

4. *A beys-oylem* / A cemetery

<i>Der moyer</i>	the wall
<i>oyf der zayt</i>	on this side
<i>un oyf der zayt</i>	and on this side
<i>Oyf beyde zaytn</i>	on both sides.
<i>Oyf der zayt</i> <i>a keyver</i>	on this side
a grave	<i>oyf der zayt</i> <i>a vistenish</i>
on this side	a wasteland.
<i>Der moyer</i> <i>a beys-oylem</i> <i>oyf der zayt</i>	<i>un oyf der zayt.</i>

5. Kashes/Questions

<i>In velkhn yor?</i>	in what year
<i>Mit vemen?</i>	with whom?
<i>Di sibes?</i>	the causes?
<i>Der rezultat?</i>	the outcome?
<i>di geshikhte</i>	the history
<i>fun der milkhome</i>	of the war
<i>fun dem sholem</i>	of the peace
<i>fun di lebn geblibene</i>	of the survivors
<i>tsvishn fremde</i>	among strangers
<i>oyf der zayt</i>	on this side
among ghosts	<i>tsvishn meysim</i>
on this side.	<i>oyf der zayt</i>

6. *Zi shemt zikh*/She is ashamed

Zi shemt zikh.

She has forgotten
alts fargesn

forgotten it all.

Whom can I speak to?
she wonders.

<i>di mame</i>	the mother
<i>der tate</i>	the father
<i>di bobbe</i>	the grandmother
<i>der zeyde</i>	the grandfather
<i>di oves</i>	the ancestors

alts
alts fargesn
forgotten it all

di gantse mishpokhe
the entire family

dos folk
the people

Mit vemen
ken ikh redn?
Whom can I speak to?

di meysim farshteyen
mir afile nit
even the ghosts
do not understand me.

7. *In der fremd* / Among strangers

Vi azoy?

how
she wonders
should I speak?

Velkhe verter

which words
should I use
in der fremd

among strangers?

Zog

bloyz dem emes

speak
only the truth

kayn lign nit

no lies.

Zi gedenkt

She remembers

di lektsyes

the lessons

di printsipn

the principles

un zi shvaygt

and she remains

silent.

8. *Ditsung* / The tongue

Zi shvaygt.

Di verter feln ir
she lacks the words
and all that she can force

is sound
unformed sound:

a
der klang
the sound

o
dos vort
the word

u
di tsung
the tongue

o
dos loshn
the language

e
di tfern
the tears.

9. *Di rayze aheym* / The journey home

Zi flit

she flies

vi a foygl

like a bird

vi a mes

like a ghost

Zi flit

iber di berg

over the mountains

ibern yam

over the sea.

Tsurik

tsurik back

back

In der fremd

among strangers

iz ir heym

is her home.

Do

here

ot do

right here

muz zi lebn

she must live.

Ire zikhroynes

her memories

will become monuments

ire zikhroynes

will cast shadows.

Etlekhe verter oyf mame-loshn/
A few words in the mother tongue

lemoshl: for example

di kurve the whore
a woman who acknowledges her passions

di yidene the Jewess the Jewish woman
ignorant overbearing
let's face it: every woman is one

di yente the gossip the busybody
who knows what's what
and is never caught off guard

di lezbianke the one with
a roommate though we never used
the word

dos vaybl the wife
or the little woman

in der heym at home
where she does everything to keep
yidishkayt alive

yidishkayt a way of being
Jewish always arguable

in mark where she buys
di kartofl un khalah
(yes, potatoes and challah)

di kartofl the material counter-
part of *yidishkayt*

mit tsibeles with onions
that bring *trern tsu di oygn*
tears to her eyes when she sees
how little it all is
veyniker un veyniker
less and less

di khalah braided
vi ir hor far der khasene
like her hair before the wedding
when she was *aza sheyn meyd*
such a pretty girl

di lange shvartse hor
the long black hair
di lange shvartse hor

a froy kholmt a woman
dreams *ir ort oyf der velt*
her place in this world
un zi hot moyre and she is afraid
so afraid of the words

kurve
yidene
yente
lezbianke
vaybl

zi kholmt she dreams
un zi hot moyre and she is afraid
ir ort
di velt
di heym
der mark

a meydل kholmt
a kurve kholmt
a yidene kholmt
a yente kholmt
a lezbianke kholmt

a vaybl kholmt
di kartofl
di khalah

yidishkayt

zi kholmt
di hor
di lange shvartse hor

zi kholmt
zi kholmt
zi kholmt