

Das Tighele (Romania)

Das Tighele (dahs TSIH-geh-leh) is a non-partner dance from the Yiddish culture. It was collected by Nicholaas Hilferink who reported discovering quite by chance a group of women doing this dance in an old synagogue. The title means "little goat." The song relates a story about children who release a goat that was bought by their father with two coins to slaughter for the Passover meal. Some scholars believe that freedom for the goat is a symbol for freedom of the Jews. The origin of the song ("Dus Ladl Funem Tzigale" in Yiddish) can be traced back to the 16th century. The lyrics are in Yiddish with some German slang expressions, and the refrain (chorus) consists of an Aramaic word ("Hadgadyu") that means "an only kid" referring to the imprisoned goat; it can also mean "prison." Some interpret this word as a metaphorical reference to Israel which was ruled by the Turks when the song was written (Encyclopaedia Judaica). The music was likely performed by the orchestra of the Barasheum Theater of Bucharest with the singer being one of this theater's soloists. Hilferink taught this dance on two occasions in southern California in September 1996 (using the name "Das Lidfunen Tighele" -- Song of the little goat), and at the University of the Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1998. This description is based on the original in the Stockton camp syllabus by Machi and Nico Hilferink.

Cassette: Romanian Dances by N. Hilferink -- Stockton 1998, Band A/7. 2/4 meter

Formation: Mixed lines with hands joined in W-position, facing right of center.

Steps and Styling: The walking steps are danced in a relaxed manner.

Stamps: The stamps in Figs I and II are done on the full foot and with minimal noise. However, when the dance was taught in southern California, the stamps were done with more emphasis, so some variation here is apparently acceptable. When stamping bend the knee of the supporting foot on the upbeat and then on the beat straighten that leg and bring the stamping foot down.

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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6 meas INTRODUCTION No action (start with vocal).

I. TRAVELLING WITH STAMPS

- 1 Travelling in LOD, step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R while turning to face ctr (ct 1); quietly stamp L on full ft, no wt (ct 2).
- 3 Quietly stamp L again, no wt (ct 1); step back on L (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct &).
- 4 Step fwd and slightly to R on L (ct 1); quietly stamp R, no wt (ct 2).
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

II. TRAVELLING SIDEWARDS

- 1-2 Facing ctr and travelling in LOD, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R with slight knee bend (ct 2). Repeat.
- 3 Repeat meas 1-2 at double speed (cts 1,&,2,&).
- 4 Step on R to R with slight knee bend (ct 1); quietly double stamp with L, no wt (cts &, 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

III. TURNING (instrumental)

- 1 Still facing ctr and travelling R (LOD), step on R to R turning one half CW to face out (ct 1); touch ball of L to the side (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L to L, turning CCW one half to face ctr (ct 1); touch ball of R to the side (ct 2).
- 3 Moving in LOD, make one complete turn CW, stepping R, L (cts 1, 2).
- 4 Facing ctr, step to R on R (ct 1); touch ball of L beside R (ct 2).
- 5-6 Repeat meas 3-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Sequence: Figs I, II, I, II, III;
repeat all;
I, I (meas 1-8 only), II.

Lyrics (original transcription and translation is by O. Sladek and E. Gertel):

The five verses (see below) are sung with Fig I, and the refrain corresponds to Fig II.

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| 1 | Der tate hut gekoift a tzigale
Mit yuren lang tzurick.
In Hadgadyu es farshpart, gebinden oif a shtrick
Stroirig s'voint die tzigale fun die zun is zayt.

Zimmer zayt es nisht kayn gruz, in vinter nisht kayn shnay. | The father bought a little goat,
many years ago.
In prison it was put, tied with a rope.
Sadly the little goat lives there without the sun
to see.
In summer it doesn't see any grass, in winter
not any snow. |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Refrain: Hadgadyu, hadgadyu

An only kid (goat),

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|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. | Zegt mine bruder "Itsik, heir, vie azoi der lost es Got?"

"Iz dus nisht die tzigale dus veissinke a shut?"
Zeg ich "Lutik, bist gerecht un nisht lang gebrucht
Iz geven die velten ven a shayne vet men noch." | Says my brother "Issac, listen, how does God
allow this?"
"Is this little goat to not know of its destiny?"
I say, "Lutik you are right, and not long ago
It was a beautiful world then." |
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Refrain: Hadgadyu,

3. Der tate--er shluft, dee mame shluft, shluft dus ganze huoiz. Father he sleeps, mother is asleep, the whole house is sleeping.
Firen mir fun dem Hadgadyu die tzigale aruois. We lead the little goat out of its prison.
Mit firen by dee hermales, dee velt, dee veiss un dee grois We lead it by the horns, the world, the white and the gray.
Un mir luzen es aloyn; dus zugen mir nisht ois. And we leave it alone; then we say nothing.

Refrain: Hadgadyu,

4. Pesach, dee ershte Seder nacht, dee tzigale is nisht du. Passover, the first Seder night, the kid is gone.
Zegt der tate "Itzik, dee?" Zeg ich "Abaravu." Father says "Well Issac?" I say, What are you saying (implying)?
Zegt der tate "Nu debei." Zegt er cuperdee gevenn. Father says "Out with the truth." We say we have been (looked) everywhere.
Zin far a yuren --pesach tzeit -- dee tzigale nisht gezen. It's a year since the last Passover that the kid has not been seen.

Refrain: Hadgadyu,

5. Der tate maynt, dee mame vaynt, an kayner vays nisht vu Father thinks, mother weeps, and no one knows
Sind fun den Hadgadyu iz dus shayn nisht du. [Repeat] How the imprisoned kid escaped. [Repeat]
Dee baviza is dus tzigale si shpringt arum in feld Where now the kid is jumping around in the field,
Un hut annua fun der zun un fun der gantze velt. [Repeat] And has the pleasure from the sun and from the whole world. [Repeat]

Refrain: Hadgadyu,