

## The *Shtetl* is Burning ...

*Brothers - there is a fire in  
town;  
Our whole shtetl is burning,  
Black winds are raging there,  
Flames of destruction are  
blazing;  
No trace of it remains,  
It is consumed by fire;  
And you wring your hands,  
Without offering assistance,  
Without putting out the  
flaming blaze –  
The town's fire.*

*Brothers – Help, fire!  
The hour, Heaven forbid, is  
nigh,  
For the flames persist,  
They will destroy all of us here;  
Only the remnants of walls  
shall bear testimony  
To what was once here.  
And you wring your hands,  
Without offering assistance,  
Without putting out the  
flaming blaze –  
The town's fire.*

*Brothers – Fire, blaze!  
The aid is only in your hands.  
Quickly! extend a loving hand,  
And save from death;  
Put the flames out with your  
blood;  
Quickly! Extinguish with blood.  
Do not stand from afar,  
For the blaze is rising.  
Please do not wring your  
hands –  
The fire is immense!*

**Mordche Gebirtig**

From Yiddish – Abram Lewenson<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [TN: This Hebrew version is only loosely based on the Yiddish original on p.222 – it is by no means a translation.]