

CONSTABLE

What's the celebration?

RUSSIAN

Tevye is marrying off his oldest daughter.

CONSTABLE

May I offer my congratulations, Tevye.

TEVYE

Thank you, your honor.

CONSTABLE

Oh, Tevye, I have a piece of news that I think I should tell you, as a friend.

TEVYE

Yes, your honor?

CONSTABLE

And I'm giving you this news because I like you. You are a decent, honest person, even though you are a Jewish dog.

TEVYE

Thank you, your honor. How of ten does a man get a compliment like that?
And your news?

CONSTABLE

We have received orders that sometime soon this district is to have a little unofficial demonstration.

TEVYE

A pogrom? Here?

CONSTABLE

No — just a little unofficial demonstration.

TEVYE

How little?

CONSTABLE

Not too serious — just some mischief, so that if an inspector comes through, he will see that we have done our duty. Personally, I don't know why there has to be this trouble between people, but I thought I should tell you and you can tell the others.

TEVYE

Thank you, your honor. You're a good man. If I may say so, it's too bad you're not a Jew.

CONSTABLE

That's what I like about you, Tevye. Always joking. And congratulations again, for your daughter.

TEVYE

Thank you, your honor. Goodbye.

#7 – *Street Scene*

(Orchestra)

(CONSTABLE exits R)

Dear God, why did you have to send me news like that, today of all days? It's true that we are the chosen people. But once in a while can't you choose someone else? ... Anyway, thank you for sending a husband for my Tzeitel ... L'Chaim.

(FIDDLER enters, circles TEVYE, and they dance off together)

DIMOUT

Act 1 Scene 6

(PERCHIK is teaching SHPRINTZE and BIELKE while they peel potatoes at a bench, R. HODEL is cleaning pails at the pump, L)

PERCHIK

Now, children, I will tell you the story from the Bible of Laban and Jacob, and then we will discuss it together. Alright?

(THEY nod)

Good – now Laban had two daughters, Leah and the beautiful Rachel. And Jacob loved the younger, Rachel, and he asked Laban for her hand, Laban agreed, if Jacob would work for him for seven years.

SHPRINTZE

Was Laban a mean man?

PERCHIK

He was an employer! ... Now, after Jacob worked seven years, do you know what happened? Laban fooled him, and gave him his ugly daughter, Leah. So, to marry Rachel, Jacob was forced to work another seven years. You see, children, the Bible clearly teaches us, you must never trust an employer Do you understand?

SHPRINTZE

Yes, Perchik.

BIELKE

Yes, Perchik.

PERCHIK

Good, now ...