

**GOLDE**

*(Entering from the Barn)*

Papa isn't up yet?

**HODEL**

No, Mama.

**GOLDE**

Then enough lessons. We have to do Papa's work today. How long can he sleep? He staggered home last night and fell into bed like a dead man. I couldn't get a word out of him. Put that away and clean the barn.

*(SHPRINTZE and BIELKE exit into the barn)*

Call me when Papa gets up.

*(HODEL pumps bucket of water)*

**HODEL**

That was a very interesting lesson, Perchik.

**PERCHIK**

Do you think so?

**HODEL**

Although I don't know if the Rabbi would agree with your interpretation.

**PERCHIK**

And neither, I suppose, would the Rabbi's son.

**HODEL**

*(Looking at CHAVA, who is churning butter nearby)*

My little sisters have big tongues.

*(CHAVA exits with stool and churn, left)*

**PERCHIK**

And what do you know about him, except that he is the Rabbi's son? would you be interested in him if he were the shoemaker's son, or the tinsmith's son?

**HODEL**

At least I know this he does not have any strange ideas about turning the world upside down.

**PERCHIK**

Certainly. Any new idea would be strange to you. Remember, the Lord said, "Let there be light."

**HODEL**

Yes, but He was not talking to you personally

**PERCHIK**

You have spirit. Even a little intelligence, perhaps.

**HODEL**

Thank you.

**PERCHIK**

But what good is your brain? Without curiosity it is a rusty tool. Good day., Hodel.

**HODEL**

We have an old custom here. A boy acts respectfully to a girl. But, of course, that is too traditional for an advanced thinker like you.

**PERCHIK**

Our traditions! Nothing must change! Everything is perfect exactly the way it is!

**HODEL**

We like our ways.

**PERCHIK**

Our ways are changing all over but here. Here men and women must keep apart. Men study, women in the kitchen. Boys and girls must not touch, should not even look at each other.

**HODEL**

I am looking at you!

**PERCHIK**

You are very brave! Do you know that in the city boys and girls can be affectionate without permission of a matchmaker? They hold hands together, they even dance together ... new dances like this.

*(Dance)*

#8 – *Perchik and Hodel Dance*

*(Orchestra)*

I learned it in Kiev ... Do you like it?

**HODEL**

It's very nice.

**PERCHIK**

There. We've just changed an old custom.

**HODEL**

Yes, well, you're welcome – I mean, thank you – I mean good day ...

**PERCHIK**

Good day!