

### Synopsis

Title of the book	: Mr. Sammler's Planet
Author	: Saul Bellow
The Book Page	: 313 pages
Publisher	: The Viking Press Inc., New York
Year of Publishing	: 1970
Feature	: paperback

*Mr. Sammler's planet* is a story of an old tall man, blind in one eye, who walks through the chaotic and collapsing world of western civilization in New York. Mr. Artur Sammler is above all a man who has lasted. Born as a son of Polish aristocrat, Sammler spend his early life in England. During the WW I, he was arrested by the Nazi and later buried alive although he was saved by an old Polish, Cieslakiwicz; his wife Antonina was killed and his daughter was lost. He was brought then to the United States and reunited with his lost daughter Shula-Slawa by the help of an American relative Dr. Arnold Gruner, whom later supports their life.

Moving now through the crowded and dangerous streets of New York's Upper West Side, Mr. Sammler is attentive to everything, appalled by nothing. He brings the same curiosity and disinterestedness to the activities of a black pickpocket observed in an uptown bus, to his daughter Shula-Slawa's lunacy, the details of his niece Angela's sex life ,Wallace irresponsibility, his son-in-law Eisen's weird attitudes and views as well as to the extraordinary theories of a Biophysics Dr. Govinda Lal on the use we are to make of the moon now that we have reached it.

All these, the bestial violence that he finds everywhere—inside and outside the university, the sexual madness that overwhelms the modern society,

and many other phenomena confronted by the old man —including the main issue of the decade that is the space voyage and the possibility of building a new colony on the moon, makes he thinks about the end of the world. Artur Sammler sees that modernity is to be blamed. Individuality, liberty, the power of reason and so forth, in his opinion, bring nothing but failure. Human are no longer human.

Is it time to go? Sammler asks dispassionately. Are we to blow this planet or be blown from it? Although the technology makes possible that human may live in another planet, however it is not the way out of this doomed world. Here in the novel, runs a strain of speculation, both daring and serene, on the future of life in this planet, Mr. Sammler's Planet, and any other planets for which we may be destined.