

**Start**

**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

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?

**End**

(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 ...