

# TEVYE



## ACT 1 Prologue

#1 - Prologue - Tradition (Tevye, Golde, Sons, Daughters, Chorus)



### TEVYE

A fiddler on the roof. Sounds crazy, no? But in our little village of Anatevka, you might say every one of us is a fiddler on the roof, trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck. It isn't easy. You may ask, why do we stay up there if it's so dangerous? We stay because Anatevka is our home. ... And how do we keep our balance? That I can tell you in a word ... Tradition.

### ~~CHORUS~~

~~TRADITION, TRADITION, TRADITION~~  
~~TRADITION, TRADITION ... TRADITION~~

### TEVYE

Because of our traditions, we've kept our balance for many, many years. Here in Anatevka we have traditions for everything ... how to eat, how to sleep, how to wear clothes. For instance, we always keep our heads covered and always wear a little prayer shawl ... This shows our constant devotion to God. You may ask how did this tradition start. I'll tell you - I don't know. But it's a tradition ... Because of our traditions, everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do.

### TEVYE & PAPAS

(Sing)

WHO DAY AND NIGHT  
MUST SCRAMBLE FOR A LIVING  
FEED A WIFE AND CHILDREN  
SAY HIS DAILY PRAYERS.  
AND WHO HAS THE RIGHT  
AS MASTER OF THE HOUSE  
TO HAVE THE FINAL WORD AT HOME.

### ALL

THE PAPA, THE PAPA ... TRADITION  
THE PAPA, THE PAPA ... TRADITION

### GOLDE & MAMAS

WHO MUST KNOW THE WAY TO MAKE A PROPER HOME  
A QUIET HOME, A KOSHER HOME.  
WHO MUST RAISE A FAMILY AND RUN THE HOME  
SO PAPA'S FREE TO READ THE HOLY BOOK.

# GOLDE

(B)<sup>7</sup>

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.

# TZEITEL / MOTEL



TEVYE

Talk about what? He wants my new milk cow!

*(Prays)*

GOLDE

Talk to him!

TEVYE

All right. After the Sabbath, I'll talk to him.

*(HE and GOLDE exit - HE is still praying. MOTEL, TZEITEL and CHAVA bring the table into the house. CHAVA exits.)*



TZEITEL

Motel, Yente was here.

MOTEL

I saw her.

TZEITEL

If they agree on someone there will be a match and then it will be too late for us.

MOTEL

Don't worry Tzeitel. I have found someone who will sell me his used sewing machine, so in a few weeks I'll have saved up enough to buy it and then your Father will be impressed with me.

TZEITEL

But Motel, a few weeks may be too late.

MOTEL

But what else can we do?

TZEITEL

You could ask my father for my hand tonight. Now!

MOTEL

Why should he consider me now? I'm only a poor tailor?

TZEITEL

And I'm only the daughter of a poor milkman. Just talk to him.

MOTEL

Tzeitel, if your father says no, that's it, it's final ... He'll yell at me.

TZEITEL

Motel!

MOTEL

I'm just a poor tailor.

**TZEITEL**

Motel, even a poor tailor is entitled to some happiness.

**MOTEL**

That's true.

**TZEITEL**

Will you talk to him? Will you talk to him?

**MOTEL**

All right, I'll talk to him.

**TEVYE**

*(Entering)*

It's late! Where is everybody? Late.

**MOTEL**

Reb Tevye ...

**TEVYE**

Come in, children, we're lighting the candles.

**MOTEL**

Reb Tevye ...

*(Repeats, summoning courage)*

**TEVYE**

Yes? What is it?

*(Loudly)*

Well, Motel, what is it?

**MOTEL**

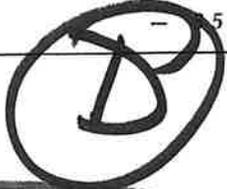
Good Sabbath, Reb Tevye.

**TEVYE**

Good Sabbath, Good Sabbath ... Come children, come.

*(FAMILY, PERCHIK, MOTEL gather around table. GOLDE lights candles, says prayer under her breath)*

# HODEL / PERCHIK



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.

*(SHPRINTZL 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!

# FYEDKA / CHAVA

*(Calmly)*

All right, stop it!

FYEDKA

SASHA

What's wrong with you?

FYEDKA

Just stop it.

SASHA

Now listen here, Fyedka ...

FYEDKA

Goodbye, Sasha ...

*(THEY hesitate)*

I said goodbye!

*(THEY look at FYEDKA curiously, then exit)*



I'm sorry about that. They mean no harm.

CHAVA

Don't they?

*(SHE enters shop. HE follows her in)*

Is there something you want?

FYEDKA

Yes. I'd like to talk to you.

CHAVA

I'd rather not.

*(SHE hesitates)*

FYEDKA

I've often noticed you at the bookseller's. Not many girls in this village like to read ...

*(Sudden thought ... extends book HE is holding)*

Would you like to borrow this book? It's very good.

CHAVA

No, thank you.

FYEDKA

Why. Because I'm not Jewish? Do you feel about us the way they feel about you?  
I didn't think you would

CHAVA

What do you know about me?

**FYEDKA**

Let me tell you about myself. I'm a pleasant fellow, charming, honest, ambitious, quite bright, and very modest.

**CHAVA**

I don't think we should be talking this way.

**FYEDKA**

I often do things I shouldn't ... Go ahead, take the book ... It's by Heinrich Heine. Happens to be Jewish, I believe.

**CHAVA**

That doesn't matter.

**FYEDKA**

You're quite right. Good. After you return it, I'll ask you how you like it, and we'll talk about it for awhile, then we'll talk about life, how we feel about things, and it can all turn out quite pleasant.

*(MOTEL enters)*

**MOTEL**

Oh, Fyedka! - Can I do something for you?

**FYEDKA**

No, thank you.

*(Starts out)*

**MOTEL**

Oh, you forgot your book.

**CHAVA**

No, it's mine.

**MOTEL**

Thank you, Chava.

*(CHAVA takes book, exits)*

**FYEDKA**

Good day, Chava.

**CHAVA**

Good day.

**FYEDKA**

*(Pleasantly)*

Fyedka

## CHAVA/TEVYE

F 95

FYEDKA

*(Extending hand)*

Good afternoon.

TEVYE

*(Takes hand limply)*

Good afternoon.

FYEDKA

*(Looks at CHAVA)*

Good day.

*(Exits)*

TEVYE

~~Good day~~ What were you and he talking about?

CHAVA

Nothing, we were just talking. Papa, Fyedka and I have known each other for a long time now and ...

TEVYE

Chava, I would be much happier if you would remain friends from a distance. You must not forget who you are and who that man is.

CHAVA

He has a name, Papa.

TEVYE

Of course. All creatures on earth have a name.

CHAVA

Fyedka is not a creature, Papa. Fyedka is a man.

TEVYE

Who says that he isn't? It's just that he is a different kind of man. As the good book, says, "Each shall seek his own kind." Which, translated, means, a bird may love a fish, but where would they build a home together?

*(HE starts toward the Tailor Shop, but CHAVA grabs his arm)*

CHAVA

The world is changing, Papa.

TEVYE

No. Some things do not change for us. Some things will never change.

CHAVA

We don't feel that way.



TEVYE

We?

CHAVA

Fyedka and I ... We want to be married.

TEVYE

Are you out of your mind? Don't you know what this means, marrying outside of the faith?

CHAVA

But, Papa

TEVYE

No, Chava - I said no! Never talk about this again! Never mention his name again, never see him again. Never! Do you understand me?

CHAVA

Yes, Papa. I understand you.

*(GOLDE exits from the shop, followed by SHPRINTZE and BIELKE)*

GOLDE

You're finally here? Let's go home, it's time for supper.

TEVYE

I want to see Motel's new machine.

GOLDE

You'll see it some other time, it's late.

TEVYE

Quiet, woman, before I get angry. And when I get angry, even flies don't dare to fly.

GOLDE

I'm very frightened of you. After we finish supper, I'll faint ... Come home.

TEVYE

*(Sternly)*

Golde. I am the man in the family. I am the head of the house. I want to see Motel's new machine, now!

*(Strides to the door of the shop, opens it, looks in, closes door, turns to GOLDE)*

Now, let's go home!

#29 - Change of Scene

*(Orchestra)*

*(THEY exit. CHAVA remains looking after them on dimout)*

**DIMOUT**

<sup>- 6 -</sup>  
**YENTE #1**

**G**

You have feet? Go.

**GOLDE**

Can I go too?

**BIELKE**

Go too.

**GOLDE**

But Mama, the men she finds. The last one was so old and he was bald. He had no hair.

**TZEITEL**

A poor girl without a dowry can't be so particular. You want hair, marry a monkey.

**GOLDE**

After all, Mama, I'm not yet twenty years old and ...

**TZEITEL**

Shah!

**GOLDE**

*(Spits between fingers)*

Do you have to boast about your age? Do you want to tempt the Evil Eye? Inside.

*(TZEITEL enters the house as YENTE enters from outside)*



**YENTE**

Golde Darling, I had to see you because I have such news for you. And not just every day in the week news, once in a lifetime news. And where are your daughters? Outside, no? Good, such diamonds, such jewels. You'll see, Golde, I'll find every one of them a husband. But you shouldn't be so picky ... Even the worst husband, God forbid, is better than no husband, God forbid ... And who should know better than me? Ever since my husband died I've been a poor widow, alone, nobody to talk to, nothing to say to anyone. It's no life. All I do at night is think of him, and even thinking of him gives me no pleasure because, you know as well as I, he was not much of a person ... Never made a living, everything he touched turned to mud, but better than nothing.

**MOTEL**

*(Entering from door L)*

Good evening. Is Tzeitel in the house?

**GOLDE**

But she's busy. You can come back later.

**MOTEL**

There's something I'd like to tell her.

**GOLDE**

Later.

# ~~YENTE #2 (Female Ens.)~~

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

TZEITEL

~~We'll be staying in Warsaw until we have enough money to join you.~~

~~GOLDE~~

~~(Enters, with goblets)~~

~~Motel, be careful with these. My mother and father, may they rest in peace, gave them to us on our wedding day.~~

~~TZEITEL~~

~~Come, children~~

~~(To GIRLS)~~

~~Help me pack the rest of the clothes.~~

~~(THEY exit into house)~~



YENTE

Golde darling, I had to see you before I left because I have such news for you. Golde darling, you remember I told you yesterday I didn't know where to go, what to do with these old bones? Now I know! You want to hear? I'll tell you. Golde darling, all my life I've dreamed of going to one place and now I'll walk, I'll crawl, I'll get there. Guess where? You'll never guess ... Every year at Passover, what do we say? Next year in Jerusalem, next year in the Holy Land.

GOLDE

You're going to the Holy Land.

YENTE

You guessed! And you know why? In my sleep, my husband, my Aaron, came to me and said: Yente, go to the Holy Land. Usually, of course, I wouldn't listen to him because, good as he was, too much brains he wasn't blessed with. But in my sleep it's a sign. Right? So, somehow or other, I'll get to the Holy Land. And you want to know what I'll do there? I'm a matchmaker, no? I'll arrange marriages, yes? So I'm going to the Holy Land to help our people increase and multiply. It's my mission. So goodbye, Golde.

GOLDE

Goodbye, Yente. Be well and go in peace.

(THEY embrace)

YENTE

Maybe next time, Golde, we will meet on happier occasions. Meanwhile, we suffer, we suffer, we suffer in silence! Right? Of course, right.

~~(SHE exits. GOLDE sits on a large straw trunk, sadly wrapping a pair of silver goblets. FEVYE enters, carrying a bundle of books, puts them on the rug.)~~

# PERCHIK / TEVYE

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

AVRAM & OTHERS

J

Good Sabbath, Tevye.

*(THEY take their orders and leave. MENDEL remains)*

**MENDEL**

Tevye, the Rabbi's order. My cheese!

**TEVYE**

Of course. So you're from Kiev, Reb ...

**PERCHIK**

Perchik.

**TEVYE**

Perchik. So, you're a newcomer here.  
As Abraham said, "I am a stranger in a strange land."

**MENDEL**

Moses said that.

**TEVYE**

Forgive me. As King David put it, "I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

**MENDEL**

That was also Moses.

**TEVYE**

For a man with a slow tongue, he talked a lot.

**MENDEL**

And the cheese!

*(TEVYE notices that PERCHIK is eyeing the cheese hungrily)*

**TEVYE**

Here, have a piece.

**PERCHIK**

I have no money. And I am not a beggar.

**TEVYE**

Here ... It's a blessing for me to give.

**PERCHIK**

Very well... for your sake!

*(HE takes the cheese and devours it)*

**TEVYE**

Thank you ... you know, it's no crime to be poor.



**PERCHIK**

In this world, it's the rich who are the criminals. Someday their wealth will be ours.

**TEVYE**

That would be nice. If they would agree, I would agree.

**MENDEL**

And who will make this miracle come to pass?

**PERCHIK**

People. Ordinary people.

**MENDEL**

Like you?

**PERCHIK**

Like me?

**MENDEL**

Nonsense!

**TEVYE**

... And until your golden day comes, Reb Perchik, how will you live?

**PERCHIK**

By giving lessons to children ... Do you have children?

**TEVYE**

I have five daughters.

**PERCHIK**

Five?

**TEVYE**

Daughters.

**PERCHIK**

Girls should learn too. Girls are people.

**MENDEL**

A radical!

**PERCHIK**

I would be willing to teach them. Open their minds to great thoughts.

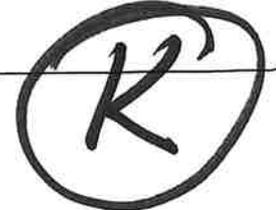
**TEVYE**

What great thoughts?

**PERCHIK**

Well, the Bible has many lessons for our times.

# LAZAR / TEVYE



~~What are you doing here so early?~~

~~MENDEL~~

~~TEVYE~~

~~I want 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

Tevye — 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

Tevye, 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 ...

# CONSTABLE

2

No, why?

TEVYE

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!

# INNKEEPER (MALE ENSEMBLE)



#15 – Wedding Dance – #1

(Chorus, Orchestra)

## ~~ACT 1 Scene 10~~

~~(Yard of TEVYE's house. After the dance, all seat themselves on benches at tables pulled up on either side of the partition. WOMEN are on the left, MEN on the right. As the dance concludes, INNKEEPER mounts a stool and signals for silence. The noise subsides)~~

~~ALL~~

~~Shah ... shah ... quiet ... Reb Mordcha ... shah ... shah.~~

**INNKEEPER**

My friends, we are gathered here to share the joy of the newlyweds, Motel and Tzeitel, may they live together in peace to a ripe old age, amen.

**ALL**

Amen

*(RABBI slowly makes his way to the table, assisted by MENDEL)*

**INNKEEPER**

Ah, here comes our beloved Rabbi. May he be with us for many, many years.

**RABBI**

Amen

**ALL**

Amen

**INNKEEPER**

I want to announce, that the bride's parents are giving the newlyweds the following: a new featherbed ... a pair of goose pillows.

**GOLDE**

*(Shouts from women's side)*

Goose pillows!

**INNKEEPER**

Goose pillows. And this pair of candlesticks.

**ALL**

Mazeltov!

**INNKEEPER**

Now let us not in our joy tonight forget those who are no longer with us, our dear departed, who lived in pain and poverty and hardship and who died in pain and poverty and hardship.

(INNKEEPER)

*(There are sobs from the GROUP)*

But enough tears.

*(GROUP stops its mourning immediately)*

Let's be merry and content, like our good friend, Lazar Wolf, who has everything in the world, except a bride.

*(Laughter)*

But Lazar has no ill feelings. In fact, he has a gift for the newlyweds that he wants to announce himself. Come, Lazar Wolf

**LAZAR**

*(Rises)*

Like he said, I have no ill feelings. What's done is done ... I am giving the newlyweds, five chickens, one for each of the first five Sabbaths of their wedded life.

*(Murmurs of appreciation. TEVYE rises to accept)*

**TEVYE**

Reb Lazar, you are a decent man. In the name of my daughter and her new husband, I accept your gift. There is a famous saying that ...

**LAZAR**

Reb Tevye, I'm not marrying your daughter. I don't have to listen to your sayings.

**TEVYE**

If you would listen a second, I was only going to say ...

**LAZAR**

Why should I listen to you? A man who breaks an agreement!

*(Murmurs from GROUP)*

**MENDEL**

Not now, Lazar, in the middle of a wedding.

**LAZAR**

I have a right to talk .

**TEVYE**

*(Angry)*

What right? This is not your wedding.

**LAZAR**

It should have been!

*(ALL react - murmurs)*

# AVRAM / MENDEL

(N)

~~There he is! ... You forgot my order for the Sabbath!~~

~~TEVYE~~

~~Reb Mordcha, I had a little accident with my horse.~~

~~MENDEL~~

~~Tevye, you didn't bring the Rabbi's order.~~

~~TEVYE~~

~~I know, Reb Mendel.~~



AVRAM

Tevye, you forgot my order for the Sabbath.

TEVYE

This is bigger news than the plague in Odessa.

AVRAM

Talking about news, terrible news in the outside world ... terrible.

INNKEEPER

What is it?

MENDEL

What does it say?

AVRAM

In a village called Rajanka, all the Jews were evicted, forced to leave their homes ...

*(ALL look at each other)*

MENDEL

For what reason?

AVRAM

It doesn't say. Maybe the Tsar wanted their land ... maybe a plague ...

INNKEEPER

May the Tsar have his own personal plague.

ALL

Amen.

MENDEL

*(To AVRAM)*

Why don't you ever bring us some good news?

AVRAM

I only read it. It was an edict from the authorities.