

The Magic Tale

Adapted from Shalom Aleichem

Play no.23

Opening show: 30/04/1934

Creative team

Staged by: B. Tchemerinsky

Drawing by : M. Mokady

Music by: Fordhaus Ben-Tzissy

Dance by: F. Ljubitz

Scenary by: J. Rubinstein

Cast

Shimmon Eli, a tailor: B. Tchemerinsky

Zippeh-Beileh-Reizeh: T. Yudelevitz

Haim Hannah, the "Melamed" tutor: A. Baratz

Temeh Gittel, his wife: N. Schein

Elig, schoolchildren: H. Handler

Zelig, schoolchildren: P. Zjubitz

Dodi , innkeeper: M. Genesis

Rabbi of Kozodoyevka: H. Amital

"Nani": P.Ljubitz

Hansel cobbler: A. Baratz

Haim Aryeh, hatter: H. Amital

Announcer

Shimmon Eli, a poor tailor and his wife Zippeh-Beileh-Reizeh are overburdened with children and starving in penury. All their days they had hoped to see a Nanny-goat about their house. To procure Nanny, they stint and save up every farthing, and when the wife grows tired of waiting and impatient she annoys her husband till he decides to pawn his Sabbath coat. Adding the loaned monies to his savings he takes up the pile of money and goes off to the city Kozodoyevka to buy a Nanny-goat.

Shimmon Eli proceeds on his journey. It's a warm bright summer day. The pure refreshing air, the fragrance of verdure and flowers, the breath of fields and twitter of birds have an overwhelming effect upon him. He inhales freely and tastes the supreme bliss of Paradise. Everything encourages him and arouses in him the desire to sing, praise and glorify the Creator of this excellent world.

On arriving at Kozodoyevka, Shimmon Eli comes to the house of Rab Haim Hannah the "Melamed" (tutor) and his wife Temeh-Gittel who possess nanny-goats renowned among the Jews of Kaarilievka. There he finds the tutor occupied in explaining texts of the Gemarrah to his students. He persuades the wife to sell him one of her Nannies. They bargain a good while, till finally both parties come to an arrangement. Shimmon Eli pays her the amount due and gets his Nanny-goat. Nanny at first refuses to follow him but he drags her along by force and goes off.

On the road Shimmon Eli and Nanny stop at the "Oak Inn" situated between Kozodoyevka and Kaarilievka. The innkeeper Rab Dodi is kinsman of Shimmon Eli's. Each is ashamed of the other as his inferior, and whenever they meet, reproaches are amply reciprocated. There he comes across his townfolk, artisans on their way to the fair, who have stopped at the inn to restore their spirits with a goblet of wine. Shimmon Eli having gulped down two or three goblets of wine sets his tongue loose touching the honour of the innkeeper, Rab Dodi. The latter schemes to avenge himself and exchange the Nanny-goat procured at Kozodoyevka for a Billy-goat of his barn. Shimmon Eli unaware of the rick innocently brings home - a billy-goat. The wife realizing her husband had been detained becomes anxious about calamities that might have overtaken him. Probably his money has been stolen – and he himself thrust into some pit or other. Admit these musings Shimmon Eli – to his wife's delight – returns and overwhelms her with his account expanding on the virtues of "Nanny". The joy is boundless.

All set to preparations for the first Milk-meal. But – to rack and ruin! Zippeh-Beileh-Reizeh returns with the bowl – empty. A storm of cursing and chastising befell Shimmon Eli. On recovering his senses decides to return immediately to Rabi Haim Hannah the "Melamed" and his wife to vent all his anger to them.

On his way, Shimmon Eli meets the innkeeper Rab Dodi and tells him the whole affair. The innkeeper acts the "Innocent", consoles him and invites him to stay over at the inn, while secretly contriving to exchange Billy for Nanny once more.

Shimmon Eli arrives with his own Nanny at Kozodoyevka. All the people are assembled in the Rabbi's house – and among them one of Rab Haim Hannah's students whom Shimmon Eli had persuaded to give evidence in his favour. After long quarrels and disputes, Rab Haim Hannah's wife draws Nanny into the Rabbi's house, takes a bowl, and in the presence of all there, milks the Nanny-goat. The Rabbi declares that Shimmon Eli must reconcile the "Melamed" and his wife by asking their pardon: he requests him further to order drinks – to settle the matter with "Peace upon Israel". Shimmon Eli returns joyously, and on the way Rab Dodi once again cunningly exchanges Nanny for Billy.

Shimmon Eli again brings home – Billy. He enters with full dignity intending to pay his wife her due deserts. While rendering an exaggerated account of all his adventures Zippeh-Beileh-Reizeh seizes a bowl, rushes out to the passage to milk the "Nanny-Goat", Immediately – she returns in a fury, throws the vessels at her husband's head, sending him and his "Nanny-Goat" out of the sight.

Shimmon Eli wanders about his so-called "Nanny" during the night. Both are desolated and Shimmon Eli is wrapped in gloomy thought. He conceives his "Nanny" to be an enchanted creature, or rejected soul reincarnated in this wretched body. At midnight, leading along his "Nanny", he comes to the market-place and sits down in a corner. There he falls asleep and dreams a stranger dream. His Nanny conjures up a magic tale for him. She presents to him Rabbi Haim Hannah the Melamed and his wife Temeh-Gittel – to whom he is passionately attached. His wife Zippeh-Beileh-Reizeh attacks both him and other enviously. Even Haim – Hannah's students come to chide him and his "Nanny". He awakes – terrified and alarmed and raises a cry. The townsfolk set out in pursuit of Shimmon Eli and "Nanny".
As o the End – May neither we nor you ever construe an End – as was the End of that Tailor.