

PEARLS OF YIDDISH SONG

Favorite Folk, Art and Theatre Songs

*with Yiddish Texts and Music, Parallel Transliterations, Translations,
Historical Background, Guitar Chords*

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Belz

One of the most popular Yiddish theatre songs that arose in the United States that expressed longing for hometowns in Eastern Europe. Text by Jacob Jacobs (1892-1972); music by Alexander Olshanetsky (1892-1946), written for Olshanetsky's play *The Song of the Ghetto*.

Poet-folklorist S. Kaczerginski relates in *Khurbn vilne* that during the Holocaust the Nazis forced the Jews of the Vilna Ghetto to sing before each meal. The Jews' favorite songs were "Vu zaynen mayne zibn gute yor?" (Where are my seven good years?) and "Belz."

Dertseyl mir, alter,
Dertseyl mir geshvind,
Vayl ikh vil visn
Ales atsind;
Vi zet oys dos shtibl,
Vos hot a mol geglantst,
Tsi blit nokh dos beymele,
vos ikh bog farflantst?

— Dos shtibl iz alt,
Farvaksn mit mokh un groz,
Der alter dakh tsefalt,
Der fentster on a gloz,
Der ganik iz krum,
Tseboygn di vent,
Du volst dos shoyne mer
Gornit derkent.

Refrain:

Belz — mayn shtetele Belz,
Mayn heyemele, vu ikh hob
Mayne kindershe yorn farbrakht.
Zayt ir a mol geven in...
Belz, mayn shtetele Belz,
In oremen shtibele
Mit ale kinderlekh dort gelakht.

Yedn shabes fleg ikh loyfn
Dort mit der tkhine glaykh,
Tsu zitsn unter dlm grinem beymele,
Leynen bay dem taykh.

Belz, mayn shtetele Belz,
Mayn heyemele vu kh'hob gehat
Di sheyne khaloymes a sakh.

דערצייל מיר, אלטער
דערצייל מיר געשווינד,
ווייל איך וויל וויסן
אלעס אצינד;
ווי זעט אים דאס שטיבל,
וואס האט א מאל געגלאנצט,
צי בלייבט נאך דאס ביימעלע,
וואס איך האב פארפלאנצט?

— דאס שטיבל איז אלט,
פארוואקסן מיט מאך און גראז,
דער אלטער דאך צעפאלט,
דער פענצטער און א גלאז,
דער גאניק איז קרום,
צעבויען די ווענט,
דו וואלסט דאס שוין מער
גארניט דערקענט.

רעפריין:

בעלז — מין שמעטעלע בעלז,
מין היימעלע, ווו איך האב
מיינע קינדערשע יארן פארבראכט.
זייט איר א מאל געווען אין...
בעלז, מין שמעטעלע בעלז,
אין ארעמען שטיבעלע
מיט אלע קינדערלעך דארט געלאכט.

יעדן שבת פלעג איך לויפן
דארט מיט דער תהינה גלאז,
צו זיצן אונטער דעם גרינעם ביימעלע,
לייענען ביי דעם טייך.

בעלז, מין שמעטעלע בעלז,
מין היימעלע ווו כהאב געהאט
די שיינע חלומות א סך.

Tell me, old man, tell me quickly because I want to know everything now: how does the little house look that once sparkled? Does the little tree I planted still bloom? — The little house is old, overgrown with grass, the old roof is crumbling, the windows are without glass, the attic is crooked, the walls bent. You'd never recognize it.

Belz, my little town, Belz, my little home where I spent my childhood years. Belz, my little town, Belz, in the poor little house where I laughed with all the children. Every *shabes* I'd run to read by the river. Belz, my little town, Belz, my little home where I had so many beautiful dreams.

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Moderato

Der-tseyl mir, al-ter, der-tseyl mir ge-shvind, Vayl ikh vil vi-sn a-les a-

tsind. — Vi zet oys dos shti-bl, vos hot a mol ge-glantst, Tsi blit nokh dos

bey-me-le, vos ikh hob far-flantst, Dos shti-bl iz alt, Far-vak-sn mit mokh un

groz, Der al-ter dakh tse-falt, Der fents-ter on a gloz, Der ga-nik iz

krum, Tse-boy-gn di vent, Du volst dos shoyn mer gor-nit der-

A D7 Gm 3 Gm . 3 Dm Gm₃

kent, Der ga - nik iz krum, tse - boy - gn di vent, Du volst dos shoyn

A 3 Dm *Refrain* Dm Gm

mer gor - nit der - kent. Belz ————— mayn shte - te - le

Dm Gm F Gm Dm Gm 3

belz, ————— Mayn hey - me - le, vu ikh hob may - ne kin - der - she yo - rn far -

Dm A7 Dm Gm

brakht, ————— (Zayt ir a mol ge - ven in) Belz ————— mayn shte - te - le

Dm Gm F Gm Dm Gm

belz, ————— In o - re - men shti - be - le mit a - le kin - der - lekh dort ge -

Dm C7 F Bb F Bb

lakht. ————— Ye - dn sha - bes fleg ikh loy - fn dort

F C F F Gm F Bbm

mit der t'khi - ne glaykh. Tsu zi - tsn, un - ter dem gri - nem bey - me - le

F Gm A7 Dm Gm

ley' - nen bay — dem taykh. Belz, ————— mayn shte - te - le

Dm Gm F Gm Dm Gm 3

belz ————— mayn hey - me - le vu kh'hob ge - hat di — shey-ne kha - loy - mes a

1. Dm 2. Dm

sakh ————— sakh —————

