

On a Summer Night - In an Zumernakht / Oy a Zumerdike Nakht

From the Ruth Rubin Archive:

Sung by Ida Tomchin, Toronto, 1956. Variants Cahan, *Yidishe folkslider mit melodies*, Songs #208-209; Slobin, ed., *Collections and Writings of Moshe Beregovski* 344-345. St.

Flowing

In a zu - mer - nakht, _____ Di nakht iz ge - ven a - zoy sheyn. _____ Di le -
vo - ne zi tut zikh der - vay - te - rn, Di zun, _____ zi heybt shoy'n oyf - geyn. _____

From M. Beregovsky's Jewish Musical Folklore 29. Oj, Di Zumerdike Nakht

1. Oj, di zu - mer - di - ke nakht, ma - me, di shey - ne,
ven a - le men - tshn, zey tu - en a - rum - geyn...
oy, di le - vo - ne, zi hot zikh shoy'n der - vay - tert, un di
zun heybt shoy'n on a - roys - tsu - geyn. Oy, di le - / geyn.

Polina Shepherd's tune, 2014

Oy, di zu - mer - di - ke nakht, li - be di shey - ne. Ven a - le men - tshn, zey
tu - en a - rum - geyn... Oy, di le - vo - ne, zi hot zikh shoy'n der - vay -
tert un di zun heybt shoy'n on a - roys - tzu - geyn. Oy, di le - geyn. _____

Beregovsky:

1. Oy, di zumerdike nakht, libe di sheyne,
Ven ale mentshn, zey tuen arumgeyn...
Oy, di levone, zi hot zikh shoy'n dervaytert
Un di zun heybt shoy'n on aroystsugeyn.

2. Oy, af a benkele zaynen mir gezesn.
Un gezesn zaynen mir beyde tif fartrakht.
Un vifl taynes mir hobn angetaynet
Un keyn ende hobn mir nokh nit gemakht.

3 Vos zhe far an ende, oy, vestu mit mir makhn,
Ikh bin a yingele, vos ikh darf tsum zhereb shteyn,
Oy, un keyn knasmol, oy, kon ikh mit dir nit makhn,
Bist a klug meydele, du darfst aleyn farshetyn.

4. Oy, du gi'zhe mir, lube, s'rekhte hentele,
Oy, du shver mir tsu, tsi host mikh emes lib,
Un du shver mir tsu, tsi du vest mikh nit farbaytn,
Oy, biskele dem fintstern grub.

5. Oy, mayn hentele ken ikh dir gebn,
Un ikh shver dir tsu, az ikh hob dikh emes lib,
Un ikh shver dir tsu, az ikh vel dikh nit farbaytn,
Oe, biskele dem fintstern grub.

Ruth Rubin:

I. In a zumernakht,
Di nakht iz geven azoy sheyn.
Di levone zi tut zikh dervaytern,
Di zun, zi heybt shoy'n oyfgeyn.

2. Dortn in hoyf af der prizbe,
Zitsn tsvey mentshn fartrakht.
Fun zeyere oygn tut treyn gisn,
Fun di reyde vos zey hobn forgebrakht.

(She) 3. Lebn, mayn zis tayer lebn,
Fir mir shoy'n opet aheym.
Vifl mir hobn tsetaynet,
Keyn breg ken ikh alts nit dergeyn.

(He) 4. Vos far a breg vilstu dergeyn?
Az ikh darf nokh tsum priziv shteyn!
Keyn knas-mol kenen mir nit shraybn,
Dos darfstu aleyn gut farshteyn.

(She) 5. To gib zhe mir a neyder,
Az du host mikh emes lib!
Un shver az mir'n zikh keyn mol nit sheydn
Biz undzer fintstern grib!

(He) 6. A neyder to vel ikh dir gebn,
Far got fun himl aleyn,
Er vet undz keyn mol nit sheydn,
Dos darfstu aleyn gut farshteyn.

(He) 7. Mir veln lebn gliklekh,
Un mir veln beyde zayn raykh,
Azoy vi di fish in vaser,
Azoy vi der zamd arum taykh!

On a summer night,
The night was so beautiful,
The moon was fading away
And the sun was beginning to rise.

In the courtyard on a stoop,
Two people were sitting deep in thought.
Tears poured from their eyes,
As they pondered their conversation.

Dear, precious, sweet love,
Do take me home.
Although we have talked and talked,
We've not come to any resolution.

What solution can we reach,
When I must report to the army.
We cannot become betrothed just now,
This you must understand.

Then give me your vow,
That you truly will love me,
And swear that we will never part
Until the dark grave!

My vow then, I will give you,
Before God and Heaven,
And He will never separate us!
This you must understand.

And we will live happily,
And we will both be wealthy,
Like the fish in the sea,
And the sand on the riverbank.