

GOLDE

You have feet? Go.

BIELKE

Can I go too?

GOLDE

Go too.

TZEITEL

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

GOLDE

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

TZEITEL

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

GOLDE

Shah!

*(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)*

**Start**

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.

~~TZEITEL~~

~~Oh, Motel, I thought I heard you.~~

GOLDE

Finish what you were doing.

(To MOTEL)

I said later.

MOTEL

(Exiting L)

All right!

YENTE

What does that poor little tailor Motel want with Tzeitel?

GOLDE

They have been friends since they were babies together.  
They talk, they play ...

YENTE

(Suspiciously)

They play? What do they play?

GOLDE

Who knows? They're just children ...

YENTE

From such children, come other children.

GOLDE

Motel he's a nothing. Yente, you said ...

YENTE

Ah, children, children! They are your blessing in your old age. But my Aaron couldn't give me children. Believe me, he was good as gold, never raised his voice to me, but otherwise he was not much of a man, so what good is it if he never raised his voice? But what's the use complaining, other women enjoy complaining, but not Yente. Not every woman in the world is a Yente. Well, I must prepare my poor Sabbath table, so goodbye, Golde, and it was a pleasure talking our hearts out to each other.

(SHE starts to exit)

GOLDE

Yente, you said you had news for me.

**YENTE**

Oh, I'm losing my head. One day it will fall off altogether, and a horse will kick it into the mud and goodbye, Yente. Of course, the news. It's about Lazar Wolf, the butcher. A good man, a fine man. And I don't have to tell you that he's well off. But he's lonely, the poor man. You understand? Of course you do. To make it short, out of the whole town, he's cast his eye on Tzeitel

**GOLDE**

My Tzeitel?

**YENTE**

No, the Tzar's Tzeitel! Of course your Tzeitel.

**GOLDE**

Such a match, for my Tzeitel. But Tevye wants a learned man, he doesn't like Lazar.

**YENTE**

Listen to me, Golde, send Tevye to him, don't tell him what it's about, let Lazar discuss it himself, he'll win him over, he's a good man, a wealthy man ... True? True. So you'll tell me how it went, and you don't have to thank me, Golde, because aside from my fee which anyway Lazar will pay, it gives me satisfaction to make people happy, what better satisfaction is there, so goodbye, Golde, and you're welcome.

**End**

*(YENTE exits door L)*

**TZEITEL**

What did she want, mama?

**GOLDE**

When I want you to know, I'll tell you ... Finish washing the floor.

*(SHE exits UC. HODEL and CHAVA enter door R, with wash mop, bucket)*

**HODEL**

I wonder if Yente found a husband for you?

**TZEITEL**

I'm not anxious for Yente to find me a husband.

**CHAVA**

Not unless it's Motel, the tailor.

**TZEITEL**

I didn't ask you.

**HODEL**

Tzeitel, you're the oldest. They have to make a match for you before they can make one for me.

**CHAVA**

And then after her, one for me.