

If I Were A Rich Man

from The Fiddler on the Roof

"Oh, Lord, you made many, many poor people
I realize, of course, it's no shame to be poor
But it's no great honor either!
So, what would have been so terrible if I had a small
fortune?"

If I were a rich man
Ya ba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dum
All day long, I'd biddy biddy bum
If I were a wealthy man

I wouldn't have to work hard
Ya ba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dum
If I were a biddy biddy rich idle-diddle-didle-didle man

I'd build a big, tall house with rooms by the dozen
Right in the middle of the town
A fine tin roof with real wooden floors below
There would be one long staircase just going up
And one even longer coming down
And one more leading nowhere, just for show

I'd fill my yard with chicks and turkeys and geese and
ducks for the town to see and hear
Squawking just as noisily as they can

And each loud of the "gee", be it "gow", be it "geh", be it
"guh"

Would land like a trumpet on the ear
As if to say, "Here lives a wealthy man"

If I were a rich man
Ya ba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dum
All day long, I'd biddy biddy bum
If I were a wealthy man

I wouldn't have to work hard
Ya ba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dum
If I were a biddy biddy rich idle-diddle-didle-didle man

I see my wife, my Goldie, looking like a rich man's wife
With a proper double-chin
Supervising meals to her heart's delight
I see her putting on airs and strutting like a peacock
Oy, what a happy mood she's in
Screaming at the servants, day and night

The most important men in town would come to fawn on
me!

They would ask me to advise them like a Solomon the
Wise

"If you please, Reb Tevye..."

"Pardon me, Reb Tevye..."

Posing problems that would cross a rabbi's eyes!

Yada dee dah dah, yada dah dah, yada dah dah, dah

And it won't make one bit of difference if I answer right
or wrong

When you're rich, they think you really know!

If I were rich, I'd have the time that I lack to sit in the
synagogue and pray

And maybe have a seat by the Eastern wall

And I'd discuss the holy books with the learned men,
seven hours every day

And that would be the sweetest thing of all

If I were a rich man

Ya ba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dum

All day long, I'd biddy biddy bum

If I were a wealthy man

I wouldn't have to work hard

Ya ba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dibba dum

Lord, who made the lion and the lamb

You decreed I should be what I am

Would it spoil some vast eternal plan

If I were a wealthy man?