

YIDDISH – PART 2

Az dos **meydl** ken nit **tantsn**, zogt zi az di **klezmer kenen nit shpiln**.
If a **girl** can't **dance**, she says the **musicians can't play**.

Az men hot **a sakh** tsu ton, leygt men zikh **shlofn**.
When we have **a lot** to do, we go to **sleep**.

Nayn rabonim kenen keyn **minyen** nit makhn ober **tsen shusters** ken yo.
Nine rabbis can't make a **minyan** but **ten shoemakers** can.

Bemokem she-eyn ish iz a **hering oykh a fish**.
Where there is no worthy man, **herring is also a fish**.

Der glock **klingt** vayl er iz **pust**.
A bell **rings** because it's **hollow**.

Nishto kein fuliker zach vi a **zubrochene hartz** un s'iz nishto kein **shvartze** zach **viseh tachrichim**.
There is nothing as whole as a **broken heart** and nothing as **dark** as **white burial shrouds**.

Tachrichim hoben nisht kein **keshenes**.
Burial shrouds don't have **pockets**.

Er hot azoy fil **seykhl** vi in **kloyster** mezuzes.
He has as much **sense** as a **church** has mezuzahs.

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Er klert tsi a floy hot a **pupik**.

He's meditating on whether a fly has a **belly-button**.

An eyzl derkent men in di **langer oyern**, a nar in der **langer tsung**.

An donkey we recognize by his **long ears**, a fool by his **long tongue**.

Ven er iz tsvey mol azoy **klug**, volt er geven a **goylem**!

If he were twice as **smart**, he'd be an **idiot**!

Zey hobn zikh beyde **lib**: er zikh un zi zikh.

They are both in **love**: he with himself and she with herself.

Vayber kenen tsvey shprakhn: eyne far der khasene un eyne nokh der khasene.

Women can speak two languages: one before the wedding and one after the wedding.

Eyn alter chaver iz beser vi tsvey nayeh.

One old friend is better than two new ones.

Hundert hayzer zol er hobn, in yeder hoyz hundert tsimern, in yeder tsimer tsvantsik betn, un kadokhes zol im varfn fun eyn bet in der tsveyter.

May he have a hundred houses, a hundred rooms in each house, twenty beds in each room, and may fevers and chills toss him from one bed to another.

Raykh zol er zayn un hobn tsvey oytos. Eyn oyto zol loyfn khapn far im a dokter, un der tsveyter zol loyfn moydie tsu zayn, az s'iz shoyn nokh alemen.

He should be rich and have two cars. One car should rush to get him a doctor, and the other should rush to say it's too late.

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A YIDDISH STORY FROM CHELM

Tzvey chachomim fun chelm zaynen kesetzen tzu farkuken af the naves af **elf azeiger**. Dorten iz geshtanen a maaseh vegen a **mentch** vos **shpringt** fun brik.

Two wise men from Chelm sat down to watch news at **11 o'clock** which featured a story about a **man jumping** from a bridge.

Zogt Chaim to Yankel, "ich gevet **tzen dollar** az er **vet shpringen**". Un Yankel zogt "ich gevet **tzen dollar** az er **vet nit shpringen**".

Chaim says to Yankel "I bet you **\$10** that he **will jump**." And Yankel says, "I bet you **\$10** he **will not jump**."

Zei **kukn** tzu, tzu zen vos gein zien. Un er **shpringt**. Hot Yankel gegeben Chaim **tzen dollar**.

They **watch** to see what will happen and he **jumps**. So Yankel gives Chaim **\$10**.

"Ich **ken nisht nemen** dayn **gelt**", zogt Chaim. Ich hob shoy'n gezen der maaseh af der naves af **tzen azeiger**.

"I **cannot take** your **money**", says Chaim. I already saw the story on the **10 O'clock** news.

"Ich hob **oichet** gezen dem **zelber maaseh** af **tzen azeiger**", zogt Yankel. "Ober ich hob nisht getracht az er vet **shpringen** noch amol."

"I **also** saw the **same story** at **10 o'clock**, said Yankel. "But I didn't think he would **jump** again."

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Oyfn pripetchik brent a fayerl
un in shtub is heys.
Un der rebbe lernt kleyne
kinderlekh
dem alef-beyz.

Gedenkt'zhe, kinderlekh,
gedenkt'zhe, tayere,
vos ir lernt do.
Zogt'zhe nokhamol un take
nokhamol,
komets alef-o.

Az ir vet, kinderlekh, elter vern,
vet ir aleyn farshteyn,
vifil in di oysyes lign trern
un vifil geveyn.

A fire burns on the hearth
and it is warm in the little house.
And the rabbi is teaching little
children
the alphabet.

Remember, children,
remember, dear ones,
what you learn here.
Repeat and repeat yet again,
komets alef-o.

When, children, you will grow
older
you will understand,
how many tears lie in these
letters
and how much crying.