

Three Israeli Folk Songs – Hebrew transliteration and translation

1. Shim' u, Shim' u (Listen, Listen): *A shepherd's song*

Shim' u, Shim' u, shoch' nei ohalim,
Sorcha, ovrah, or' chat g' malim.
Edrei hatzon l' Naval ha Carmeli,
Ho laila, laila, ho leili.

Listen, Listen, tent dwellers,
Over yonder a camel caravan winds its way.
Flocks of sheep of Naval the Carmelite,
Oh night, oh night, oh what a night.

Gad, gad g' di! Gad, gad g' di!
Utz' fir izim!

Go, goad the goats! Go, goad the goats!
Snip and shear the sheep!

Holchim, holchim, edrei hatzon
L' eit hazez, ken y' hi ratzon.
Yishtabach ha' El, ha' El, Eli,
Ho laila, laila, ho leili.

On the move, on the move, flocks of sheep,
Yes indeed it is time for shearing.
Praise be the Lord, the Lord, my Lord,
Oh night, oh night, oh what a night.

Gad, gad g' di! Gad, gad g' di!
Utz' fir izim!

Go, goad the goats! Go, goad the goats!
Snip and shear the sheep!

Zamer ro' i, kiv' sah zamri.
Machar, machar, efshat tzamri.
Simcha l' cha, simcha gam li.
Ho laila, laila, ho leili.

Sing my shepherd, sing my sheep,
Tomorrow I will shed my wool.
Joy to you and joy to me,
Oh night, oh night, oh what a night.

2. Laila, Laila (Night, Night): *A lullaby for a girl who has lost her three loves.*

Laila, laila, ha ruach goveret;
Laila, laila, homa hatzameret;
Laila, laila, kochav m' zamer.
Numi, numi, kabi et haner.

Night, night, the wind is blowing;
Night, night, the treetops are whistling;
Night, night, a star is singing.
Hush, hush, put out the candle.

Laila, laila, itzmi et einayich;
Laila, laila, baderech eilayich,
Laila, laila, rachvu chamushim.
Numi, numi, shlosa parashim.

Night, night, shut your eyes;
Night, night, on their way to you
rode three armed horsemen.
Hush, hush, sleep.

Laila, laila, echad haya teref;
Laila, laila, sheini met bacherev;
Laila, laila, v' ze shenotar,
Numi, numi, et shmech lo zachar.

The first horseman fell prey to an animal;
The second died in battle;
And the one who was left could not
remember your name. Hush, hush, sleep.

Numi, numi, rak at m' chaka;
Numi, numi, haderech reika.

Hush, hush, only you are waiting;
Hush, hush, the road is empty.

3. Finjan (Coffee Pot): *A campfire song*

Haruach noshevet krira,
Nosifa kesam lamdura.
V'chach bizro'ot argaman,
ba'esh ya'ale k'korban.
Ha'esh m'havhevet,
Shira m'lavlevet,
Sovev lo, sovev hafinjan!
La, la, la...

Ha'esh lakesam t'lachesh,
Admu ko paneinu ba'esh.
Im lanu tigboret tutan,
Mikol bdal anaf shebagan.
Kol eits v'chol keresh,
Yashir azai chersh,
Sovev lo, sovev hafinjan!
La, la, la...

V'zot m'lo tosefet shvachim,
M'lechet mashkei ham'lachim.
Kafe v'sukar lo yutan,
Umayim machtzit hakankan.
Nishte un'shabeiach,
Yesh tam, yesh reiach,
Sovev lo, sovev hafinjan!
La, la, la...

Ha'esh m'havhevet,
Shira m'lavlevet,
Sovev lo, sovev hafinjan!!

The wind is blowing cool;
Let's kindle the fire.
And with scarlet arms,
it will rise like a sacrifice.
The fire is roaring,
Our song is heartwarming,
Round and round goes the Finjan.
La, la, la...

The fire whispers to the wood,
"Our cheeks are red and warm.
If we had the encouragement
of every twig in the garden,
every branch of every tree,
we'd sing until we could not hear."
Round and round goes the Finjan!
La, la, la...

And this is how the drink,
fit for a king, is made:
Put the coffee and the sugar in the pot,
And fill it half-full with water.
We'll drink and we'll praise,
There's both flavour and aroma,
Round and round goes the Finjan!
La, la, la...

The fire is roaring,
Our song is heartwarming,
Round and round goes the Finjan!!