

TEVYE + PERCHIK

TEVYE SPEECH

A FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. SOUNDS CRAZY, NO? BUT IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE OF ANATEVKA, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT EACH ONE OF US IS A FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, TRYING TO SCRATCH OUT A PLEASANT, SIMPLE TUNE WITHOUT BREAKING HIS NECK,...AND HOW DO WE KEEP OUR BALANCE? THAT I CAN TELL YOU IN ONE WORD....TRADITION.

HERE IN ANATEVKA WE HAVE TRADITIONS FOR EVERYTHING...HOW TO EAT, HOW TO SLEEP, HOW TO WEAR CLOTHES. FOR INSTANCE, WE ALWAYS KEEP OUR HEADS COVERED AND ALWAYS WEAR A LITTLE PRAYER SHAWL...THIS SHOWS OUR CONSTANT DEVOTION TO GOD. YOU MAY ASK HOW DID THIS TRADITION START. I'LL TELL YOU---I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT'S A TRADITION...BECAUSE OF OUR TRADITIONS, EVERYONE KNOWS WHO HE IS AND WHAT GOD EXPECTS HIM TO DO.

TEVYE AND PERCHIK

PERCHIK: GOOD EVENING, SIR.

TEVYE: GOOD EVENING TO YOU, REB...?

PERCHIK: PERCHIK.

TEVYE: SO, YOU ARE A NEWCOMER HERE! WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

PERCHIK: KIEV..I WAS A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY THERE.

TEVYE: SO, WHAT IS THE NEWS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

PERCHIK: TERRIBLE.

TEVYE: HOW TERRIBLE?

PERCHIK; IN A VILLAGE CALLED RAJANKA. ALL THE JEWS WERE EVICTED...FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES.

TEVYE: FOR WHAT REASON?

PERCHIK: MAYBE THEY WANTED THEIR LAND..MAYBE A PLAGUE...

TEVYE: YOU KNOW, IT'S NO CRIME TO BE POOR.

PERCHIK: IT'S THE RICH WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS. SOMEDAY THEIR WEALTH WILL BE OURS.

TEVYE: THAT WOULD BE NICE. IF THEY WOULD AGREE, I WOULD AGREE.