

ARBETER FROYEN fun Dovid Edelshtadt

arbeter froyen, laydnde froyen!
froyen, vos shmakhtn in hoyz un fabrik
vos shteyt ir fun vaytn? vos helft ir nit boyen
dem templ fun frayhayt, fun mentshlekhn glik?

Worker, women, suffering women,
Women who languish in house and factory,
Why do you stand distant, why do'nt you help build
The temple of freedom, of human happiness.

helft undz trogn dem baner dem roytn,
forverts, durkh shturem, durkh finstere nekht!
helft undz vorhayt un likht tsu farshpreytn,
tsvishn umvisende, elente knekht!

Help us carry the red banner,
Forward, through storm, through dark nights,
Help us spread truth and light
Among unknowing, lonely slaves.

helft undz di velt fun ir shmuts derheybn!
ales opfern, vos undz iz lib,
kemfn tsuzamen, vi mekhtike leybn
far frayhayt, far glaykhhayt, far undzer printsip!

Help us to raise up the world from its squalor,
To achieve all that is dear to us,
Struggling together like powerful lions,
For freedom, for equality, for our principles.

nit eyn mol hobn shoyn nobele froyen,
gemakht tsitern henker un tron,
zey hobn getsaygt, az men ken zey fartroyen,
in biterstn shturem di heylike fon.

Not just once have noble women already
Caused hangman and throne to tremble,
They have shown that they can be entrusted,
In the bitterest storm with the holy flag.

dermont zikh az ayere ruishe shvester,
dermordet far frayhayt fun tsar dem vampir,
farmatert biz toyt in di shteynerne nester
fargrobn in shney in dem vistn sibir.

Remember that your Russian sisters,
Who were murdered seeking freedom from the tsar, the vampire,
Worn to death in the stone "nests",
buried in snow in desolate Siberia.

gedenkt ir di nemen, di heylike nemen:
perovskaya, helfman, ginzburg un nokh
toyznter vos flegn zikh shemen
tsu trogn gehorkhzam dem shkklafnyokh?

Remember the names, the holy names:
Perovskaya, Helfman, Ginzburg and more,
Thousands who used to be shamed
To obediently carry the yoke of slavery.

zey zaynen in shturem zo heldish geshtanen,
getrogn in finsternish hofenung un likht!
rakhe genumen fun vilde tiranen,
shtolts gekukt dem toyt in gezikht!

They stood so heroically in the storm,
In the darkness they held their hope and light,
Taking revenge on savage tyrants,
Proudly looking death in the face.

gedenkt ir zey? dokh zol zeyer lebn
bagaystern aykh! ir zolt mit derfolg
lernen un denken, kemfn un shtrebn
tsu frayhayt un glik far dem arbeter folk!

Do you remember them? Thus should their lives
Inspire you so that you should succeed,
To learn and to think, to struggle and to strive,
For freedom and happiness for working people.

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arbeter=worker • froy=woman, froyen=pl.
• laydn=to suffer • shmakhtn=to languish •
hoyz=house • fabrik=factory • shteyen=to stand
• vayt=far, distant • helfn=to help • boyen=to
build • templ=temple • frayhayt=freedom •
mentshlekh=human (adj) • glik=happiness
trogn=to carry • baner=banner • royt=red
• forverts=forward • durkh=through •
shturem=storm • finster=dark • nakht=night,
nekht=pl. • vorhayt=truth • likht=light •
farshpreytn=to spread • tsvishn=between,
among • umvisend=unknowing • elent=lone(y) •
knekht=slave(s)
velt=world • shmuts=dirt • derheybn=to
elevate • ales=all, everything • opfern=to
achieve • lib=love, value • kemfn=to struggle
• tsuzamen=together • mekhtik=powerful •
leyb(n)=lion(s) • glaykh=equal • undzer=our •
printsip=principals
eyn mol=once • shoyn=already • nobel=noble •
makhn=to make, to do, gemakht=pp. • tsitern=to
tremble • henker=executioner, hangman, pl. •
tron=throne • tsaygn=vayzn=to show, getsaygt=pp.
• ken=can, to be able to • fartroyen=to trust •
heylik=holy • fon=flag
dermonen=to remember • ayer=your •
shvester=sister(s) • dermordn=to murder •
farmatern=to wear out • biz=until • toyt=death •
shteyn=stone • fargrobn=to bury • shney=snow •
vist=empty, desolate
gedenkn=to remember • nom=name, nemen=pl.
• nokh=still, more • toyzent(er)=thousand(s)
• flegn=used to (helper verb for continuing
action in the past) • zikh shemen=to be shy,
ashamed • gehorkhzam=obedient, compliant •
shklafnyokh=slave-yoke
held=hero, heldish=heroic • geshtanen=pp. of
shteyen • getrogn=pp. of trogn • hofnung=hope
• rakhe=vengeance • nemen=to take, genumen=pp.
• vild=wild • tiran(en)=tyrant(s) • shtolts=proud •
kukn=to look, gekukt=pp. • gezikht=face
dokh=thus • zoln=should (inf) • zeyer=their •
lebn=live • gayst=spirit, bagaystern=to inspire •
derfolgn=to succeed, derfolg=success • lernen=to
learn, teach • denken=to think • shtrebn=strive,
aspire