

איך גלויב...

Ikh gloyb... - I believe...

Composer: Tuvia Shlonsky, 1874 - 1928

Lyrics: based on a poem by Shaul Tchernichovsky (1875-1943)
Yiddish translation by Israel Jacob Schwartz (1885-1971)

לאך זיך אויס פון מײַנע טריימען.
לאך אינגעאנצן אויס פון מיר;
וואָס איך גלויב נאָך איז דעם מענטשן,
וואָס איך גלויב נאָך אויך איז דיר.

אוּזַיְנַן נְשָׁמָה לְעִכְּצָט נָאָךְ פֿרִיעָהִיט,
נֵיט צָום גָּלְדְּרָקָאלְבּ פֿאָרְשָׁקָאלְפּ;
יאָךְ, כִּיהָאָבּ גְּלוּבָן אֵין דעם מענטשן,
איּוֹ זַיְנַן גִּיסְט וּוָאָס טְרָאָצֶט אָוֹן שָׁאָפּט.

סְיוּוֹאָרְפּט דָּעַר גִּיסְט אָרָאָפּ דִּי קִיְּטָן,
הַיְּבָט דָּעַם מענטשן צָום הִימְל אָוֹף -
סְשָׁטָאָרְבּטּ פֿוֹן הַוּנְגָעָר נֵיט דָעַר בּוּעָר,
פֿרִיעָהִיט זַיְנַן גִּיסְט אָוֹן זָאָט דָעַר גּוֹף.

לאָךְ, וּוָאָס כִּיגְלוּבּ נָאָךְ אוֹיךְ אֵין פֿרִיעָהִיט;
גְּלוּבּ, עַס מַזְזַעַת אָהָרֶץ נָאָךְ זַיְנַן,
וּוָאָס טּוֹטְקָלָפּוֹן מִיטּ מִינְיָן הַאֲפָנוֹגָג,
שְׁפִירָט מִינְיָן גְּלִיק אָוֹן פֿאַילְטּ מִינְיָן פִּיְּנָן.

יאָךְ גְּלוּבּ אוֹיךְ אֵין דָעַר צּוּקוֹנוֹפּטּ,
כָּאָטְשָׁסִיאָזּ יְעַנְעַר טָאָגּ נָאָךְ וּוּיְיטּ -
טָאָגּ פּוֹן שְׁלוֹם צְחוּשָׁן פֿעַלְקָעָר
איּוֹן אַנְיִיעָר פֿרִיעָהִיטּ צִיְּיטּ.

אוּוִיכְבָּלְעָן וּוְעַט אוֹיךְ מִינְיָן פֿאָלְקּ דָאָן,
אוּוִיכְשָׁטְיָן וּוְעַט אַנְיִיעָר דָוּר -
וּוְעַט צְעַבְּרָעָכּ זַיְנַן קִיְּטָן
לִיכְטָן דָעַרְזָעָן, צְעַשְׁטָרָאָלְטּ אָוֹן קָלָאָר.

Lakh zikh oys fun mayne troymen.
Lakh ingantsn oys fun mir;
Vos ikh gloyb nokh in dem mentshn,
Vos ikh gloyb nokh oykh in dir.

Az mayn neshome lekhtst nokh frayheyt,
Nit tsum goldn-kalb farshklaft;
Yo, kh'hab gloybn in dem mentshn,
In zayn gayst vos trotst un shaft.

S'varft der gayst arop di keytn,
Heybt dem mentsh tsum himl uf-
s'shtarbt fun hunger nit der boyer,
Fray zayn gayst un zat der guf.

Lakh, vos kh'gloyb nokh oykh in frayshaft;
Gloyb, es muz a harts nokh zayn,
Vos tut klapn mit mayn hofnung,
Shpirt mayn glik un filt mayn payn.

Yo, ikh gloyb oykh in der tsukunft,
Khotsh s'iz yener tog nokh vayt -
Tog fun sholem tsvishn felker
In a nayer frayer tsayt.

Afblien vet oykh mayn folk dan,
Afshteyn vet a nayer dor -
Vet tsebrekhn zayne keytn
Likht derzen, tseshtralt un klor.

Laugh at my dreams.
Laugh at me;
That I still believe in mankind,
That I still believe in you.

My soul yearns for freedom,
Not enslaved to a golden-calf;
Yes, I believe in mankind,
In his spirit that strides forward and creates.

The spirit throws off the chains,
And raises man up to the heavens -
The worker will not die of hunger,
His spirit will be free and his body will be satisfied.

Laugh, that I still believe in freedom;
Believe, there must still be a heart,
That beats with my hope,
Understands my joy, and feel my pain.

Yes, I also believe in the future,
Even though that day may be far off -
The day of peace between nations
In a newer, freer time.

My people then will flourish,
A new generation will rise up,
And break its chains,
Glimpse the radiant and clear light.

Translation by Roger Noble:

עס וועט לעבן, ליבן, שאָפָן
איין זיין ערְד פֿאָרוֹאַרְצָלֶט, רֵיְן;
ニיט אַין צוּקוֹנֶט, נִיט אַין הִימְלָעָן,
ニיט גַּעֲנוֹג אִים גִּיסְטָן.

סִיוּעַט אַ נִי גַעֲזָנָג דָעַר דִּיכְתָּעָר
דָעַרְמָאַלְטָז זִינְגָעָן קָלָאָר אָוֹ נָאָצָ –
פָוּ מַיְן קָבָר זָאָל מָעוֹ רִישָׁן
דָאָן פֿאָר אִים אַ בְּלוּמְעַנְקָרָאָן.

Es vet lebn, libn, shafn
In zayn erd farvortslt, reyn;
Nit in tsukunft, nit in himlen,
Nit genug im gayst aleyn.

s'vet a nay gezang der dikhter
Dermolt zingen klor un gants –
Fun mayn kever zol men raysn
Dan far im a blumenkrants.

It will live, love and create
Rooted in its land;
Not in the future, not in heaven,
It is not enough in the spirit alone.

The poet will sing a new song
Then sing it clearly and completely.
And from my grave they will pluck a
garland for it.

Odessa, 1892.

אַדְעָס 1892

The musical score consists of two staves of music. The top staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are in Yiddish, with some Hebrew words like 'tshn' and 'dir'. The bottom staff continues the melody with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are also in Yiddish, with some Hebrew words. The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and some notes have horizontal stems extending across multiple measures.

It is called ‘Ikh glaub’ (I believe) - and it’s a Yiddish translation of an Israeli song ‘Sachki sachki’ based on a poem written by Tchernikovsky - he wrote it in Odessa in 1892. (Composer: Tuvia Shlonsky, 1874 - 1928). It was once considered for the national anthem of Israel because it was more inclusive than Hatikva... The Yiddish translation is by the poet Y.Y. Shwartz (1957?).

This is a link to a lovely Hebrew version that was used as the backdrop to a political demonstration:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6FQxm_xiKU