

Maskilik Medley Part 1

Ven Mir Zenen Tsum Rebn Geforn

Composer unknown

From the repertoire of Arkady Gendler

The 19th-century disagreements between Jewish modernists and Hasidim were well-reflected in music. Such songs were often sung by both sides! Does this song celebrate or make fun of Hasidim? Arkady Gendler insisted that this was a Hasidic song.

Yiddish

Ven mir zenen tsum rebn geforn,
Oy, vey, tsum rebn geforn.
Hot er undz gevintshevet oyf lange yorn,
Oy, ya-ba-ba-ba-bay

Ven mir zenen tsum rebn gekumen,
Oy, vey, tsum rebn gekumen
Hot er ba undz di hant genumen, oy...

Ober di daytshn—neyn, neyn, neyn
Zey kenen gornit freylekh zayn, zayn, zayn
Es tsitern di glider far undzere brider
Zey kenen gornit freylekh zayn,.

Ober mir, leybedik un lustik un breyt-brustik
Hofken un zingen un tantsn un shpringen
A zup fun a koyse, a moytse a groyse
Oy, vi ken nokh beser zayn

Ober mir talmidimlekh, dem rebns khasidim,
Oy, vey, dem rebns khasidim
Ba undz geyt ales tsu in fridn. oy...

Ober undzere koshere vayblekh,
Oy, vey, koshere vayblekh
Gibn undz esn gebrotene taybelekh, oy...
Ober di daytshn...

English

When we went to the Rebbe,
Oy, vey, went to the Rebbe
He gave us good wishes for a long life,
Oy, ya-ba-ba-ba-bay

And when we came to the Rebbe,
Oy, vey, came to the Rebbe
He took us by the hands, oy...

But the secular Jews, no, no, no
They don't know how to have a good time
Our limbs tremble for our brothers
They don't know how to have a good time

But we, lively & cheerful & broad-chested
Skip & sing & dance & spring
A sip from a goblet, a great pleasure
Oy, what could be better

But to us little disciples, the rebbe's Hasidim,
Oy, vey, the rebbes Hasidim.
With us everything melts into joy, oy...

What's more, our good little kosher wives.
Oy, vey, kosher wives.
Feed us nice little roasted doves, oy...
But the secular Jews...