

5. Mayn heym in Ventvort strit – My Home in Wentworth Street

Lyrics: Anon, Streetsong. Singer: Raymond Kalman

Wentworth Street in Whitechapel was also known as “the Lane”. It was part of the daily fruit and veg market, perpendicular to the Sunday market Petticoat Lane. This song was remembered by Raymond Kalman, who did not speak Yiddish, but learned it from his uncle. The transliteration is not in standard Yiddish or entirely grammatically correct. I have maintained some of the dialect in the transliteration but changed some words slightly, which Raymond may have mis-remembered.

Mayn heym in Ventvort strit
dort iz mir zeyer git
mi shtey oyf in der fri
un mi trink a kapati.

Di luft iz zeyer frish
fun di farshtunkene fish
keyner fregt undz nisht farvos
mir haltn tsi der noz.

Dort shteyt Yidl mit zayn fidl
un shpilt a melody.
Es iz mir git, es iz mir git
in mayn heym in Wentwort strit.

My home in Wentworth Street
It's really good for me there
I get up in the morning
And drink a cup of tea.

The air is very fresh
From the stinking fish
Nobody asks us why
We're holding our noses

There stands Yidl with his fiddle
And plays a melody
It's good for me, it's good for me
In my home in Wentworth Street.