

MENDEL

What are you doing here so early?

TEVYE

He wants to buy my new milk cow. Good evening, Reb Lazar

LAZAR

Ah, Tevye – sit down. Have a drink.

(Pours drink)

TEVYE

I won't insult you by saying no.

(Drinks)

LAZAR

How goes it with you, Tevye?

TEVYE

How should it go?

LAZAR

You're right.

TEVYE

And you?

LAZAR

The same.

TEVYE

I'm sorry to hear that.

LAZAR

(Pours drink)

So how's your brother-in-law in America?

TEVYE

I believe he is doing very well.

LAZAR

He wrote you?

TEVYE

Not lately.

LAZAR

Then how do you know?

TEVYE

If he was doing badly he would write. May I?

LAZAR

Tevey — I suppose you know why I wanted to see you.

TEVYE

(Drinks)

Yes, I do, Reb Lazar, but there is no use talking about it.

LAZAR

(Upset)

Why not?

TEVYE

Why yes? Why should I get rid of her?

LAZAR

Well, you have a few more without her

TEVYE

I see! Today you want one. Tomorrow you may want two.

LAZAR

Two? What would I do with two??

TEVYE

The same as you do with one!

LAZAR

Tevey, this is very important to me.

TEVYE

Why is it so important to you?

LAZAR

Frankly ... because I am lonesome.

TEVYE

Lonesome? What are you talking about?

LAZAR

You don't know?

TEVYE

We're talking about my now milk cow. The one you want to buy from me.

LAZAR

(Stares at TEVYE, then bursts into laughter)

(LAZAR)

A milk cow! So I won't be lonesome!

(HE howls with laughter. TEVYE stares at him)

TEVYE

What's so funny?

LAZAR

I was talking about your daughter. Your daughter Tzeitel!

(Bursts into laughter. TEVYE stares at him, upset)

TEVYE

My daughter Tzeitel?

(Turns to audience)

LAZAR

Of course, your daughter, Tzeitel! I see her in my butcher shop every Thursday. She's made a good impression on me I like her ... And as for me, Tevye ... as you know, I'm pretty well off. I have my own house, a good store, a servant ... Look, Tevye, why do we have to try to impress each other? Let's shake hands and call it a match. And you won't need a dowry for her. And maybe you'll find something in your own purse, too ...

TEVYE

(Shouts)

Shame on you! Shame!

(Hic)

What do you mean my purse? My Tzeitel is not the sort that I would sell for money!

LAZAR

All right! Just as you say. We won't talk about money. The main thing is, let's get it done with. And I will be good to her, Tevye.

(Slightly embarrassed)

I like her ... What do you think?

(MUSICIANS appear)

#6 – To Life

(Tevye, Lazar, Villagers, Russians)

TEVYE

(To audience)

What do I think? What do I think? I never liked him! Why should I? You can have a fine conversation with him if you talk about kidneys and livers ...

(TEVYE)

On the other hand, not everybody has to be a scholar? If you're wealthy enough, no one will call you stupid ... And with a butcher, my daughter will surely never know hunger. s Of course, he has a problem – he's much older than her. That's her problem. But she's younger. That's his problem. I always thought of him as a butcher, but I misjudged him. He is a good man, he likes her, he will try to make her happy.

(Turns to LAZAR)

What do I think? It's a match.

LAZAR

(Delighted)

You agree?

TEVYE

I agree.

LAZAR

Oh, Tevye, that's wonderful. Let's drink on it.

TEVYE

Why not? To you.

LAZAR

No, my friend, to you.

TEVYE

To the both of us.

LAZAR

To our agreement.

TEVYE

To our agreement. To our prosperity. To good health and happiness. And most important,

(Sings)

TO LIFE, TO LIFE, L'CHAIM

BOTH

(Sing)

L'CHAIM, L'CHAIM, TO LIFE

TEVYE

HERE'S TO THE FATHER, I'VE TRIED TO BE.

LAZAR

HERE'S TO MY BRIDE TO BE.