

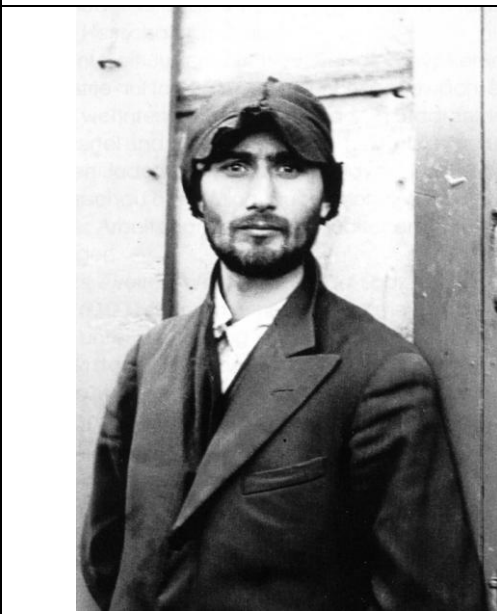
„Tsen brider sajnen mir gewesen“ Role-Cards



Slomil (46), distributes and deals with beer in Wilna

You owned a horse and a carriage ... food was rare, and in a cold winter your horse died. You had to sell your carriage and stop your beer business. Your children ask you, why the stable of the horse is empty.

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Nathan (30) from Lodz, unemployed

Once in a while you worked for a factory of glue in Lodz by gathering bones from farmers. You are not married, but young girls make eyes at you. But, as soon as they hear what a poor guy you are - it is hopeless! Some weeks ago the slaughterery closed, from where you got your best bones.

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Mischa Zelig (45) from Slonim, forwarding agent at Krakau

Formerly you carried freight from the railroad station and distributed it to factories, but now you are glad if there are some small packages. Most Jews do not own big factories any more, they just trade on the road with small things. Your mother and the two sisters who used to help you sit at home and wonder what you are doing.

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Dowid (55) from Lemberg, deals with metal goods

Your best business was to sell and trade lead. But meanwhile nobody uses lead for isolating windows or things like that. This seems to be too expensive for most Jews. That's why, you are always looking for new things to deal with. But you have no connections or friends who can help you.

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Mojsche (70) from Slonim, deals with linen goods

Dealing linen used to be the best of all! People used to sew their own clothes. But today only old clothes are fixed, no new once produced. Thus, there is not demand of linen, for the good linen you used to sell. So you try to deal with old clothes. But this is not enough to heat your room in winter time – oh my poor cough and rheumatism!

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Shimele (39) from Mukachevo, always on the road

... always, also in winter! On the road with fine stockings, you carry in your case from Mukachevo to Krakau and from there to Warschau. But, carrying the stockings makes them not better or more worthy. All dealers like you are replaced by companies which transport with automobiles.

The only good thing in your life: you have no family and no children who ask at the night "What are we going to eat today?"

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Abraham (60) from Tarnopol, deals with turnips

To deal with turnips was a very hard job. You always had to carry extremely heavy sacks. That's why you got trouble with your back. And that was it! First you tried to engage one of your children, but this was not good for them either. Meanwhile they have all moved from Tarnopol. What will you do now?

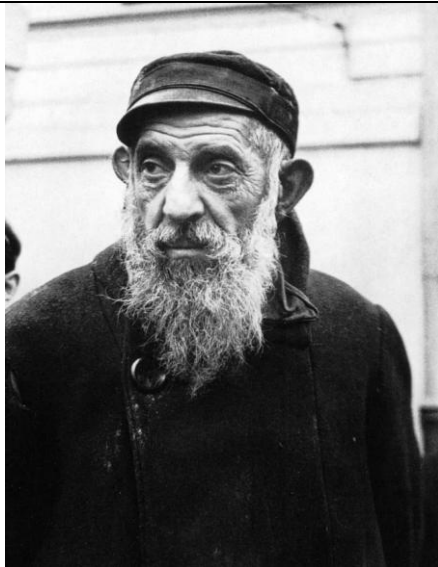
Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Jisroel (34) from Kishniew, deals with hay

You started to collect hay and sell it at the market of Kishniew when you were 12 years old. After you got married, this kind of trade was sufficient because your wife earned money by knitting socks. But today, nobody wants to buy hand made socks, because they are too expensive. And since you have a little daughter dealing with hay seems to be without any perspective.

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Itsik (51) from Warschau, baker

You have learned bakery, indeed even pastry cook. But nowadays people have not enough money to buy fine bakery or biscuits. They are glad to have enough money for bread. Thus you had to sell your bakery an start to deal with bread and cakes from the twon. But this doesn't seem to be enough for earning the living, at least your old mother says, that you always knit your brow – and, you always have an empty feeling in your stomach.

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!



Tewje (63) from Brody, called the candle-man

Your trade was to deal with oil for candles. But nowadays everybody has electric light or even no light at all.

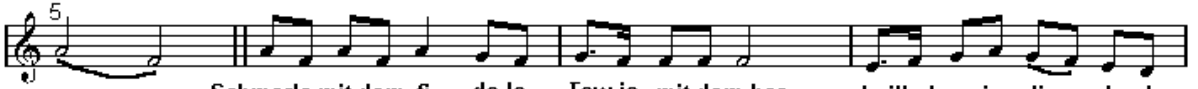
That's why the light in your life turned off, too. You still own a thick coat against coldness in winter. But this is not sufficient to heat your room at home. Thus, your cough will not get better. And in the last two years even in spring time the cough didn't stop.

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas

„Tsen Brider sajnen mir gewesen“



bri-der saj-nen mir ge-we-sen hob'n mir gehandelt mit , ejner is von uns gestorb'n, is geblib'n



Oj! Schmerle mit dem fi- de-le Tew-je mit dem bas, schpil'sche mir a li-----de - le



oi--fn mit-n gas. Oj oj oj oj oj, oj oj oj oj oj! schpil'sche mir a li-----de - le



oi--fn mit-n gas.

The trade goods:

tsen (10)	lajn (linen)
najn (9)	fracht (freight)
acht (8)	ribn (turnips)
sibn (7)	gebeks (bakery)
seks (6)	schtrimpf (stockings)
finf (5)	bir (beer)
fir (4)	hej (hay)
draj (3)	blaj (lead)
zwey (2)	bejner (bones)
ejn (1)	licht (light)

brider sajnen mir gewesen
hob'n mir gehandelt mit
ejner is von uns gestorb'n,
is geblib'n

brothers we have been
and have dealt with
one of us died,
there were left only

Schmerel mit'n fidele, Tewje mit'n bas,
schpil'sche mir a lidele oif'n mit'n gas!

Schmerel with the fid(e)dle
Tewje with the bas,
play for me a little song
right within the street

only the last brother will sing:

Ejn bruder bin ich mir gewesen,
hob ich mir gehandelt mit licht,
schterb'n tu ich jeden tog,
wajl zu esn hob ich nit.

One brother, I was left behind,
and still have dealt with light,
I will die just ev'ry day
'cause nothing is to eat.