

Dona, Dona

VERSE 1:

Oyfn furl ligt dos kelbl,
Ligt gebundn mit a shtrik,
Hoykh in himl flit dos shvelbl
Freyt zikh, dreyt zikh, hin un krik.

measures 1-8

On a wagon bound for market
Lies a calf with a mournful eye,
High above him there's a swallow
Flying freely through the sky.

measures 1-8

VERSE 2:

Shrayt dos kelbl, zogt der poyer,
Ver zhe heyst dikh zayn a kalb?
Volst gekent dokh zayn a foygl,
Volst gekent dokh zayn a shvalb?

measures 9-16

Stop complaining said the farmer,
Who told you a calf to be?
Why don't you have wings to fly with
Like that swallow, proud and free?"

measures 9-16

VERSE 3: (all sing MELODY)

Bidne kelber tut men bindn,
Un men shlept zey un men shekht,
Ver s'hot fligl, flit aroyf tsu,
Iz bay keynem nit kayn knekht.

Calves are easily bound and slaughtered
Never knowing the reason why,
But whoever treasures freedom
Like the swallow will learn to fly.

REFRAIN: measures 17-24

Lakht der vint in korn,
Lakh un lakht un lakht,
Lakht er op a tog a gantsn
Mit a halber nakht! (dona dona...)

Dona, dona, dona... **(all sing melody)**