

GOLDE

I knew it!

TZEITEL

(Besildered)

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.

Start

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. **End**

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?