny victory.

Ronnie calls himself as a good son. Before Harry died Ronnie used to wash Harry, shave him, carried him in his arms, bounce him on the bed and play with him. Harry used to laugh a really full laugh. In the last months Harry could not talk but his laughter is full. Sarah tried to play cards with him but he could not hold them. Ronnie has nothing to do with the old worthies, he is waiting for the new generation. Ronnie, Ada, Dave, Monty, Cissie, Esther Kahns have not brought the victory. Ronnie reminds his fathers words.

Ronnie: Well I haven’t brought it about – and they [of Ada and Dave] haven’t brought it about, and the Monty Blatts and Ciscie and Esther Kahns haven’t brought it about . But then Dad said it would never happen in our lifetime. ‘It’ ‘ll purify itself he used to say. The difference between capitalism and socialism he used to say was that capitalism contained the seeds of its own destruction but socialism contained the seeds of its own purification. May be that’s the victory. May be by coming here you’ve
purified yourselves like Jesus in the wilderness
yes? No? (211) p

Sarah is taking her children back home with her as she has been lonely. Ronnie melodramatically points out that all are lonely.

Dave finds a basement workshop in London to set up a shop there. Ronnie felt sad to hear that a man who started the work singing in the open air returns to a basement. All the people say that they can sell anything in London. But Dave is not sure that the people of London will buy furniture. They found a house in London. Dave now comes to know the clear-cut view of life.

Dave: What do you think I am, Ronnie, you think I'm an artist's craftsman. Nothing of that sort. A designer? Not even that Designers are ten a penny. I don't mind Ronnie believe me I don't. [But he does] I've reached the point where I can face the fact that I'm not a prophet once I had. I don't [But he does]. I've reached the point where I can face the fact that I'm not a prophet. Once I had. I don't know a moment of vision and I yelled at your Aunty, Esther that I was a prophet. A prophet! Poor Woman, I don't think she understood. All I meant was I was a sort of spokesman. That's all. But it passed. Look, I'm a bright boy. There aren't many flies on me and when I was younger I was even brighter... (215) p
Dave angrily says that visions does not work. Ronnie desperately says that they have to try. Dave comments that nothing works if Ronnie goes around the world crooning about brotherhood. Ronnie accepts his failure and sinks to his knees in utter despair. All stand up and watched him a while. Ada and Sarah are about to move but Dave stops them. No one helps him. Slowly very slowly he unfolds and rises to his feet. Ronnie knows what he wants but cannot do more than stand in a sort of daze and looks for help from one to another.

Dave reminds Ada of the letters. He wants to come in touch with electricians and has an appointment with Mrs. Whats. Ada wants to make a list of all the things that they have to do. Dave asks Ronnie to lock the house. Ada and Dave move. Sarah goes off leaving Ronnie to linger and glance once more around. Suddenly Ronnie picks up a stone and throws into the air. He watches and waits till it falls. Then he cups his hands to his mouth and yells to the sky with bitterness and some venom. The lorry moves off. The experiment of Ada and Dave does not work but they end gratified, to have the courage to try.

Commenting on the ending of the play Doran says that it ends on much the same note as Chicken Soup with Barley: "the men, being pragmatic and brutally realistic, hold little hope for the future of their ideals. They stand in marked contrast to the women who refuse to abandon their optimism in the face of defeat. Ronnie, though discouraged, clings
weakly to a fragment of his mother’s old political dreams. The ending lower bleak, has no real sense of finality or absolute defeat.¹

Dornan also points out that once again the play raises the question about the role of the individual in society. Endorsing the importance of social responsibility Wesker remains unclear in I’m Talking About Jerusalem. The Arnold Wesker leaves at the end of the play expresses a glimmer of hope, however tenuous and a reaffirmation of the individual’s right to make choices regardless of social need."²

Regarding Wesker’s views on socialism Tynan charges Wesker “Intellectual Flabbiness” (Tynan, 2999) and John Russel Taylor to call his plays “oddly mudded and out of focus”³ in their effect comments by a number of critics indicate that they did not understand Wesker’s waffling, about his ideological convictions. Although Wesker did not understand his own political convictions at the time, most of his attitudes about the primacy of the individual are surprisingly consistent from that period to the present.

On the character of Ronnie, Alvarez considers him as an autobiographical blind spot in Wesker, as Wesker allows Ronnie ‘to steal the limelight and confuse the artistic issues with his almost irrelevant intensities so that ‘in Jerusalem when Ada and Dave are facing the bitterness of their failure to live socialism, we are suddenly told that the real tragedy is that their disillusion has smashed Ronnie’s hopes.’⁴
With hindsight the *Jerusalem* play looks like a promising theme not quite securely realized in action. Ada, the daughter of Harry and Sarah Kahn, and her husband Dave Simmons had already appeared in *chicken soup*, and both there and in *Roots* occasional mention was made of their removal to Norfolk so that Dave could make hand crafted furniture away from the industrial rat race. *Jerusalem* shows the course of this experiment, from moving into moving out. In between, a series of successive disappointments – the apprentice leaves for more money in a factory, the idolized friend comes only to mock and criticize, the transport lorry carelessly ruins Dave’s wares makes the point of the play: that it is impossible to build Jerusalem is a sealed soap-bubble.

The uneasiness with which the play develops betrays that structurally it is pulling in two different directions. As a Kahn family, the play *Jerusalem* lacks a centre, and as an episodic chronicle it is weighted down by a framework of family characterisation and atmosphere that is not essential to the Simmons experience.

Many were disappointed that *Jerusalem* did not knit together the whole trilogy. In theory there is the opportunity to reconcile the political awareness of *Chicken Soup* with the unregenerate rusticity of *Roots*. *Jerusalem* does qualify the optimism of *Roots*. 
REFERENCES


2. Ibid, p.40
