

UN DU AKERST

Text: Chaim Zhitlowsky (based on a German poem by Georg Hewegh)

And you plow and you sow
UN DU AKERST, UN DU ZEYST,

and you feed and you sew
UN DU FITERST, UN DU NEYST,

and you hammer and you spin
UN DU HAMERST, UN DU SHPINST,

Tell (me), my people, what you earn
ZOG, MAYN FOLK, VOS DU FARDINST.

Where is your table set
NOR VU IZ DAYN TISH GEGREYT?

Where is your holiday clothing
NOR VU IZ DAYN YONTEF KLEYD?

Where is your sharp sword
NOR VU IZ DAYN SHARFE SHVERD?

What fortune is for you destined
VELKHES GLIK IZ DIR BASHERT?

Man of work wake up
MAN FUN ARBET, OYFGEVAKHT,

and recognize your great power
UN DERKEN DAYN GROYSE MAKHT.

Whenever your strong arm wants (to)
VEN DAYN SHTARKE HANT NOR VIL

stand all wheels still
SHTEYEN ALE REDER SHTIL.

You plow and you sow, and you feed and you sew, and you hammer and you spin. Tell me, my people, what do you earn? Where is your table set? Where are your holiday clothes? Where is your sharp sword? What is your destiny? Worker, awake and recognize your great power! Whenever you want to, all wheels will come to a standstill.