





### Der rebe elimelech (continued)

<b>Yidish</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
איז געווֹאָרן גָּאָר	Iz gevorn gor	became utterly
שְׁטַאָרָק פְּרִילְעָרָךְ	shtark freylekh,	happy,
איז געווֹאָרָן גָּאָר	Iz gevorn gor	became utterly
שְׁטַאָרָק פְּרִילְעָרָךְ	shtark freylekh,	happy,
אלִימֵלֶךְ.	Elimeylekh,	Elimeylekh,
הָאָט עָרָךְ	Hot er oyseton	He took off his
אוֹיסְגָּעַטָּאָן דָּאָו קִיטָּל	dos kitl	long festive coat
אוֹן הָאָט אַנְגָּעָטָאָן	Un hot ongeton	and put on his
דָּאָו הִיטָּל	dos hitl,	yarmulke,
אוֹן גַּעַשְׁקִיט נָאָר דִּי צִימְבָּלָעָרָס דִּי צְוָיִי.	Un geshikt nokh di tsimblers di tsvey.	and sent for his two cymbalists.
אוֹן דִּי צִימְבָּלְדִּיק צִימְבָּלָעָרָס	Un di tsimblidike tsimblers	And the cymbal-playing cymbalists
הָאָבָּן צִימְבָּלְדִּיק גַּעַזְיְמָבָּלְט	Hobn tsimblidik getsimblt	played their cymbals in a cymbally way,
הָאָבָּן צִימְבָּלְדִּיק גַּעַזְיְמָבָּלְט הָאָבָּן זֵי.	Hobn tsimblidik getsimblt, hobn zey.	in a cymbally way, they played.

## דאַיְקִינִיט לִידָעָר בָּרוֹךְ

*A diasporist songs book*

Tools to deepen our homes in the diaspora and resist zionism.

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Listen to recordings from this book at [nualready.com](http://nualready.com)

## Der rebe elimelech (continued)

יידיש	Transcription	English
הָבֵן פִּידְלַדִּיק	Hobn fidldik	fiddled in a fiddly
גַּעֲפִידְלַט,	gefildt,	way
הָבֵן פִּידְלַדִּיק	Hobn fidldik	in a fiddly way,
גַּעֲפִידְלַט, הָבֵן זַי.	gefildt, hobn zey.	they fiddled.
אוֹן אֶז דָּעַר רַבִּי	Un az der Rebe	And when Rebbe
אַלְימַלְךָ	Elimeylekh	Elimeylekh
אַיְז גַּעֲוֹאָרָן נַאֲרָךְ	Iz gevorn nokh	became even
מַעַר פְּרִילְעַר,	mer freylekh,	happier,
אַיְז גַּעֲוֹאָרָן נַאֲרָךְ	Iz gevorn nokh	became even
מַעַר פְּרִילְעַר	mer freylekh,	happier,
אַלְימַלְךָ,	Elimeylekh.	Elimeylekh,
הָאַט עַר	Hot er opgemakht	he made short
אָפְגַעְמַאַכְתַּה בְּדַלְהָה	havdole	work of Havdole
מִיטַּן שָׁמֵשׁ רַבִּי	Mitn shames Reb	with his shames
נוֹתָלֶה	Naftole	Reb Naftole,
אוֹן גַּעֲשִׁיקְטַּן נַאֲרָךְ דַּי	Un geshikt nokh	and sent for his
פִּיקְלָעַרְסַׂ דַּי צַוְּוִי.	di payklers di	two drummers.
	tsvey.	
אוֹן דַּי פִּיקְלָדִיקְעַ	Un di paykldike	And the
פִּיקְלָעַרְסַׂ	payklers	drumming
הָבֵן פִּיקְלָדִיךְ	Hobn paykldik	drummers
גַּעֲפִיקְלַט,	gepayklt.	drummed in a
הָבֵן פִּיקְלָדִיךְ	Hobn paykldik	drummy way,
גַּעֲפִיקְלַט, הָבֵן זַי.	gepayklt, hobn, zey.	in a drummy way,
		they drummed.
אוֹן אֶז דָּעַר רַבִּי	Un az der Rebe	And when Rebbe
אַלְימַלְךָ	Elimeylekh	Elimeylekh

# דער רבּי אלימלך

Der rebe elimelech

Rabbi elimeylekh

by Moshe Nadir

*Yiddish version of the English song, Old King Cole.  
Poem and music by Moshe Nadir (1885 – 1943).  
One folklorized version was published anonymously  
by S. Bastomski in 1923. The text and music were  
published by M. Nadir in 1927, as well as in the  
author's book A Lomp Oyfn Fentster in 1929.*

יידיש	Transcription	English
אַז דער רבּי	Az der Rebe	When Rebbe
אלימלך	Elimeylekh	Elimeylekh
אֵיז געווארן זײַר	Iz gevorn zeyer	became very
פֿרִילעָר,	freylekh,	happy,
אֵיז געווארן זײַר	Is gevorn zeyer	became very
פֿרִילעָר אלימלך,	freylekh, Elimeylekh,	happy, Elimeylekh,
הָאט עָר	Hot er oyseton	he took off his
אוַיסְגָּעָטָן דִּי	di tfilln	tfillin
תֶּפְּלִין		
אוֹן הָאט אַנְגָּעָטָן די ברִילָן	Un hot ongeton di briln	and put on his glasses
אוֹן גַּשְׁיקָט נַאֲרָדִי	Un geshikt nokh di fidlers di tsvey.	and sent for his two fiddlers.
אוֹן דִּי פִּידְלְדִּיקָע	Un di fidldike fidlers	And the fiddling fiddlers

## A prayer for the diaspora

by Elphaba Mond printed in "A Jewdas Haggadah"

Shekhinah, Great Mystery, Universe and That which holds you in place, we thank you for this abundant planet - your own palm of blessing,

We thank you for this world, our home, that is given with such love and devotion.

we stand in the open fields of diaspora and know we are blessed

diaspora from the time before we can remember, from the pool of the womb, from the lands we were forced from and the lands we choose

where we have come from has blurred, but our roots emerge like wings wherever we find ourselves and we are learning along the way that where we are cannot be separated

they dance together like the dust of the earth from which we came.

We trust in these winged roots we trust in this dust.

our family scattered like holy rain, river-veins kissing the skins of the spinning earth, we are like these flowing rivers of not knowing but all the same, leaping,

like the salmon towards the source and the source is you, Great Mystery, goddess of courage, of journeying, and justice, of apples plucked from the sacred Sheffield tree.

We cannot go back to the womb so we sit under this tree where we find ourselves.

remembering our journey is through the time and not space and Time will never make an exile of us.

Great Mystery may you bless this family, all of us, finding our way through this earth dream, dear goddess, please, hold us in your tiny palm of our great green and tiny planet

let us make holy home on the road, under the tree, in deep family with our neighbours, of all creed,

Creature and species, safe, celebrated, befriended

and may our diaspora, cold, mossy, green, rainfilled be our peace

may we seek peace may we know peace may we be the keepers of peace

wrap us in your diaspora, oh Mystery, so we may be home wherever we land Keep us safe in your Time remember us.

## די זון ווועט אַרונטערגײַן

**Di zun vet aruntergeyn**

*The sun will go down*

by Moshe Leib Halpern

*Text by Moshe Leib Halpern (1886-1932), music by Ben Yomen (1901-1970), composed in early 20th century America. Halpern was a prominent Yiddish poet who immigrated to New York in 1908. Ben Yomen was a Yiddish theater and folk music composer and conductor.*

יידיש	Transcription	English
די זון ווועט אַרונטערגײַן	Di zun vet aruntergeyn	The sun will go down below the mountain,
וועט קומען די יבע אונטערן באָרג,	untern barg, Vet kumen di libe	then Love will quietly head over to Loneliness, who
אַ שטילע צו גײַן צום אומעט זאָאו	a shtile tsu geyn Tsum umet vos	is sitting on a golden stone
זיטס אויף אַ גָּלְדָּעָנָם שְׂתִּין	zitst oyf a goldenem shteyn	crying by herself, all alone.
און ווינט פֶּאָר דֵּר איינער אלֵין.	Un veyst far zikh eyner aleyn.	
די זון ווועט אַרונטערגײַן	Di zun vet aruntergeyn	The sun will go down below the mountain,
וועט קומען די גָּלְדָּעָנָם פָּאוּעָן צָאַן	Vet kumen di goldene pave tsu flien	the golden peacock will come flying

## שלום לֵיד

**Sholem lid**

*Peace song*

by Adrienne Cooper

*Based on a Chasidish melody, original lyrics written by activist and musician Adrienne Cooper.*

יידיש	Transcription	English
וּוְאַלְתִ אֵיר גַעֲהָאַט פֿוֹךְ	Volt ikh gehat koyekh	If I had power
וּוְאַלְתִ אֵיר גַעְלָאָפּ אַיִן דִ גָאָסֶן	Volt ikh gelofn in di gasn	If I could run in the streets
וּוְאַלְתִ אֵיר גַעֲשְׁרִיגַן שְׁלוֹם	Volt ikh geshrign sholem	I would scream peace
שְׁלוֹם, שְׁלוֹם, שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם, שְׁלוֹם, שְׁלוֹם	Sholem, sholem, sholem	Peace, peace, peace
וּוְיַיְלִ אֵיר הָאָבָּפּ פֿוֹךְ	Vayl ikh hob koyekh	Because I have power
וּוְעַלְתִ אֵיר לוֹיְפּ אֵין דִ גָאָסֶן	Vel ikh loyfn in di gasn	I must run through the streets
דָאָרָפּ אֵיר שְׁרִיעָן פֿרְרִיהִיט	Darf ikh shrayen frayhayt	I must shout freedom
דָאָרָפּ אֵיר שְׁרִיעָן פֿרְרִיהִיט, פֿרְרִיהִיט, פֿרְרִיהִיט	Frayhayt, frayhayt, frayhayt	Freedom, freedom, freedom

### Vilne Vilne (continued)

	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
וילנע האט דעם ערשטען פֿאָדעם פֿון דער פֿרײַהַיְיטּס-פֿאָן געוועבעט אוֹן זִי לִיבָע קִינְדָעֶר - אַירָע מִיט אַ צָּאָרָתּן גִּיסְט בָּאַלְעָבָטּ.	Undzer visndursht geshtilt. geshtilt. geshtilt.	slaked our thirst for knowledge.
וילנא הוט דעם אַרְשַׁטְּן פֿאָדעם פֿון דער פֿרײַהַיְיטּס-פֿאָן גַּעֲוָעָבָט אוֹן זִי לִיבָע קִינְדָעֶר - אַירָע מִיט אַ צָּאָרָתּן גִּיסְט בָּאַלְעָבָטּ.	Vilna hot dem ershtn fodem Fun der frayheyts-fon gevebt Un di libe kinder ire — Mit a tsartn gayst balebt.	Vilna wove the first thread of our freedom flag, and animated its children — with a tender spirit.

### Di zun vet aruntergeyn (continued)

	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
זֵי אָונְדָּז אַלְעָ אַהֲיִן, אַהֲיִן זַי דִּי בָּעַנְקְשָׁאָפָט וְעוּט צַיְעַן.	Un mitnemen vet zi undz ale ahin, Ahin vu di benkshaft vet tsien.	and she will take us all there, there where our longing draws us.

דֵי זָי וְעוּט אַרְוֹנְטָעָרְגִּין אָונְטָעָרָן בָּאָרָג, וְעוּט קִוְּמָעָן דִּי נַאֲכָתָן אוֹן וְעוּט זִינְגָעָן לִיּוּלִיּוּ אַרְיְבָעָרְדִּי אָוִיגָן וְאָסָ פָּאָלָן שְׂוִין זַי צַו שְׁלָאָפָן אַיִן Tsu shlofn in אַיְבִּיקָעָרְרוּ.	Di zun vet aruntergeyn untern barg, Vet kumen di nakht un vet zingen lyu-lyu Aribuer di oygn vos fahn shoyn tsu Tsu shlofn in eybiker ru.	The sun will go down below the mountain, Night will come and will sing a lullaby above eyes that are drooping shut to sleep in eternal rest.
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# פֿונעַם שִׁינְעָם וּאָרֶצֶל אֲרוֹיָס

## Funem sheynem vortsl aroys

*From the beautiful root*

Also known as "Got hot bashafn himl mit erd",  
*Funem Sheynem* is a cumulative song that builds  
 verse by verse. It was sung for both entertainment  
 and teaching children. The song has multiple  
 regional variations.

Yiddish	Transcription	English
פֿונעַם שִׁינְעָם	Funem sheynem	From the
וּאָרֶצֶל אֲרוֹיָס	vortsl aroys	beautiful root
אֵיז אַ שִׁינְעָר בּוּם אֲרוֹיָס.	Iz a sheyner boym aroys.	Came a beautiful tree.
בּוּם פֿונְעַם וּאָרֶצֶל,	Boym funem vortsl,	Tree from the root,
וּאָרֶצֶל פֿון דָּר עַד,	Vortsl fun der erd, עד,	Root from the earth,
זִינְט סְאֵיז בָּאַשְׁאָפָן הִימְל אָוּן עַד.	Zint s'iz bashafn himl un erd.	Since the sky and the earth were created.
פֿונְעַם שִׁינְעָם בּוּם אֲרוֹיָס	Funem sheynem boym aroys	From the beautiful tree
אֵיז אַ שִׁינְעָר צְוַיָּג אֲרוֹיָס.	Iz a sheyner tsvayg aroys.	Came a beautiful branch.
צְוַיָּג פֿונְעַם בּוּם,	Tsvayg funem boym,	Branch from the tree,
בּוּם פֿונְעַם וּאָרֶצֶל,	Boym funem vortsl,	Tree from the root,

## Vilne Vilne (continued)

Yiddish	Transcription	English
וַיְלָנָע, וַיְלָנָע,	Vilne, vilne,	Vilna, Vilna, our
אָונְדָּצְעָר,	undzer heymshtot,	home city,
הַיְמְשָׁטָּט,	Undzer benkshaft	our longing and
אָונְדָּצְעָר	בענְקַשְׁאָט אָוּן	desire;
בָּאגְעָר;	אָך, וַיְאַט עַס	ah, how often
רוֹפְּט דִּין נָאָמָעַן	Akh, vi oft es ruft dayn nomen	your name
פֿוֹן מַיְן אַוְיג אֲרוֹיָס	Fun mayn oyg aroys a trer.	calls forth a tear from my eye.
אַ טְרָעָר.		
וַיְלָנָעַר גַּעֲסְלָעַן,	Vilner geslekh,	Vilna streets,
וַיְלָנָעַר טִיכָּק,	vilner taykh,	Vilna rivers,
וַיְלָנָעַר וּוּלְדָעַר,	Vilner velder,	Vilna forests,
בָּעָרָג אָוּן טָאָל,	barg un tol,	mountain and valley,
עַפְעָס נָאָיעַט,	Epes noyet, epes	something haunts
עַפְעָס בְּעַנְקַט דִּין	benkt zikh	me, something longs
נָאָך דִּי צִיטָן פֿוֹן אַמְּאָל.	Nokh di tsaytn fun amol.	for the days of long ago.
כִּזְעַדְעָו זָקְרָעַטְעָר	Kh'ze dem veldele zakreter	I see the Zakret forest,
אַיְזָן שָׁאָטָן	In zayn shotn ayngehilt,	enveloped in its shadows,
אַיְנְגַהְילְט,	וַיְגַהְיִים עַס	where, secretly, teachers
הַאֲבָן לְעַרְעָר	hobn lerer	

## וַיְלָנוּ וַיְלָנוּ

### Vilne Vilne

*Vilna, Vilna*

by A. L. Wolfson

*Lyrics by A. L. Wolfson (1867-1946) and music by Alexander Olshanetsk (1892-1946), first published in the 1930s. This version was published by Shmerke Kaczerginski in 1947. He said that almost every program in the Vilna ghetto opened with it.*

יידיש	Transcription	English
וַיְלָנוּ וַיְלָנוּ – שְׁטָאַט פֵּן גִּיסֶּט אֹן תְּמִימֹתָן	Vilne — shtot fun gayst un tmimes,	Vilna — city of spirit and modesty,
וַיְלָנוּ – יִדְישְׁלָעַר פָּאַרְטְּרָאַכְּטָן	Vilne — yidishlekh fartrakht,	Vilna — conceived in Jewish ways,
וּוּ עַס מֻרְמְלָעַן שְׂטִילָעַ תְּפִלָּותָן שְׂטִילָעַ סּוֹדָותָן דָּעַר נָאָכָטָן	Vu es murmlen shtile tfiles, Shtile soydes fun der nakht.	where quiet prayers murmur, soft secrets of the night.
אָכְטָמָאֵל זַע אַיךְ דִּיר אַינְ חֲלוֹם, הַיִּסְגָּלִיבָטָע וַיְלָנוּ מַיְן, אָונְ דִּאלְטָע וַיְלָנוּ גַּעֲטָא אָין אַ נַּעֲפְלָדִיקָן שַׁיָּן.	Oft mol ze ikh dir in kholem, Heys-gelibte vilne mayn, Un di alte vilner geto In a neplidkn shayn.	I often see you in my dreams, dearly-beloved Vilna of mine, and the old Vilna ghetto in a misty glow.

### Funem sheynem vortsł aroys (continued)

יידיש	Transcription	English
וַאֲרָצֶל פֵּן דָּעַר, זִינְט סְאַיְז בָּאַשָּׁאָפָן	Vortsł fun der erd, himl un erd.	Root from the earth, Since the sky and the earth were created.
פָּוָנָעָם שִׁיְנָעָם צְוַיְיָג אַרְיָס	Funem sheynem tsvayg aroys	From the beautiful branch
אַיְז אַ שִׁיְנָעָר נָעָסָט אַרְיָס.	Iz a sheyner nest aroys.	Came a beautiful nest.
נָעָסָט פָּוָנָעָם צְוַיְיָג, צְוַיְיָג פָּוָנָעָם בּוּיָם, בּוּיָם פָּוָנָעָם וַאֲרָצֶל	Nest funem tsvayg, Tsvayg funem boym, Boym funem vortsł,	Nest from the branch, Branch from the tree, Tree from the root,
וַאֲרָצֶל פֵּן דָּעַר, זִינְט סְאַיְז בָּאַשָּׁאָפָן	Vortsł fun der erd, himl un erd.	Root from the earth, Since the sky and the earth were created.

יידיש	Transcription	English
נָעָסָט אַרְיָס אַיְז אַ שִׁיְנָעָר פּוֹיָגָל אַרְיָס.	Nest aroys Iz a sheyner foygl aroys.	From the beautiful nest Came a beautiful bird.
פּוֹיָגָל פָּוָנָעָם נָעָסָט,	Foygl funem nest,	Bird from the nest,
נָעָסָט פָּוָנָעָם צְוַיְיָג.	Nest funem tsvayg,	Nest from the branch,

### Funem sheynem vortsł aroys (continued)

	<b>יידיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
צוויג פונעם בוים, בוים פונעם וואָרצל, וּאָרְצֶל פָּוּן דָּעַר עד,	Tsvayg funem boym, Boym funem vortsł, Vortsł fun der erd, Root from the earth,	Tsvayg funem boym, Boym funem vortsł, Vortsł fun der erd, Root from the earth,	Branch from the tree, Tree from the root, Root from the earth,
זינט ס'אַיז באַשָּׁאָפּ הימל און ערַד.	Zint s'iz bashafn himl un erd.	Zint s'iz bashafn himl un erd.	Since the sky and the earth were created.
פּוֹנָעֵם שִׁיןָעֵם פּוֹיָגֵל אֲרוֹיָס אִיז אָשִׁינָּעָר פֿעַדְעָר פּוֹנָעֵם פּוֹיָגֵל פּוֹיָגֵל פּוֹנָעֵם נָעָסֶט	Funem sheynem foygl aroys Iz a sheyner feder Feder funem foygl, Foygl funem nest,	From the beautiful bird Came a beautiful feather. Feather from the bird, Bird from the nest,	
נָעָסֶט פּוֹנָעֵם צְווִיג, צְווִיג פּוֹנָעֵם בוּיָם, בוים פּוֹנָעֵם וואָרְצֶל, וּאָרְצֶל פָּוּן דָּעַר עד,	Nest funem tsvayg, Tsvayg funem boym, Boym funem vortsł, Vortsł fun der erd, Root from the earth,	Nest from the branch, Branch from the tree, Tree from the root, Root from the earth,	
זינט ס'אַיז באַשָּׁאָפּ הימל און ערַד.	Zint s'iz bashafn himl un erd.	Since the sky and the earth were created.	

### S'brent (continued)

	<b>יידיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
די הילף איז נאָר אַיִן אַיִר אַליַּין גַּעֲוָעָנדֶט, אוּיבּ דָּאָס שְׁטוּטֶל אִיז אַיִר טִיעָר, נְמַטּ דִּי כְּלִים, לְעַשְׂתּ דָּאָס פִּיעָר, לְעַשְׂתּ מִיטּ אַיִיר אַיִגְן בְּלוּטּ, בָּאוּבְּזַטּ, אַז אַיִר דָּאָס קְעַנְטּ	Di hilf iz nor in aykh aleyn gevendt, Oyb dos shtetl iz aykh tayer, Nemt di keylim, lesht dos fayer, Lesht mit ayer eygn blut, Bavayzt, az ir dos kent.	Help can only come from you, if the shtetl is dear to you, take up arms, put out the fire, douse it with your very blood, show that you can do it!	
שְׁטִיטִיט נִישְׁטָט, בְּרִידָעָר, אַט אַזְׁוּ דִּיר מִיטּ פָּאָרְלִיגְעַטּ הָעַנְטּ, שְׁטִיטִיט נִיטּ בְּרִידָעָר, לְעַשְׂתּ דָּאָס פִּיעָר אָונְדְּזָעָר שְׁטוּטֶל בְּרַעְנַטּ!	Shteyt nit, brider, ot azoy zikh Shteyt nit, brider, Mit farleygte hent, Shteyt nit, brider, lesht dos fayer — Undzer shtetl brent!	Don't stand there, brothers, looking on with folded hands, don't stand, brothers, put out the fire — our shtetl burns!	

## S'brent (continued)

יידיש	Transcription	English
ס'ברענט!	S'brent!	It burns!
ברידערלער, ס'ברענט!	Briderlekh, s'brent!	Brothers, it burns!
אוַי, עַס קָעַן חִילֵּה קְוֹמָעַן דָּעַר מְאַמְעַנְתִּ:	Oy, es ken kholile kumen der moment:	God forbid the moment may come:
ונְדַזְעָר שְׁטָאַט מִיט אַונְדַּז צּוֹזָאַמעַן	Undzer shtot mit undz tsuzamen	When our city which now holds us
זָאַל אַוְיָף אַש אַוְוַעַךְ אַיִּן פְּלָאַמְעַן, בְּלִיבָּן זָאַל - וְיַי נָאַךְ אַשְׁלָאַכְטַּ נָאַר פּוֹסְטַּ שְׂוֹאַרְצַע וּוּעַנְטַ	Zol af ash avek in flamen, Blaybn zol — vi nokh a shlakht, Nor puste, shvartse vent.	will as ash in flames enfold us, leaving — as after a slaughter, only empty, blackened walls.
אוּן אַיר שְׁטִיטַּת אוּן קוּקֶט אַזְׂיִ זִיךְ מִיט פְּאַרְלִיגְטַּע הַעֲנָטַ	Un ir shteyt un kukt azoy zikh Mit farleygte hent,	And you stand there looking on with folded hands,
אוּן אַיר שְׁטִיטַּת אוּן קוּקֶט אַזְׂיִ זִיךְ -	Un ir shteyt un kukt azoy zikh —	and you stand there looking on —
וְנְדַזְעָר שְׁטָאַטְל בְּרַעַנְטַ!	Undzer shtetl brent!	our shtetl burns!
ס'ברענט!	S'brent!	It burns!
ברידערלער, ס'ברענט!	Briderlekh, s'brent!	Brothers, it burns!

## Funem sheynem vortsł aroys (continued)

יידיש	Transcription	English
פּוֹנוּם שִׁינְעָם	Funem sheynem	From the beautiful feather
פֿעַדְעָר אַרְוִיס	feder aroys	
אַז אַ גּוֹטָעָר קִישְׁן אַרְוִיס.	Iz a guter kishn aroys.	Came a good pillow.
קִישְׁן פּוֹנוּם	Kishn funem	Pillow from the feather,
פֿעַדְעָר פּוֹנוּם	Feder funem	Feather from the bird,
פּוֹיָגְל	foygl,	Bird from the nest,
פּוֹיָגְל פּוֹנוּם נַעֲסָט	Foygl funem nest,	Nest from the branch,
נַעֲסָט פּוֹנוּם צְוַיְּגָ	Nest funem tsvayg,	Branch from the tree,
צְוַיְּגָ פּוֹנוּם בּוּיְם	Tsvayg funem boym,	Tree from the root,
בּוּיְם פּוֹנוּם וּוֹאַרְצָל	Boym funem vortsł,	Root from the earth,
וּוֹאַרְצָל פּוֹן דָעַר עַרְדַּ	Vortsł fun der erd, urd,	Since the sky and the earth were created.
זִינְט סְאַז בָּאַשְׁאַפְּ	Zint s'iz bashafn himl un erd.	
פּוֹן דָעַם גּוֹטָן קִישְׁן אַרְוִיס	Fun dem gutn kishn aroys	From this good pillow
אַז אַ שִׁינְעַנְמִידְל אַרְוִיס.	Iz a sheyne meydl aroys.	Came a beautiful girl.
מִידְלַ פּוֹן דָעַם קִישְׁן,	Meydl fun dem kishn,	Girl from this pillow,
קִישְׁן פּוֹנוּם פֿעַדְעָר	Kishn funem feder,	Pillow from the feather,
פֿעַדְעָר פּוֹנוּם פּוֹיָגְל	Feder funem foygl,	Feather from the bird,

### Funem sheynem vorts! aroys (continued)

	<b>יִדְיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
	פּוֹגָל	Foygl funem nest,	Bird from the nest,
	געַסְט	פּוֹנָעָם צוֹוִיגָא,	Nest funem tsvayg,
	צּוֹוִיגָא	פּוֹנָעָם בּוַיּוּם,	Tsvayg funem boym,
	בּוַיּוּם	פּוֹנָעָם וּוְאֶרֶץ,	Boym funem vorts!,
	ערַד,	וְאֶרֶץ פּוֹן דָּעֵר,	Vorts! fun der erd,
	זִינְטָסְאִיךְ בָּאַשְׁאָפָּן	Zint s'iz bashafn himl un erd.	Since the sky and the earth were created.
	הִימְל אָוֹן עַרְד.		

### S'brent (continued)

	<b>יִדְיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
	אוֹן אַיר שְׂטִיט אָוֹן קָוקְט אַזְוִי זִיךְ -	Un ir shteyt un kukt azoy zikh —	and you stand there looking on —
	אוֹן דְּזָעֵר שְׂטָעֵל בְּרַעֲנַט!	Undzer shtetl brent!	our shtetl burns!
	סְבָרָעַנְט!	S'brent!	It burns!
	בְּרִידְעַרְלָעֶר!	Briderlekh,	Brothers, it burns!
	סְבָרָעַנְט!	s'brent!	
	אוֹן אַונְדְּזָעֵר אַרְעָם שְׂטָעַנְל נְבָעָן בְּרַעֲנַט!	Oy, undzer orem shtetl nebakh brent!	Oh, our poor shtetl pitifully burns!
	סְהָאָבָן שְׁוִין דִּי שְׂטָעַנְל	S'hobn shoyn di fayersungen Dos gantse shtetl ayngeshlungen —	The tongues of fire have already swallowed up the whole shtetl —
	פּֿיעַרְצְּזָנְגָעָן אַיְנְגָעַשְׁלָוְנְגָעָן		
	אוֹן דִּי בִּיאָז וּוּבְּטָן הַוּדְזָשָׁעָן אוֹן דְּזָעֵר שְׂטָעֵל בְּרַעֲנַט!	Un di beyze vintn hudzhen, Undzer shtetl brent!	and the fierce winds howl, our shtetl burns!

	<b>יִדְיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
	אוֹן אַיר שְׂטִיט אָוֹן קָוקְט אַזְוִי זִיךְ מִיט פּֿאָרְלִיגְטָעַה הַעֲנָטָן,	Un ir shteyt un kukt azoy zikh Mit farleygte hent,	And you stand there looking on with folded hands,
	אוֹן אַיר שְׂטִיט אָוֹן קָוקְט אַזְוִי זִיךְ -	Un ir shteyt un kukt azoy zikh —	and you stand there looking on —
	אוֹן דְּזָעֵר שְׂטָעֵל בְּרַעֲנַט!	Undzer shtetl brent!	our shtetl burns!

## ס'ברענט

**S'brent**

*It's burning*

by Mordkhe Gebirtig

Written by Mordkhe Gebirtig (1877-1942), after a pogrom in Przytyk Poland in 1938. Gebirit was a funtirute maker from Kraków. He was shot on June 4, 1942 during the extermination of the Kraków ghetto.

ידיש	Transcription	English
ס'ברענט!	S'brent!	It burns!
ברידערלעך,	Briderlekh,	Brothers, it burns!
ס'ברענט!	s'brent!	
אוַי, אונדツער אָרֶעֶם	Oy, undzer orem	Oh, our poor
שטעטַל נְבָעַר	shtetl nebekh	shtetl pitifully
ברענט!	brent!	burns!
בִּיזַע וַיְנַטֵן מִיט	Beyze vintn mit	Fierce winds with
ירגוזן	yirgozn	rage
רַיְסָן, בְּרַעֲכָן אוֹוָו	Raysn, brekhn un	tear, break and
צַעֲבָלָזָן	tseblozn	blow
שְׁטַאָרְקָעָר נָאָר דִי	Shtarker nokh di	even stronger the
וַיְלַדַּע פְּלָאָמָעָן,	vilde flamen,	wild flames,
אלְץ אַרְוָם שְׁוִין	Alts arum shoyn	all around already
ברענט.	brent.	burns.
אוֹן אַיר שְׁטִיטִיט אוֹן	Un ir shteyt un	And you stand
קוֹקְט אָזְיָ זִיךְ –	kukt azoy zikh	there looking on
מִיט פָּאָרְלִיגְטָע	Mit farleygte	with folded hands,
הָעֵנֶט,	hent,	

## אונדツער נִיגָּנְדָּל

**Unser nigndl**

*Our Little Melody*

by Nokhem Sternheim

Written by Nokhem Sternheim (1876-1942) from Rzeszów in the Austrian partition of Poland. His songs were often considered "anonymous" folk tunes.

ידיש	Transcription	English
הָאָבָן מִיר אַ	Hobn mir a	We have a little
ニִיגָּנְדָּל,	nigndl,	melody,
אַן נְחַת אָוֹן אַיִן	In nakhes un in	with pride and
פֶּרְיִידָן,	freydn,	with joy,
זִינְגָּן מִיר עַסְוָּס,	Zingen mir es,	we sing it, we sing
זִינְגָּן מִיר עַסְוָּס,	zingen mir es,	it,
קְלִינְגְּט עַס אָזְיָ	Klingt es azoy	it sounds so
שְ׀יַיִן!	sheyn!	lovely!
דָּאָס הָאָט נָאָר	Dos hot nokh	My grandmother
גַּעַזְגַּעַן	gezungen	and grandfather
דִּי בָּאָבָעָ מִיטָּן דִּידָן,	Di bobe mitn zeydn,	already sang this
וְעַן זַיְזַיְנָעַן	Ven zey zaynen	when they were
קִינְדָּעָר נָאָר גַּעֲוָעָן.	kinder nokh geven.	still children.
רַעֲפָרִיָּה:	Refrain:	Refrain:
אוֹיַ אָוַיַּ אָוַיַּ אָט	Oy, oy, oy, ot azoy	Oy, oy, oy, just
אָזְיָ זְשָׁעָ	zhe	like this

### Unser nigndl (continued)

	<b>יידיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
וַיְדָעֵן קָלִינְגֶט	וַיְדָעֵן קָלִינְגֶט	Vi der nigun	is how the song
אַצְינְדָעֵר,	אַצְינְדָעֵר,	klingt atsinder,	sounds now,
אֶזְאָ פָּרִילְעָכָס,	אֶזְאָ פָּרִילְעָכָס,	Aza freylekhs, aza	such a happy
אֶזְאָ פָּרִילְעָכָס	אֶזְאָ פָּרִילְעָכָס	freylekhs	tune, such a
זִינְגַּט דְּשֻׁעָן,	זִינְגַּט דְּשֻׁעָן,	Zingt zhe, kinder!	happy tune, sing it, children!
קִינְדָּעָר!	קִינְדָּעָר!		
אַט אֶזְאָיְזְעָן וְוַיְ	אַט אֶזְאָיְזְעָן וְוַיְ	Ot azoy zhe vi der	Just like this is
דָּעֵר נִיגּוּן קָלִינְגֶט	דָּעֵר נִיגּוּן קָלִינְגֶט	nigun klingt	how the song
אַצְינְדָעֵר,	אַצְינְדָעֵר,	atsinder,	sounds now,
אֶזְאָ פָּרִילְעָכָס	אֶזְאָ פָּרִילְעָכָס	Aza freylekhs	let's all go dance
לְאַמְּרָה אַלְעָ גַּיְנָה.	לְאַמְּרָה אַלְעָ גַּיְנָה.	lomir ale geyn.	a freylekhs.

הָאָבָן מִיר אָ	Hobn mir a	We have a little	
נִיגּוּנְדָל,	nigndl,	melody,	
זִינְגַּעַן מִיר	Zingen mir	we all sing	
צּוֹזָמָעַן,	tsuzamen,	together,	
זִינְגַּעַן מִיר עַס,	Zingen mir es,	we sing it, we sing	
זִינְגַּעַן מִיר עַס,	zingen mir es,	it,	
קָלִינְגֶט עַס אֶזְאָיְזְעָן	Klingt es azoy	it sounds so	
שַׁיְעַן!	sheyn!	lovely!	
דָּאָס הָאָט נַאֲךָ	Dos hot nokh	My father and my	
גַּעַזְוְנְגָעַן	gezungen	mother	
דָּעֵר טַאֲטָעַ מִיטָּה	Der tate mit der	already sang this	
דָּעֵר מַאֲמָעַן,	mamen,		
וְוַע זַיְזַיְנָעַן	Ven zey zaynen	when they were	
קִינְדָּעָר נַאֲךָ גַּעֲוָעָן.	kinder nokh geven.	still children.	

הָאָבָן מִיר אָ	Hobn mir a	We have a little	
נִיגּוּנְדָל,	nigndl,	melody,	

### Rumkovski khayim (continued)

	<b>יידיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
עָר מַאֲכָת דִּיר נְסִים	עָר מַאֲכָת דִּיר נְסִים	Er makht dikh	He performs
אוֹן נִיסִים אָוִי,	אוֹן נִיסִים אָוִי,	nisim oy,	miracles, oy,
יעַדְן טָאג אֶזְזִי,	יעַדְן טָאג אֶזְזִי,	Yedn tog azoy,	Every day so,
גָּעוּאַלְד צּוֹ שְׂרִיעַן,	גָּעוּאַלְד צּוֹ שְׂרִיעַן,	Gevald tsu	Enough to make
אוֹן, אוֹן, אוֹן!	אוֹן, אוֹן, אוֹן!	shrayen oy, oy, oy!	you cry 'Gevalt' oy, oy, oy!
יעַדְעָר אַיְנָעָר	יעַדְעָר אַיְנָעָר	Yeder ayner	One person asks:
פֶּרְיַיְגְּטָן:	פֶּרְיַיְגְּטָן:	freygt:	
אַ צּוֹוִיטָע שָׁאַלָּה,	אַ צּוֹוִיטָע שָׁאַלָּה,	A tsvayte shayle,	A second
אוֹי!	אוֹי!	oy!	question, oy!
זָאָגָט עָר חַיִּים 'וּ	זָאָגָט עָר חַיִּים 'וּ	Zogt er Khayim 's	Chaim says 'it's
אַיז גּוֹט אֶזְזִי!	אַיז גּוֹט אֶזְזִי!	iz gut azoy!	good this way!'

### Rumkovski khayim (continued)

	<b>יידיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
געוווען איז א טאג א הייסער,	Gevezn iz a tog a hayser,	It was a hot day,	
גיט רוםקאַויסקי אין דער גאָס,	Geyt Rumkovski in der gas,	Rumkovski walks through the streets,	
ער זעט זיך אויס וו' א קִיְסָר.	Er zet zikh oys vi a keyser.	He looks like an emperor.	
א העלע אַנטּוֹגָן, אוֹי, און טונקעלע ברילן, פֿאַלְצִי אַרוֹם באַוְאָכָט.	A hele antsug, oy, Un tunkele briln, Politsay arum bavakht.	A light suit, oy, And dark glasses, Police guard him around.	
אַיר זָאָג אַיך גָּאָר אונדזער קִיְסָר הַאָט גְּרָאָע הָאָר, לְעֵבֶן זָאָל עָר גָּאנְצָע הַוְנְדָעָת יאָר!	Ikh zog aykh gor Undzer keyser hot groe hor, Lebn zol er gantse hundert yor!	I tell you all Our emperor has grey hair, May he live a full hundred years!	

רומקאַויסקי חיִים דער עַלְטָסְטָעָר יִדְ,	Rumkovski Khayim, der eltster yid,	Rumkovski Chaim, the Eldest of the Jews,
אַיז אַנְגָּשְׁטָעָלֶט בַּיְ דִּי גַּעֲסְטָאָפָּא.	Iz ongeshelt bay di Gestapo.	Is employed by the Gestapo.
מִיר יַידְלָעָר זַיְנָע זַיְנָע בְּרִידָעָר,	Mir yidelekh zaynen zayne brider,	We Jews are his brothers,
אוֹן ער פָּאַרְצָאָרגָט אונדֶץ דִּי פָּאָפָּא.	Un er farzorgt undz di papo.	And he provides us with food.

### Unser nigndl (continued)

	<b>יידיש</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
אַין מַזְלָע אַוַּן אַיִן ברַכָּה,	In mazl un in brokhe,	in good fortune and with blessing,	
זִינְגָּעָן מִיר עַס, זִינְגָּעָן מִיר עַס,	Zingen mir es, zingen mir es,	we sing it, we sing it,	
קְלִינְגְּטָע אַזּוֹי שִׂיעַן!	Klingt es azoy sheyn!	it sounds so lovely!	
דָּאָס הַאָט נַאָר גַּעְזּוֹנְגָּעָן	Dos hot nokh gezungen	The whole family already sang this	
דִּי גַּאנְצָע מִשְׁפָּחָה, וּוּן זַיִן זַיְנָעָן	Di gantse mishpokhe, Ven zey zaynen		
קִינְדָּעָר נַאָר גַּעְוָעָן.	kinder nokh geven.	when they were still children.	

# פֿאָפִיר אַיְז דָּאָר וּוּיְיוֹ

Papir is dokh vays

Paper is but white

by Mordkhe Gebirtig

Published by Judah Leib Cahan author is unknown  
but this song is attributed to Yiddish folk bard and  
badkhn Eliakum Zunser (1836-1913)

	Transcription	English
פֿאָפִיר אַיְז דָּאָר וּוּיְיוֹ אָוֹן טִינְט אַיְז דָּאָר שְׂוֹאָרֶץ, צַו דִּיר, מַיַּן	Papir iz dokh vays un tint iz dokh shvarts, Tsu dir, mayn	Paper is white, of course, and ink is black, and of course my
זִיסְלָעָבָן, צִיט דָּאָר מַיַּין הָאָרֶץ!	zis-lebn, tsit dokh mayn harts!	heart longs for you, my sweetheart!
כִּוּאָלֶט שְׁטָעֵנְדִּיק גַּעֲזָעָסְן דְּרַי טָעָג נוֹחַ אַנְאָנד,	Kh'volt shtendik gezesen dray teg nokh anand,	I would sit constantly for three days in a row
צַו קָוְשָׁן דִּין שִׁין פְּנִים אָוֹן צַו הָאַלְטָן דִּין הָאַנְטָן.	Tsu kushn dayn sheyn ponim un tsu haltn dayn hant.	just to kiss your lovely face and to hold your hand.
נוֹכְּתָן, бָּאָי בֵּין אַיְר אַיְפַּא חַתּוֹנָה גַּעֲוָעָן,	Nekhtn, bay nakht, bin ikh oyf a khasene geven,	Last night, I was at a wedding,

Rumkovski khayim (continued)

Transcription      יִדִּיש

דָּעָר דָּרִיטָעָר חַיִּים פָּוּן בֵּית הַחַיִּים,	Der dritter Khayim fun beys hakhayim,	The third Chaim from the House of Life,
הָאָט מִיטְמָלָאָך הַמוֹת אֲגֹט גַעֲשָׁעַט גַעֲמָאָכְט:	Hot mit malekh hamoves a gut gesheft gemakht:	Made a good deal with the Angel of Death:
עֲרַ זָאָל אִים צַוְשְׁטָעָלָן מַתִּים וְאָסְ מָעָר, עֲרַ זָאָל אִים צַוְשְׁטָעָלָן בֵּי טָאגָג, בֵּי נָאָכְט.	Er zol im tsushteln meysim vos mer, Er zol im tsushteln bay tog, bay nakht.	He should provide him more and more corpses, He should provide them day and night.
הָאָט זִיךְ דָעָר מְלָאָךְ הַמוֹת גַעֲנוּמָעָן צַוְעָר אַרְבָּעָת שְׁנָעָל עֲרַ מַאְכָט פּוֹן יְעָדָן	Hot zikh der malekh hamoves genumen Tsu der arbet shnel Er makht fun gibor oy a tel:	So the Angel of Death got to work On the job quickly
עֲרַ מַאְכָט דָאָס קְלִינָה, עֲרַ מַאְכָט דָאָס גֹּוט עֲרַ מַאְכָט דִי גַעֲנָצָע גַעֲטָא שְׂוֹאָר אָוִן מִיד.	Er makht dos flink, Er makht dos gut, Er makht di gantse geto shvakh un mid.	He makes every hero into a mound: He does it quickly, He does it well, He makes the whole ghetto weak and tired.
אַיְן אָזְמָעָר טָאגָג,	In a zumer tog,	On a summer day,

### Rumkovski khayim (continued)

	<b>Yidish</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
	געמאכט אָ געטאָ in a dyeto אַיִן אַ דִּיעְטָאָ	Gemakht a geto	He created a ghetto with a diet store
	אַיִן עָרֶ שְׁרִיטָאָ az er iz gerakht! גָּעוֹאָלֶד אָז עָרֶ אֵין גָּערָאָכֶת!	In er shrayt gevvald 'gevalt' that he is right!	And he cries
	חַיִּים וּוְצִמְאָן הַאֲטָה געָזָאָכָט: אַז עָרֶ וּלְדִי יְדָן אַיִן פָּאָלָעָסְטִינָא הַאֲבָן.	Khayim Vaytsman hot gezogt: Az er vil di yidn in Palestina hobn.	Chaim Weitzmann said: He wanted Jews to go to Palestine.
	הַאֲטָה זַי גַּעֲהַיִּסְן אַקְעָרֶן זַיְעָן, עָרֶ הַאֲטָה זַי דָּאָרָטָן גּוֹט בָּאָגָּרָבָן.	Hot zay gehaysn akern zeyen, Er hot zay dortn gut bagrobn.	He told them to plow and to sow, He buried them well there.
	אַבָּעָר אָונְדָּזָעָר חַיִּימָל, רוּםְקוֹבְּסִי חַיִּים, עָרֶ גַּעַט אָונְדָּזָיְעָן טָאָגֶשְׁרִיִּים:	Ober undzer Khayiml, Rumkovski Khayim, Er get undz yedn tog shrayim:	But our little Chaim, Rumkowski Chaim, He gives us leftovers every day:
	אַיִנְעָר אָ שְׁטוּק בָּרוּטִי, אוֹן צְוִיַּטָּן אָ שְׁטוּק פָּעָרָד, מַעְלִיְגָט בֵּי אִים אוֹרְטִיף אַיִן דְּרָעָד.	Ayner a shtuk broyt, Un tsveytn a shtuk ferd, Me leygt bay im oykh tif in drerd. too.	One gets a piece of bread, Another a piece of horse, He buries them deep in the earth too.

### Papir is dokh vays (continued)

	<b>Yidish</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
	פְּילְ שִׁינְעָ מִידְעָלָעָר הַאָבָאָיָ דָּאָרָט גַּעַזְעָן;	Fil sheyne meydelekh hob ikh dort gezen;	I saw a lot of pretty girls there;
	פְּילְ שִׁינְעָ מִידְעָלָעָר, צּוֹ דִּיְ קוּמָט נִיטְגָּאָר,	Fil sheyne meydelekh, tsu dir kumt nit gor,	a lot of pretty girls, who could not compare with you,
	צּוֹ דִּיְנָעַ שְׂוֹאָרָצְעָ אַיִגְעָלָעָר, צּוֹ דִּיְנָעַ שְׂוֹאָרָצְעַ האָרָ!	Tsu dayne shvartse eygelekh, tsu dayne shvartse hor!	with your lovely black eyes, with your lovely black hair!
	דִּיְן טָאָלִיעָ, דִּיְן מִינְעָ, דִּיְן אַיִדְעָלָעָר פְּאָסָאָן, אַיִן הַאָרָצָן בְּרָעָנָט אַ פְּיָעָר, מַעְזָעָט עַס נִיטְאָן, ニְטוֹ אָזָא מַעְנְטָשָׁ, וְאָזָלְ פְּילְן וְיִ עַס בְּרָעָנֶט –	Dayn talye, dayn mine, dayn eydeler fason, In hartsn brent a fayer, me zet es nit on; Nito aza mentsh, vos zol filn vi es brent —	Your figure, your face, and your elegant style, light a fire in my heart. No one notices; there is no one else like me who can feel how it burns —
	דָּעָרְטוּיָט אָוֹן דָּאָס לְעָבָן אִיז בֵּי גָּאָס אַיִן דִּי הַעֲנָט.	Der toyt un dos lebn iz bay got in di hent.	whether I will live or die is in God's hands.

# מיין רוע פלאז

**Mayn rue plats**

*My resting place*

by Morris Rosenfeld

Written by Morris Rosenfeld (1862-1923). Born in Russian Poland, Rosenfeld would become one of the most adored labor poets in America.

Transcription	Yidish	English
Nit zukh mikh, vu di mirtn grinen!	NEYT ZOKH MIKH, VO MIERTEN GRINEN!	Seek me not where myrtles grow green!
Gefinst mikh dorth nit, mayn שאץ;	GEFINST MIKH DORTN NIT, MAYN SHAETZ;	You'll not find me there, my prize; shats;
Vu lebns velkn bay mashinen, בַּיְ מָשִׁינֶן,	VU LEBNS VELKN BAY MASHINEN,	where lives wither at machines,
Dortn iz mayn rue plats. פְּלָאַז.	DORTN IS MAYN RUE PLATS. FELAZ.	there is my resting place.
Nit zukh mikh, vu di feygl zingen!	NEYT ZOKH MIKH, VO DI FEYGL ZINGEN!	Seek me not where birds sing!
Gefinst mikh dorth nit, mayn שאץ;	GEFINST MIKH DORTN NIT, MAYN SHAETZ;	You'll not find me there, my prize;
A shklauf bin ikh, vu keytn klingen, וּ קִיטֵּן קִילְגָּעַן,	A SHKLAFF BIN IKH, VU KEYTN KLINGEN, VO KAITEN KILIGGAN,	I am a slave, where chains clang,
Dortn iz mayn rue plats. פְּלָאַז.	DORTN IS MAYN RUE PLATS. FELAZ.	there is my resting place.

## Rumkovski khayim (continued)

Yidish	Transcription	English
געווואָלְדַּ צֹ שְׂרִיעַן, אוֹ, אוֹ, אוֹ,	Gevald tsu shrayen oy, oy, oy, oy, oy, oy,	Enough to make you cry 'Gevalt' oy, oy, oy,
יעֶדְעָר אַיְנָעָר פֿרְעָגְטָ:	Yeder ayner A tsvayte shayle, AOI, Zogt er Khayim סְאַיִד גּוֹט אַזְׁוַי!	One person asks: freigt: A second question, oy, Chaim says 'it's good this way!'
וַיְיַל עַר אֵיךְ אָונְדְּצָעַר חַיִּים, עַר גַּעַט אָונְדָּז קְלִיעָן, עַר גַּעַט אָונְדָּז גְּרוּיפָן, עַר גַּעַט אָונְדָּז מָן.	Vayl er iz undzer Khayim, Er get undz klayen, Er get undz groypn, Er get undz man.	Because he is our Chaim, He gives us bran, He gives us barley, He gives us manna.
פֿאַרְצִיטְנָס הַאֲבָן די מִידְבָּר יִדְן גַּעֲגָסָן מָן, הַיְינָט עַסְט שְׁוִין יעֶדְעָר וּוַיְבָ אֵיר מָאן.	Fartsaytns hobn di midber yidn gegesen man, Haynt est shoyn yeder vayb ir man.	In times gone by, Jews ate manna in the desert, Today every wife is eating her own manna.
רֻומְקָאוּסְקִי חַיִּים הַאֲטָ גּוֹט גַּעַטְרָאָכְטָ גַּעַרְבָּעַט שְׁוֹוָעָר בַּיְ טָאָגָ, בַּיְ נָאָכָט	Rumkovski Khayim hot gut getrakht, Gearbet shver bay tog, bay nakht,	Rumkovski Chaim thought it through well, Worked hard by day and night,

## רומקֿאָוּסְקִי חַיִם

### Rumkovski khayim

*Rumkowski chaim*

by Yankev Glatshteyn

Written by Yankev Glatshteyn (1896-1971) from Lublin, Poland about Chaim Rumkowski (1877-1944), the Jewish leader of the Łódź Ghetto during the Holocaust. Rumkowski was appointed by the Nazis and implemented a policy of cooperation with German authorities. His leadership was deeply divisive, as he wielded significant power within the ghetto while collaborating with Nazi demands.

יִדִיש	Transcription	English
יַידָּעַלְעַר זִינְעָן	Yidelekh zaynen	Jews are blessed
גַעֲבעַנְטַשְׁטַט מֵיט	gebentsht mit	with Chaim,
חַיִם,	Khayim,	
חַיִם לְעוֹלָם מוֹות,	Khayim leolam	Life unto death,
moves,		
חַיִם פּוֹן בֵּית	Khayim fun beys	Chaim from the
הַחַיִם,	hakhayim,	House of Life,
רַומְלָאָוּסְקִי חַיִם	Rumkovski	Rumkovski Chaim
מֵיט זִין גַּרְוִיסְן נֶס.	Khayim mit zayn	with his great
groyns nes.		miracle.
עָרָמְאָכְט זִיךְנוֹסִים	Er makht zikh	He performs
אוֹי,	nisim oy,	miracles, oy,
יעַדְן טָאג אָזּוֹי,	Yedn tog azoy,	Every day so,

### Mayn rue plats (continued)

#### יִדִיש Transcription

#### English

נִיט זָקֵחַ מִיקְהָ, וּ פָאנְטָאנְעַן שְׁפְּרִיצָן!  
Nit zukh mikh, vu  
fontanen shpritsn!

גַעֲפִינְסְטַט מִיר  
דָּאָרְטַן נִיט, מֵין  
שָׁאָצְ;

וּוּ טְרֵרָעָן רִינְעָן,  
צִיְנְעָרָן קְרִיצָן,  
דָּאָרְטַן אִיז מֵין רָוע  
פְּלָאָצְ.

אָוּן לִיבְסְטוּ מִיר  
מֵיט וּוּאָרְעָרָר לִבְעָר,  
טָאָקּוּם צָו מִיר, מֵין  
גּוֹטְעָרָשָׁאָצְ;

אָוּן הַיְתָעָר אָוּיפּ  
מֵין הָאָרֶץ דָּאָס  
טְרִיבָעָר,

אָוּן מָאָרָר מִיר זִיס  
מֵין רָוע פְּלָאָצְ.

Seek me not  
where fountains  
spray!

You'll not find me  
there, my prize;

where tears flow  
and teeth gnash,  
there is my  
resting place.

And if you love  
me with true love,  
then come to me,  
my treasure;  
and brighten my  
somber heart,  
and sweeten my  
resting place for  
me.

## אוַיְפָן ווּעָג שְׂטִיט אֲ בּוּם

**Oyfn veg shteyt a boym**  
*On the road stands a tree*  
 by Itzik Manger

*Text by Itsik Manger (1901-1969) who contributed to the revival and modernist reinterpretation of traditional Yiddish folk art. The melody of this song, like many of Mangers songs, is based on an older Yiddish folksong.*

יידיש	Transcription	English
אוַיְפָן ווּעָג שְׂטִיט אֲ בּוּם,	Oyfn veg shteyt a boym,	By the wayside there stands a tree,
שְׂטִיט עֶר אַינְגֶּבּוֹיגּן,	Shteyt er ayngeboygn,	it stands there bent over,
אַלְעַ פֵּיגְלַ פָּנוּם בּוּם	Ale feygl funem boym	all the birds from the tree
זַיְנֵנָן זִיךְ צַעְלְוִיגּן.	Zaynen zikh tsefloygn.	have scattered.
דְּרַיְ קִין מַעֲרָבּ,	Dray keyn mayrev, dray keyn mizrekh,	Three to the West, three to the East,
אוֹן דָּעֵר רַעַשְׁט - קִין דָּרוּם,	Un der resht – keyn dorem,	and the rest – to the South,
אוֹן דָּעֵם בּוּם גַּעַלְאָצְטָ אַלְיִין	Un dem boym gelozt aleyn	and the tree is left alone
הַפְּקָרְ פָּאָר דָּעֵם שְׁטוּרָעָם.	Hefker far dem shturem.	abandoned before the storm.

## אוּ, אִיר נָאָרִישֶׁע צִיוֹנִיסְטָן

**Oy ir narishe tsionistn**  
*Oh, you foolish zionists*

*Ts. Lakhman was recorded singing this song by Soviet ethnomusicologist Moshe Beregovski in Kiev in 1931. The author is unknown.*

יידיש	Transcription	English
אוּ, אִיר נָאָרִישֶׁע צִיוֹנִיסְטָן	Oy, ir narishe tsionistn	Oh, you foolish Zionists
מִיט אַיְירַ נָאָרִישֶׁן סִיכְלָן	Mit ayer narishn tsukhl	with your foolish mentality
אִירַ מְגַטְ דָּאָרְ גִּיאַן צַוְ דָּעֵם אַרְבָּעָתָעַר	Ir megt dokh geyn tsu dem arbeter	you'd better go to the factory
אוֹןַ לְרַעְנָן בַּיְ אִים סִיכְלָן	On lernen bai im seykh!	and learn from his mentality!
אִירַ וְיִלְטַ אָונְדָּץ קִיןַ יְרוּשָׁלָאִים!	Ir vilt undz firn keyn Yerushalaim!	You want to take us to Jerusalem!
מִירַ זָאָלַן דָּאָרַט גָּאָלָאָדָאַיָּן	Mir zahn dort golodayen	So we can starve there
מִירַ וְוַעַלְןַ בְּעָסָעַר צִיןַ אַיְןַ רְוּסְנָלָאָן,	Mir veln beser zayn in Rusnland,	we'd rather stay in Russia,
מִירַ וְוַעַלְןַ זִיךְ בָּאָרְיִיעַן!	Mir veln zikh bafrayen!	we will liberate ourselves!

### Oyfn veg shteyt a boym (continued)

	יִדְישׂ	Transcription	English
	אַלְעַ פֵּיגֶל פָּונָעַם	Ale feygl funem	all the birds from
	בִּים boym		the tree
	זַיְנֵן זַיךְ	Zaynen zikh	have scattered...
	טַסְפּוֹגָן . . .	tsefloygn. . .	

### Oyfn veg shteyt a boym (continued)

	יִדְישׂ	Transcription	English
	זָאָג אַיךְ צַו דָּעַר	Zog ikh tsu der	I say to my
	מָאָמָעַן: — הָעָר,	mamen: — her,	mother: "Listen,
	זָאָלָסֶט מִיר נַאֲר	Zolst mir nor nit	only don't hinder
	נִיט שְׁטָעָרָן,	Nit shtern,	me,
	וּוְעַל אַיךְ מָאָמָעַן	Vel ikh, mame,	I will, Mother,
	אַיִינָס אָוֹן צַוְויַי	Eyns un tsvey	just like that,
	בָּאַלְד אַ פֵּיגֶל	Bald a foygl vern.	turn into a bird.
	וּוְעָרָן.		

אַיךְ וּוְעַל זִיכְן אַוְיפָּן	Ikh vel zitsn oyfn	I will sit in the
בִּים boym		tree
אוֹן וּוְעַל אִים	Un vel im farvign	and will rock it
פָּאָרוֹיָן		
אַיבָּעָרָן וּוְינְטָעָר	Ibern vinter mit a	through the
מִיט אַ טְרִיְּסָט,	treyst,	winter with
מִיט אַ שְ׀יִינָעָם נִיגּוֹן.	Mit a sheynem	comfort,
	nign.	with a lovely
		melody."

זָאָגֶט דִּי מָאָמָעַן: —	Zogt di mame: —	Says Mother,
נִיטָע, קִינְד, —	nite, kind —	"No, child" —
אוֹן זַי וּוְיִנְטָמִיט	Un zi veyt mit	and she weeps
טְרָעָרָן —	trern —	tearfully —
וּוְעַט חָלִילָה אַוְיפָּן	Vest kholile oyfn	"You will, heaven
בִּים boym		forbid, in that tree
מִיר פָּאָרוֹיָן	Mir farfroyrn vern.	become frozen to
וּוְעָרָן.		my woe."

## Oyfn veg shteyt a boym (continued)

	<b>Yidish</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
—	זאג איר: —	Zog ikh: —	I say, "Momma,
ס'אַיז אַ שָׁאַד	מame, s'iz a shod	it's a shame	
דיינע שיינע אַויגן, —	Dayne sheyne oygn, —	your lovely eyes,"	
אוּן אַיְדָעֶר וְאֹס אֹן אַיְדָעֶר וְעַן, בֵּין אִיר מִיר אָ פּוֹיגָל.	Un eyder vos un eyder ven, Bin ikh mir a foygl.	and before you know it, I am a bird.	

—	Veynt di mame: אַיְצָק, קְרוּן, Ze, um gotes viln, וּילָן, Nem zikh mit a שָׁאַלְיקָל, Kenst zikh nokh פּאָרְקָלִן.	Cried Mother, "Itsik, my crown, look, for God's sake, take a shawl with you, you could still catch cold.
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— דַּי קָאַלְאַשָּׁן טו זִיךְ אָן, סְגִיַּט אַ שָּׁאַרְפָּעֶר וּוִינְטָעֶר אוּן דַּי קוּטוֹשָׁמֶע נָעַם אִיר מִיט וְאַיְזָמִיר אָוֹן וְוִינְכָּמִיר. . .	— Di kaloshn tu zikh on, S'geyt a sharfer vinter Un di kutshme nem oykh mit — Vey iz mir un vind mir. . .	Put on your galoshes, it's a biting cold winter and take your fur hat too — oh woe and wind is me!..
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— אוּן דָּאֹס וּוִינְטָעֶר-לִיבָּל נָעַם, טו עַס אָן, דַּו שׂוֹתָה, Shoyte,	— Un dos vinter-laybl nem, Tu es on, du shoyte,	And take your winter shirt, put it on, you fool,
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## Oyfn veg shteyt a boym (continued)

	<b>Yidish</b>	<b>Transcription</b>	<b>English</b>
אוּיבְ דַו וִילְסֶט נִיט	אָוַיְבְּ דַו וִילְסֶט נִיט	Oyb du vilst nit	unless you want
זִין קְיַין גָּאַסֶּט	זָיַן קְיַן גָּאַסֶּט	zayn keyn gast	to be a guest
צְוֹוישַׁן אַלְעַ טוֹיטַע.	צְוֹוישַׁן אַלְעַ טוֹיטַע.	Tsvishn ale toyte.	among all the dead people...

כְּהִיבְ דִּ פְּلִיגְלָל, סְאַיזְ מִיר שְׁוֹועָר,	Kh'heyb di fligl, s'iz mir shver,	I lift my wings, it's too heavy for me,
צֹ פְּילָ, צֹ פְּילָ זָאָכָן	Tsu fil, tsu fil zakhn	too many, too many things
הָאָטְ דַּי מַאֲמָעָן אַנְגָּעָטָן	Hot di mame ongeton	my mother put on
אִיר פְּגִיעָלָע, דָעַם שְׁוֹאָאָכָן.	Ir feygele, dem shvakhn.	her little bird, the weakling.

קֻוקְ אִיר טְרוּעִירִיק מִיר אַרְיָן	Kuk ikh troyerik mir arayn	I look sadly into my mother's eyes,
אַיִן מַיְן מַאֲמָעָן אוּיגָן	In mayn mames oygn,	
סְהָאָטָא אִיר לִיבְשָׁאָטָן נִיט	S'hot ir libshaft nit gelozt גָּלָאָצָט	Her love did not allow
וּוְעָרָן מִיר אַ פּוֹיגָל.	Vern mir a foygl.	me to become a bird...

אוּיפָן וְוַעֲגַ שְׁטִיטַע אַ בְּוִים,	Oyfn veg shteyt a boym,	By the wayside there stands a tree,
שְׁטִיטַע עָרָן אַינְגַּעְבּוֹיָגָן,	Shteyt er ayngeboygn,	it stands there bent over,