

TSINDT ON A LIKHTL

Yiddish lyrics by Linda Gritz, based on "Light One Candle" by Peter Yarrow
Written at KlezKanada, August 2017

Yiddish

Tsindt on a likhtl far di heldishe kinder
Di mames, di tates, di fraynt.
Tsindt on a likhtl far veytik un laydn
In kamf kegn sine un faynt.
Tsindt on a likhtl far a vund
Gevorn a vunder in alte tsaytn.
Tsindt on a likhtl az di hayntike velt
Zol zikh tsuheren, lernen un baytn.

Refrain

Hit op di kleyne likht
Zi flakert shoyt toyznt yorn.
Hit op di kleyne likht
Zol zi shaynen durkh tsern un tsorn.

Tsindt on a likhtl lekoved di pleytim
Dos heymland gevorn nit fray.
Tsindt on a likhtl far di grenets-ganovim
Vos zukhn a lebn oyf s'nay.
Tsindt on a likhtl me zol nit fargesn
Imigrantn vos boyen dos land.
Tsindt on a likhtl me zol efenen di oygn
Di oyern, dos harts un di hant.

Refrain

Ver iz der shames vos tsindt on di likhtlekh
Balaykhtn di finstere velt?
Ver vet opshafn dem hunger, di benkschaft
Fun mentshn farglivert in kelt?
Ver iz getray tsu undzer yerushe
Fartraybn tiranen, despotn?
S'iz undzer khoyn, s'iz undzer parol
Tsu bafrayen di shayn fun dem shotn.

Refrain

Translation (not singable)

Light one candle for the heroic children
The mothers, the fathers, the friends.
Light one candle for the pain and suffering
In the struggle against hate and hostility.
Light one candle for a wound
That became a wonder in olden times.
Light one candle so that the world today
Should listen, learn and change.

Refrain

Protect the precious light
It has burned for thousands of years.
Protect the precious light
Let it shine through tears and anger.

Light one candle in honor of refugees
Their homeland no longer free.
Light one candle for those who steal across the border
Searching for life anew.
Light one candle so that we should not forget
Immigrants who build this country.
Light one candle so that we open our eyes
Our ears, our heart and our hand.

Refrain

Who is the Shammes that kindles the lights
Illuminating the darkened world?
Who will end the hunger, the longing
Of people left out in the cold?
Who is devoted to our heritage
To drive out tyrants, despots?
It's our obligation, it's our promise
To liberate the light from the shadow.

Refrain

Light a candle for the heroic children

Tsindt on a likhtl far di heldishe kinder

The mothers, the father, the friends

Di mames, di tates, di fraynt.

Light a candle for pain and suffering

Tsindt on a likhtl far veytik un laydn

In struggle against hate and hate

In kamf kegn sine un faynt.

Light a candle for a wound

Tsindt on a likhtl far a vund

Become a wonder in old times

Gevorn a vunder in alte tsaytn.

Light a candle so that today's world

Tsindt on a likhtl az di hayntike velt

Should listen learn and change

Zol zikh tsuheren, lernen, un baytn.

REFRAIN

Protect the little light

Hit op di kleyne likht

It flickers already thousands years

Zi flakert shoynt toyznt yorn.

Protect the little light

Hit op di kleyne likht

Should it shine through tears and sadness

Zol zi shaynen durkh trern un anger.

Light a candle in honor of the refugees

Tsindt on a likhtl lekoved di pleytim

Their homeland become not free

Dos heymland gevorn nit fray.

Light a candle for the border thieves

Tsindt on a likhtl far di grenets-ganovim

That look for a life anew

Vos zukhn a lebn oyf s'nay.

Light a candle one should not forget

Tsindt on a likhtl me zol nit fargesn

Immigrants that build this country

Imigrantn vos boyen dos land.

Light a candle one should open the eyes

Tsindt on a likhtl me zol efenen di oygn

The ears the heart and the hand

Di oyern, dos harts, un di hant.

Who is the Shammes that lights the candles

Ver iz der shames vos tsindt on di likhtlekh

Illuminating the dark world

Balaykhtn di finstere velt?

Who will end the hunger the longing

Ver vet opshafn dem hunger, di benkshaft

Of people congealed in cold

Fun mentshn farglivert in kelt?

Who is true to our heritage

Ver iz getray tsu undzer yerushe

To drive out tyrants, despots

Fartraybn tiranen, despotn?

It's our obligation it's our promise

S'iz undzer khoyv, s'iz undzer parol

To liberate the light from the shadow

Tsu bafrayen di shayn fun dem shotn.