

DER NAYER SHER

(The New *Sher*)

Composer: Abraham Ellstein

Hey you, klezmer, pick up your fiddle,
play your music,
and we'll dance the new *sher*.¹

*hey du klezmer, nem dem fidl,
shpil dos naye lidl,
tantsn vet men dem nayem sher.*

We'll spin around in a *karahod*,²
and our hearts will rejoice,
whenever the new *sher* is danced.

*in a karahod men dreyt zikh,
un dos harts derfreyt zikh,
nor ven men tantst dem nayem sher.*

Higher, higher, Grandpa Elya leaps
straight up to the ceiling.
He wants to enjoy life fully.

*hekher, hekher, biz di stelye,
shpringt der zeyde, elye.
es vilt zikh lebn im vos mer.*

And Grandma Sosye beams with joy.
Our enemies can go to hell,
for we're going to dance the new *sher*.

*un di bobbe, sosye kvelt fun nakhes,
sonim af tselokhes,
tantsn vet men dem nayem sher.*

Nu, see, just see how everyone is happy,
how they spin,
and how they tap their feet.

*nu, zet, nor zet vi yeder freyt zikh
un vi men dreyt zikh,
un men tupet mit di fis.*

The heart is breaking
but still begs to dance,
for when we dance, life becomes so sweet.

*dos harts tsegeyt
nor tantsn bet zikh
vayl ven men tantst vert, dan dos lebn azoy zis.*

Now we are all happy.
We will no longer be sad.
Because soon the bride will be seated,
and then we will dance the new *sher*.

*freylekh zayn atsind darfn mir ale;
troyerik zayn dos vet men shoyt nit mer,
vayl bazetsn vet men bald di kale,
un tantsn vet men gor dem nayem sher.*

What good will all the worrying do for you,
when your heart is heavy?
Better hope, brother, that by tomorrow
we will all dance the new *sher* together!

*vos toygn ale dayges, ale zorgn,
afn hartsn ven es iz dir shver?
beser, brider, hofn az biz morgn
veln ale in eynem tantsn dem nayem sher!*

¹ A lively party or celebration dance

² A type of a circle dance