

#5 Tevye, Lazar, Mendel  
(~~25~~ Secondary)

ALL

Amen.

MORDCHA

I want to announce that the bride's parents are giving the newlyweds the following: a new featherbed, a pair of pillows —

GOLDE

(Shouting from the women's side)

Goose pillows.

MORDCHA

Goose pillows. And this pair of candlesticks.

ALL

Mazeltov!

MORDCHA

Now let us not in our joy tonight forget those who are no longer with us, our dear departed, who lived in pain and poverty and hardship and who died in pain and poverty and hardship. (All sob. He pauses a moment.) But enough tears. (The mourning stops immediately.) Let's be merry and content, like our good friend, Lazar Wolf, who has everything in the world, except a bride. (Laughter.) But Lazar has no ill feelings. In fact, he has a gift for the newlyweds that ~~he wants to announce himself. Come, Lazar Wolf.~~

LAZAR

(Rising)

START ✓

Like he said, I have no ill feelings. What's done is done. I am giving the newlyweds five chickens, one for each of the first five Sabbaths of their wedded life. (Murmurs of appreciation from all.)

TEVYE

(Rising)

Reb Lazar, you are a decent man. In the name of my daughter and her new husband, I accept your gift. There is a famous saying that —

LAZAR

Reb Tevye, I'm not marrying your daughter. I don't have to listen to your sayings.

TEVYE

If you would listen a second, I was only going to say —

Beatrice Arthur and villagers "I just heard"

LAZAR  
Why should I listen to you? A man who breaks an agreement!  
(Murmurs by the assemblage.)

MENDEL  
Not now, Lazar, in the middle of a wedding.

LAZAR  
I have a right to talk.

TEVYE  
(Angry)  
What right? This is not your wedding.

LAZAR  
It should have been!  
(Murmurs by the assemblage.)

MENDEL  
Reb Lazar, don't shame Reb Tevye at his daughter's wedding.

LAZAR  
But he shamed me in front of the whole village!

~~END (An argument breaks out. Everyone takes sides.)~~

~~ALL  
That's true. . . . The rabbi said . . . . It was a shame . . . . He has no feelings . . . . This is not the place—~~

~~MENDEL  
Shah. Shah. Quiet. The rabbi. The rabbi, the rabbi.~~

~~RABBI  
(Rising, as the noise subsides.)  
I say—Let's sit down. (Sits.)~~

~~TEVYE  
We all heard the wise words of the rabbi.  
(Everyone returns to his seat.)~~

~~MORDCHA  
Now, I'd like to sing a little song that—~~