

**TEVYE**

No, why?

**LAZAR**

There are some rumors in town. We thought because you knew him so well, maybe he told you what is true and what is not

**TEVYE**

What rumors?

**AVRAM**

Someone from Zolodin told me that there was an edict issued in Petrograd that all ... Shh. Shh.

*(HE stops as the CONSTABLE enters, with TWO MEN)*

**TEVYE**

Welcome, your honor. What's the good news in the world?

**CONSTABLE**

I see you have company.

**TEVYE**

They are my friends.

**CONSTABLE**

It's just as well. What I have to say is for their ears also. Tevye, how much time do you need to sell your house and all your household goods?

*(There is a gasp from the OTHERS. THEY are stunned. THEY look to TEVYE)*

**TEVYE**

Why should I sell my house? Is it in anybody's way?

**CONSTABLE**

I came here to tell you that you are going to have to leave Anatevka.

**TEVYE**

And how did I come to deserve such an honor?

**CONSTABLE**

Not just you, of course, but all of you ... at first I thought you might be spared, Tevye, because of your daughter Chava who married ...

**TEVYE**

My daughter is dead!

**CONSTABLE**

I understand. At any rate, it affects all of you – you have to leave.

**TEVYE**

But this corner of the world has always been our home. Why should we leave?

**CONSTABLE**

*(Irritated)*

I don't know why. There's trouble in the world, troublemakers.

**TEVYE**

*(Ironically)*

Like us!

**CONSTABLE**

You aren't the only ones. Your people must leave all the villages – Zolodin, Rabalevka. – The whole district must be emptied.

*(Ad libs, from ALL)*

I have an order here, and it says that you must sell your homes and be out of here in three days.

**ALL**

Three days. Out in three days, etc.

**TEVYE**

And you who have known us all your life, you'd carry out this order?

**CONSTABLE**

I have nothing to do with it, don't you understand?

**TEVYE**

We understand.

**1ST MAN**

And what if we refuse to go?

**CONSTABLE**

You will be forced out.

**LAZAR**

We will defend ourselves.

**OTHERS**

Stay in our homes ... refuse to leave ... keep our land.

**2ND MAN**

Fight!

**CONSTABLE**

Against our army? I wouldn't advise it!

**TEVYE**

I have some advice for you. Get off my land!

*(ALL crowd toward CONSTABLE and HIS MEN)*

This is still my home, my land. Get off my land!

*(MEN and CONSTABLE start off, CONSTABLE turns)*

**CONSTABLE**

You have three days!

**1ST MAN**

After a lifetime, a piece of paper and get thee out.

**INNKEEPER**

We should get together with the people of Zolodin. Maybe they have a plan.

**1ST MAN**

We should defend ourselves. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

**TEVYE**

Very good. And that way, the whole world will be blind and toothless.

**MENDEL**

Rabbi, we've been waiting for the Messiah all our lives. Wouldn't this be a good time for him to come?

**RABBI**

We'll have to wait for him someplace else. Meanwhile, let's start packing.

**3RD & 4TH MEN**

*(Starting to leave)*

He's right ... I'll see you before I go

**1ST MAN**

Three days!

**INNKEEPER**

I have more than a hundred bottles of vodka. What will I do with them?

**5TH MAN**

Where can I go with a wife, her parents and three children?

*(ALL are off except PRINCIPALS)*

**YENTE**

Well, Anatevka hasn't been exactly the Garden of Eden.