The Sun in the West

ZUN IN MAYREV

Lyrics by Yoysef (Joseph) Rolnik (1879-1955), part of Der Dikhter un Zayn Lid (1961)
Music by Vladimir Heifetz (1893 – 1970)

Y. Rolnik - Yiddish poet. Born near Mir (Belorussia) into a miller's family, Rolnick was indelibly marked by the landscape of his youth. He emigrated to New York in 1899, debuted as a Yiddish poet in Forverts in 1900, and returned to Europe in 1901, re-emigrating to New York in 1907.

V. Heifetz was educated at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, and accompanied Feodor Chaliapin on a tour of Russia. In the USA, he conducted the orchestra at the Schenley Theatre in Pittsburgh and arranged for The Don Cossack Chorus… also composed for films, radio and television.

Zun in mayrev zetst zikh gikh.
Vos darf nokh a mentsh vi ikh?
Lider, kleyne lider. Li li li lider.

Groyse shtet un naye lender –
Bin a durkhgeyer, a fremder.
Noent zaynen lider. Li li li lider.

Nit faranen oyf der erd
Nokh a freyd, vi di vos vert
Oyfgevekt fun lider. Li li li lider.

Ver veyst morgndikn tog?
Lider – alts vos ikh farmog –
Zoln blaybn lider. Li li li lider.

The sun in the West sets quickly,
What else does someone like me need? Poems, little poems. (songs)

Large cities and new countries –
I’m a passerby, a stranger.
The poems are close to me.

There is not on the earth
Another joy as the one that is
Awakened by poems.

Who knows what tomorrow will be?
Poems(songs) are all I have.
May the poems (songs) live.