

## TEVYE

(Speaking to God)

What do I think? What do I think? I never liked him! Why should I? You can have a fine conversation with him if you talk about kidneys and livers ... on the other hand, not everybody has to be a scholar? If you're wealthy enough, no one will call you stupid ... And with a butcher, my daughter will surely never know hunger. Of course, he has a problem - he's much older than her. That's her problem. But she's younger. That's his problem. I always thought of him as a butcher, but I misjudged him. He is a good man, he likes her, he will try to make her happy. (Turns to Lazar Wolf) What do I think? It's a match.

**OR:**

(Speaking to God)

That was quite a dowry you gave my daughter Tzeitel at her wedding. Was that necessary? ... Anyway, Tzeitel and Motel have been married almost two months now. They work very hard, they are as poor as synagogue mice .... But they are both so happy they don't know how miserable they are. Motel keeps talking about a sewing machine. I know you're very busy God, - wars and revolutions, floods, plagues - all those little things that bring people to You - couldn't You take a second away from your catastrophes and get it for him? How much trouble would it be? ... Oh, and while You're in the neighborhood, my horse's left leg ... Am I bothering You too much? I'm sorry. As the good book says ... Why should I tell you what the good book says?

**OR:**

(Speaking to God)

Today I am a horse... Dear God, did you have to make my poor old horse lose his shoe, just before the Sabbath? That wasn't nice... It's enough you pick on me, Tevye... bless him with five daughters, a life of poverty. What have you got against my horse?... Sometimes I think when things are too quiet up there, you say toyourself: Let's see, what kind of mischief can I play on my friend, Tevye? I'm not really complaining - after all, with your help, I'm starving to death. You made many, many poor people. I realize of course, that it's no shame to be poor, but it's no great honor either. So what would have been so terrible if I had a small fortune?