

## *A Spiritual Adventure – Aventură Spirituală*

### **A Four-Act Play by Mircea Eliade**

Paris, 1946<sup>1</sup>

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#### ACT I

*A bend in the Danube River. In the foreground, to the right, a well-beaten path leads toward an entryway to a peasant house, painted yellow. The stage shows only the verandah of the house; a plain wooden table with a few chairs are seen. On the left side of the stage, an old willow tree, and in its shadow woven mats. Alongside, a simple tent for camping, with a mosquito screen. Visible behind the verandah, at the back of the stage, is an opening toward a canal cut through the reeds. Hanging from the willow, extending toward the left, a seine is drying. The décor must leave the impression of a human habitation hidden intentionally in a labyrinth of water and reeds.*

*Late August, toward sunset. At the raising of the curtain, **Manciu** is lounging on a mat, beside the willow. He is a young man of twenty-eight, with an ordinary face. He tries to compensate for his lack of good looks by expressions of intelligence, fantasy, and humor. He is dressed negligently, but not without taste. A few moments later, there appears **Alexiu**: age forty, beginning to bald, but still a handsome man. The gestures and intonations of a wealthy man who has had considerable success in life, but who loses his self-confidence sometimes, especially when he finds himself in a situation of intellectual inferiority.*

*Throughout the first scene both of the characters, defend themselves from the mosquitoes with quick gestures. These gestures are made*

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<sup>1</sup> Original typescript among the Eliade Papers in the University of Chicago Library, Box 1, Folder 10. English translation from the Romanian by Mac Linscott Ricketts, January 2009.