

ABI GEZINT by Abe Ellstein and Molly Picon

A little sun a little rain
A BISL ZIN A BISL REGN
A quiet place the head to lay
A RUIK ORT DEM KOP TSU LEGN
As long as healthy can one happy be
ABI GEZINT KEN MEN GLIKLEKH ZAYN

A shoe a sock a clothing without patches
A SHUKH A ZOK A KLEYD ON LATES
In pocket a three four coins
IN KESHENE A DRAY FIR ZLOTES
As long as healthy can one happy be
ABI GEZINT KEN MEN GLIKLEKH ZAYN

The air is free for each equally
DI LUFT IS FRAY FAR YEDN GLAYKH
The sun it shines for each one poor or rich
DI ZIN ZI SHAYNT FAR YEDN EYNEM OREM ORDER RAYKH

A little joy a little laughter
A BISL FREYD A BISL LAKHN
A time with friends a little schnaps make
A MOL MIT FRAYNT A SHNEPSL MAKHN
As long as healthy can one happy be
ABI GEZINT KEN MEN GLIKLEKH ZAYN

One seeks wealth, one seeks power
EYNER ZIKHT ASHIRES EYNER ZIKHT GEVIRE
Take over the whole world
AYNNEMEN DI GANTSE VELT
One thinks the entire happiness depends only on money
EYNER MEYNT DOS GANTSE GLIK HEYNGT NOR OP IN GELT
They should all seek, they should all crawl
ZOLN ALE ZIKHN ZOLN ALE KRIKHN
Only I think by me
NOR IKH TRAKHT BAY MIR
I need that "like a hole in my head"
IKH DARF DOS OYF KAPORES
Because the happiness stands by my door
VAYL DOS GLIK SHTEYT BAY MAYN TIR.

A little sun, a little rain,
A quiet place to lay your head,
As long as you're healthy, you can be happy.

A shoe, a sock, clothing without patches,
Three or four coins in your pocket,
As long as you're healthy, you can be happy.

The air is free for everyone equally.
The sun shines for everyone poor or rich.

A little joy, a little laughter,
Some time to have a little drink with friends,
As long as you're healthy, you can be happy.

Some seek wealth, some seek power,
Some want to conquer the whole world.
Some think their entire happiness depends only on money.
Let them all seek, let them all crawl,
But I myself think that I need all that like I need a hole in my head*
Because happiness stands at my door.

A little sun, a little rain,
A quiet place to lay your head,
As long as you're healthy, you can be happy.

*The expression "Ikh darf dos oyf kapores" translates colloquially to English as "I need that like I need a hole in my head." Kapores is a Rosh Hashonah ritual where very observant Jews swing a live chicken over their heads to transfer their sins to the chicken (!). So "Ikh darf dos oyf kapores" literally means "I need that like I need to transfer my sins to a chicken."