

WOMEN'S SIDES

FIDDLER AFN DAKH (FIDDLER ON THE ROOF IN YIDDISH) NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATRE FOLKSBIENE

SCENE: Yente the matchmaker has come to see Golde about making a match for her daughter Tsaytl. Yente goes off on a tangent talking about her own marriage.

Note: The first line of the text below is in transliterated Yiddish. Please see the attached note about the Yiddish transliteration system. The second line (*in italics*) is a literal translation of the Yiddish text. The third line (*in blue*) is the original text as written by Joseph Stein.

Yente: **Ay kinder, kinder! Dos iz dayn treyst af di eltere yorn.**

Ay children, children. They are your comfort for your older years.

Ah, children, children! They are your blessing in your old age.

Ober mayn Arn, olev-hasholem, hot mikh nit gekent treystn mit kinder.

But my Aaron, may he rest in peace, was not able to comfort me with children.

But my Aaron couldn't give me children.

Gleyb mir, gut iz er geven, vi gold, a hoykh vort hob ikh fun im nit gehert, ober akhuts dem iz er geven a knaper mansparshoyn, hob ikh fun im nit gehert a hoykh vort, iz vos?

Believe me, he was good as gold, I never heard a loud word from him, but except for that he was a not much of a man, that I never heard a loud word from him is what?

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?

Ober vos kumt mir aroys fun taynen? Andere vayber hobn a hanoe fun taynen, ober nit Yente.

But what comes to me from complaining. Other women enjoy complaining, but not Yente.

But what's the use complaining, other women enjoy complaining, but not Yente.