

TEVYE

(Enters above pump)

Bielke, Shprintze, what's your name?

HODEL

Hodel, Papa.

TEVYE

Where is Tzeitel?

HODEL

She's in the barn.

TEVYE

Call her out.

(HODEL exits into barn)

Reb Perchik. How did the lesson go today?

PERCHIK

(Watching HODEL's exit)

I think we made a good beginning.

GOLDE

Ah, he's finally up. What happened last night, besides your drinking like a peasant? Did you see Lazar Wolf? What did he say? What did you say? Do you have news?

TEVYE

Patience, woman. As the Good Book says, good news will stay and bad news will refuse to leave. And there's another saying that goes ...

GOLDE

You can die from such a man!

(TZEITEL enters from barn. HODEL and CHAVA follow her out)

TEVYE

Ah, Tzeitel, my lamb, come here Tzeitel, you are to be congratulated. You are going to be married!

GOLDE

Married!

TZEITEL

What do you mean, Papa?

TEVYE

Lazar Wolf has asked for your hand.

GOLDE

I knew it!

TZEITEL

(Bewildered)

The butcher?

GOLDE

(Enraptured)

My heart told me this was our lucky day. O dear god, I thank thee, I thank thee ...

TEVYE

And what do you say, Tzeitel?

GOLDE

What can she say? My first born, a bride. May you grow old with him in fortune and honor . . . not like Fruma-Sarah, that first wife of his . She was a bitter woman, may she rest in peace. Not like my Tzeitel. And now I must thank Yente. My Tzeitel, a bride.

(SHE hurries off)

HODEL & CHAVA

Mazeltov, Tzeitel.

(THEY exit R)

TEVYE

You call that a mazeltov? And you, Reb, Perchik, aren't you going to congratulate her?

PERCHIK

Congratulations, Tzeitel, for getting a rich man.

TEVYE

Again with the rich! What's wrong with being rich?

PERCHIK

It is no reason to marry. Money is the world's curse.

TEVYE

May the Lord smite me with it! And may I never recover! Tzeitel knows I mean only her welfare. Am I right, Tzeitel?

TZEITEL

Yes, Papa.

TEVYE

You see.

PERCHIK

I see. I see very well.

TEVYE

Well, Tzeitel, my child, why are you so silent? Aren't you happy with this blessing?

TZEITEL

(Bursts into tears)

Oh, Papa, Papa ...

TEVYE

What is it? Tell me?

TZEITEL

Papa, I don't want to marry him. I can't marry him. I can't ...

TEVYE

What do you mean, you can't? If I say you will, you will.

TZEITEL

Papa, if it's a matter of money, I'll do anything. I'll hire myself out as a servant. I'll dig ditches, I'll haul rocks, only don't make me marry him, Papa, please.

TEVYE

What's wrong with Lazar? He likes you.

TZEITEL

Papa, I will be unhappy with him. All my life will be unhappy. I'll dig ditches, I'll haul rocks.

TEVYE

But we made an agreement. With us an agreement is an agreement.

TZEITEL

Is that more important than I am, Papa? Papa, don't force me. I'll be unhappy all my days.

TEVYE

All right, I won't force you.

TZEITEL

Oh, thank you, Papa.

TEVYE

It seems it was not ordained that you should have all the comforts of life, or that we should have a little joy in our old age after all our hard work.

MOTEL

(Enters, breathless)

Reb Tevye, may I speak to you?

TEVYE

Later, Motel. Later.

MOTEL

I would like to speak to you.

TEVYE

Not now, Motel, I have problems.

MOTEL

That's what I want to speak to you about. I think I can help.

TEVYE

Certainly. Like a bandage can help a corpse. Goodbye, Motel. Goodbye .

TZEITEL

At least listen to him, Papa.

TEVYE

All right. You have a tongue, talk.

MOTEL

Reb Tevye, I hear you are arranging a match for Tzeitel.

TEVYE

He also has ears.

MOTEL

I have a match for Tzeitel.

TEVYE

What kind of match?

MOTEL

A perfect fit.

TEVYE

A perfect fit.

MOTEL

Like a glove.

TEVYE

Like a glove.

MOTEL

This match was made exactly to measure.

TEVYE

A perfect fit. Made to measure. Stop talking like a tailor and tell me who is it.

MOTEL

Please, don't shout at me.

TEVYE

All right. Who is it?

MOTEL

Who is it?

TEVYE

Who is it?

MOTEL

Who is it?

TEVYE

Who is it?

MOTEL

It's me ... myself.

TEVYE

(Stares at him, then to audience, startled and amused)

Him? Himself?

(To MOTEL)

Either you're completely out of your mind or you're crazy.

(To audience)

He must be crazy.

(To MOTEL)

Arranging a match for yourself. What are you, everything? The bridegroom, the matchmaker, the guests all rolled into one? I suppose you'll even perform the ceremony

(To MOTEL)

You must be crazy.

MOTEL

Please don't shout at me, Reb Tevye As for being my own matchmaker – I know it's a little unusual.

TEVYE

Unusual? It's crazy.

MOTEL

Times are changing, Reb Tevye. The thing is, your daughter Tzeitel and I gave each other our pledge over than a year ago that we would marry.

#9 – *Tevye's Monologue*

(*Tevye*)

TEVYE

(*Stunned*)

You gave each other a pledge?

TZEITEL

Yes, Papa, we gave each other our pledge.

TEVYE

(*Looks at them, turns to audience, sings*)

THEY GAVE EACH OTHER A PLEDGE.
UNHEARD OF, ABSURD.
YOU GAVE EACH OTHER A PLEDGE.
UNTHINKABLE.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
IN MOSCOW?
IN PARIS?
WHERE DO THEY THINK THEY ARE?
AMERICA?
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
YOU A STITCHER, YOU A NOTHING
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
KING SOLOMON?
THIS ISN'T THE WAY IT'S DONE
NOT HERE, NOT NOW.
SOME THINGS I WILL NOT, I CANNOT ALLOW.
TRADITION
MARRIAGES MUST BE ARRANGED BY THE PAPA
THIS SHOULD NEVER BE CHANGED.
ONE LITTLE TIME YOU PULL OUT A PROP
AND WHERE DOES IT STOP?
WHERE DOES IT STOP?

(*Spoken*)

Where does it stop? Do I still have something to say about my daughter, or doesn't anyone have to ask a father anymore?

MOTEL

I have wanted to ask you for some time, Reb Tevye, but first I wanted to save up for my own sewing machine

TEVYE

Stop talking nonsense. You're just a poor tailor.

MOTEL

That's true, Reb Tevye, but even a poor tailor is entitled to some happiness. I promise you, Reb Tevye, your daughter will not starve.

TEVYE

(Impressed, turns to audience)

He's beginning to talk like a man ... On the other hand what kind of match would that be, with a poor tailor? ... On the other hand, he is an honest, hard worker ... On the other hand, he has absolutely nothing ... On the other hand, things can not get worse for him, they can only get better ...

(Sings)

THEY GAVE EACH OTHER A PLEDGE.
UNHEARD OF, ABSURD.
THEY GAVE EACH OTHER A PLEDGE.
UNTHINKABLE.
BUT LOOK AT MY DAUGHTER'S FACE,
SHE LOVES HIM, SHE WANTS HIM
AND LOOK AT MY DAUGHTER'S EYES.,
SO HOPEFUL.

(Spoken)

Tradition.

(To audience)

Aaah!

Well, children, when shall we make the wedding?

TZEITEL

Thank you, Papa.

MOTEL

Reb Tevye, you won't be sorry.

TEVYE

I won't be sorry? I'm sorry already.

TZEITEL

Thank you, Papa.

MOTEL

Thank you, Papa.

TEVYE

Thank you, Papa ... They pledged their troth ...

(Starts exit L, then looks back at them)

Modern children ... Golde! What will I tell Golde? What am I going to do about Golde?

(To Heaven)

Help!

(Exit L)

TZEITEL

Motel, you were wonderful!

MOTEL

It was a miracle! it was a miracle.

#10 – *Miracle Of Miracles*

(Motel)

(MOTEL)

(Sings)

WONDER OF WONDERS, MIRACLE OF MIRACLES
GOD TOOK A DANIEL ONCE AGAIN
STOOD BY HIS SIDE , AND MIRACLE OF MIRACLES
WALKED HIM THROUGH THE LION'S DEN.
WONDER OF WONDERS, MIRACLE OF MIRACLES
I WAS AFRAID THAT GOD WOULD FROWN
BUT LIKE HE DID SO LONG AGO IN JERICHO
GOD JUST MADE A WALL FALL DOWN.

WHEN MOSES SOFTENED PHAROAH'S HEART
THAT WAS A MIRACLE
WHEN GOD MADE THE WATERS OF THE RED SEA PART
THAT WAS A MIRACLE, TOO.

BUT OF ALL GOD'S MIRACLES LARGE AND SMALL
THE MOST MIRACULOUS ONE OF ALL
IS THAT OUT OF A WORTHLESS LUMP OF CLAY
GOD HAS MADE A MAN TODAY.

WONDER OF WONDERS, MIRACLE OF MIRACLES
GOD TOOK A TAILOR BY THE HAND