

The Dybbuk

By Roy Chen

Inspired by the play by S.An-sky

- The play was directed by Yevgeny Arye in Gesher theatre, 2014.
- This English translation by Yuval Yanai was made for use as subtitles.

The Characters

Hanan,

Lea

Sender, Lea's father

Frida, sender's mother

Menashe, Leah's groom

Rabbi Mendel

Rabbi Azriel in Miropol

Violinist

Dead Souls:

Hannah, Leah's mother

Aunt Bella

Menahem

Rachel, his wife

Baruch

Beggars, wedding guests, Jews in the synagogue, Rabbi's pupils, Menashe's parents in the wedding.

First act

Prologue

(Hanan is sitting on the roof of the synagogue)

Hanan. Sovereign of the World, why and what for, does the soul come down from the high holies to the deepest of pits? Does it come down in order to elevate? Comes down in order... And is there a soul that comes down and does not elevate? I am trying to elevate, Heavenly father, I strive and I study, I don't touch a piece of bread, I direct all of my thoughts towards you, but this cursed body betrays me, it Gets these earthly desires and pulls my soul down. I do not give in. As they say, I stand strong against these desires. You see how she gets in the way of me serving you? Cursed one... No, no, no, she's a saint, I am cursed, I am the sinner... How did you create such a Leah? My soul is filled with Leah, I have Leah stuck in my throat, Leah in my eyes, Leah in my heart. I would pull her out of my heart, but then I would have to pull out my whole heart... And how could I pull out a heart that you yourself gave me? You have created a man - unmarried and lonely like the moon, And you have created a woman - unmarried and lonely like the sun... Won't you put them together and have them bless the world with stars? Once again my soul dives down... Sovereign of the World, Help me elevate, Father, please, with your almighty power unravel the bonds. Help me see the spark, to peel off these layers, to climb up your spiritual ladder, to touch the essence. Father!..

Scene one

[Morning prayer in the synagogue]

Rabbi. God is king, God has ruled,
 God will rule for ever and ever:
 God is king, God has ruled,
 God will rule for ever and ever:
 And God was ruler of the earth
 and on that day there'll only be one God
 and he has one name.

[sender enters and hit the Bimah, the reader's platform]

Rabbi. What happened, Rebbe Sender? a pogrom?

Sender. On the contrary - a great joy! I made the deal of a lifetime.

Prayers. A deal? What deal?

Rabbi. Is this a reason to stop a prayer?

Sender. Excuse me! Jews have said the morning prayer every morning,
 for two thousand years, what I am about to tell you, is new.

Rabbi. Rebbe Sender, with all due respect to your deals, the Holy one
 does not work for you...

Sender. The Holy one would rejoice in my joy because I made this deal
 for him too.

[sender hands a roll of bills to the rabbi]

Rabbi. What is this?

Sender. Don't bother counting.

Rabbi. "he that hateth gifts shall live".

Sender. It is not a gift, it's a donation. We will build a new synagogue, an altar with gold ornaments. Don't you want a golden altar? Life is going to change. (to the rabbi) we might even replace you? (Small pause) I'm joking. This deal, will not only double my capital, it will also yield me grandchildren God willing! I found a groom for Leah'le.

Prayers. Mazal tov! [Congratulation]

Sender. I myself don't understand how I fished out this angel. Only I, only Sender knows how to extract such gold from the ground. Cheers! An honest fellow, naive. I explained to him immediately: "If my Leah'le washes even one glass, I drown you in the river". Immediately he squirmed: "God forbid, she will live like a princess!"

[Sender pulls out some bottles. They drink, sing and dance. Hanan appears]

Hanan. Hello.

Sender. Hanan! Did you come back from the after life? We thought maybe the gentiles ate you.

Rabbi. You have not prayed in a week. Seclusion again?

Hanan. I was praying alone.

Rabbi. A Jew does not pray alone. There is a synagogue, a community.

Hanan. I pray different prayers.

Rabbi. God forbid, there are no other prayers except the ones you've known from birth. I do not understand why you insist on seeking hidden secrets that the Lord intended only for the chosen few? You were a prodigy in your youth...

Hanan. I'm trying to reach the spark, to see beyond the divider, to enter the holy one's orchard...

Rabbi. Only four have entered the orchard: Ben Azzai looked and died, Ben Zoma looked and went mad, Elisha Ben-Abuya destroyed the plants. And only Rabbi Akiba entered in peace and departed in peace.

Hanan. No, Ba'al Shem Tov and holy Rabbi Luria also entered and exited in peace.

Rabbi. Hanan, are you the Ba'al Shem-Tov?

Hanan. No, and I didn't say that...

Rabbi. Are you the holy Rabbi Luria?

Hanan. I am not.

Rabbi. Then sit with us in the Torah's tent, Go back to the Gmara, the adjudicators, stop making amulets and trying to strike wine out of the wall, with the help of the devil or devil knows what. Rebbe Sender, in honor of your joy you can read from the Torah.

[Sender approaches the reader's platform]

Hanan. Rebbe Sender, I want to say something...

Sender. Allow him to say a word, honorable Rabbi. He is a childhood friend of Leah maybe he wants to make a blessing... Hanan,

Speak. [Pause] Well, before the morning prayers become midnight prayers... [Hanan takes a long sip from the bottle] Hey, hey! (To the other prayers) The boy is thirsty... (To Hanan) Hanan, speak!

Hanan [mumbling]. I am her groom.

Sender. What? We can't understand you.

Hanan. I am Leah'le's groom. I should marry her, not anyone else.

Sender. Funny. Such humor... Speak to the point.

Hanan. I am! I told you once already, I want to marry Leah'le...

Sender. That's enough. People here are in the middle of prayer!

Hanan. I'm asking you, here, in front of this holy crowd...

Sender. Hanan, don't make me angry, I am having a good day.

Hanan. I am Leah's groom.

Sender [to the prayers]. Take him out. It is a pity for the joy to turn into a funeral.

[A couple of men throw Hanan from the synagogue]

Hanan. I will marry her! He needs to know it... I will marry her! You will see... Get out, do not show your face here again!

Sender [from inside]. Crazy!

Hanan. I am her groom!

Sender. You gimp!

Sender. I am the gimp? You are a gimp, Sender! You are a gimp at heart! I am her groom! Sovereign of the World, are you taking Leah away from me? You are giving her away... Father, do not punish me like this! Have I disappointed you? Have I sinned? Did I do wrong by talking about the secret that is kept for the chosen few? Punish me, but not like this, not with Leah. Talk my eyesight, my hearing...my... Do not take her away from me, Father! I climbed too high, I tried to see and I got hurt. Help me, peel away these layers, wash away these sins.

[It is starting to rain]

I deserve a flood, my own private flood! Signs and wonders! You see, Leah? Our Father in heaven forgives me, he has agreed to cleanse me. He is giving me a chance, you will be my wife, Leah! You and me are... you and me...

[Hanan stumble and falls. (Dead relatives appears, among them is Leah's mother.)]

What is going on here?

[He recognizes her]

Leah's mother. But aren't you dead? He said he found her a groom. But it doesn't matter... At the end I will marry her, that's for sure. I'm a bit cold.

[The souls lead him to their world]

What is this, some kind of game? Wait, I wanted to say something to Leah .

[Sender is coming out of the synagogue and see Hanan's hat and shoes]

Sender [whisper]. Crazy!

[The prayers burry Hanan's hat, jacket and shoes. The Rabbi recite Kaddish, mourning prayer]

Rabbi. The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away,
blessed be the name of the Lord from now and to eternity.
But He, being full of compassion, forgave
and destroyed them not and did not stir up all his wrath.
[Song of Ascents] Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord...

Scene Two

[Sender's house. Frida is sewing the wedding veil. Lea and Sender]

Sender. My Leah is a bride, who would have thought that we will live to
see this day... Eh, mother?

Frida. Bless God!

Sender. Leah under the chuppah with a groom... And what the groom!
He is so pure, he's peeing olive oil! This Menashe!

Frida. Menashe is a good name for the groom.

Sender. Let him do a grandson for me, a male, eh, Leah? Miracles
happen in the world, isn't it? Foremother Sarah was swollen in
90!

Frida. Sender!

Sender. As it was written: and come into the ark of every creature on the pair, who single - out to the flood! I would have been thrown out of the ark, and your grandmother too, we did not protect our pairs...

Frida. Have mercy, O Lord!

Sender. You won't be expelled from the ark, Leah, you will come in a pair.

(A violinist enters)

Sender. Play something happy, imagine that you are playing at the funeral of your mother in law. (Tries to dance with Lea) Come on, Leah'le... A veil... A white dress...
You will dance here. There, beyond the divider, Menashe, But your hearts are already one - soon your bodies will be one too.
(to the violinist) Look at that sad face... Play her something sad!
(to Leah) Just so you know, every bride is a bit sad. And why? Because in this day, she is leaving her father, her daddy, da-ddy... His own flesh, blood and bones, he who gave her life, who helped her... Come on, put a smile on that tombstone you have for a face. (to the violinist) Stop! (hands him some money) The rest you will get after the wedding.

(The violinist exits)

(to Leah) Leah, if you are intending to marry with a face like this, tell me now, so I will know not to come to my own daughter's wedding.

Frida. You will come, she will come, we will all come, God willing...

Sender. Tell me, what's your problem? We were waiting for a groom for years. First matchmaking - you were young, it was too early, I let you warm up a little longer under your father's wings. Then you're used to, then for you not this nor that... This may be your

final chance. If your mother was alive...

Leah. Father, please! All of my life I have lived with you in this house. Soon I will move into my husband's house and live there until my final day. Is it at least possible that these short days between this house and the next, will be mine? I want silence, some silence. Am I allowed?

Sender. It is allowed, everything is allowed. But at the end of this silence there will be a wedding.

Leah. There will.

Sender. Silence she wants. What is wrong with noise? Life is noise, words are noise, a wedding is noise, a baby, God willing... Though at your age it will be a miracle...

(Sender exits)

Leah. It is so windy outside.

Frida. Ungrateful. You want to stay a child. An unmarried woman is like a child, child, child - and then an old woman. There is no woman in the middle.

Leah. Then I'm an old woman.

Frida. When did you live to become old? Do you even know what a man is? A man's hands in the middle of night? What a whisper in the ear is? I know exactly what fills your head. I saw very well what spawned in your heart the day that gimp died. These are things that a grandmother sees. You have memories of him from the time you were children. He was actually a regular child. A regular orphan. Thank God we made sure that he didn't come near you, that crazy boy. They say, he went to Krasnay village

to cure a blind boy. He slayed a pigeon, tied an amulet to the boy, blessed some blessings and then what? The boy died. God protect us from defilement! Did your father tell you how he died, that crazy gimp? Drowned in a puddle. A puddle of what, I couldn't understand... You shouldn't even mourn such a man. The dead - have died, Leah'le. They won't come back. They'll wait for us. And we will join them, all of us. But until we get there - we have to live. They found you a groom - Menashe, and this time you are getting married. What do you want silence for? To imagine illusions? It is forbidden. You need noise, life is noise, you need noise! Do you hear me? You need noise. Noise!

Scene three

(Leah at Hanan's grave at the graveyard)

Leah. Remember we put a rock in my father's shoe and hid under the table? He cursed and screamed as if we tried to kill him. Say, Hanan, do you remember anything from your childhood? Me, almost nothing. Most of my memories begin at the age of ten. I forget a lot. Lately I've been getting up in the morning and it seems to me that I have just been born. It's strange that there are people bellow...Here, they put you next to Shlomo Zainvil. They say that after 30 days the soul leaves the ground. So Shlomo isn't here anymore. Are you here? Are you here? Hanan, did you really scream my name before you... Crazy. At the end your story will be a pretty one: you screamed and died. And mine will be a boring one - I kept quiet and lived. Damn life! But I need to live. That's why I came to you. To tell you that... A couple of days ago I saw you, I thought I saw you. Hanan, do not come to me anymore. Not in a dream nor hallucination. I don't even want to imagine you, I need to live, I'm not a ghost, I have a body and it's getting old. I hope to become a mother, I want children, a girl, a little girl to have next

to me and I will take care of her, she will cry and I will hold her. It's not fair to tie a living person to your death. I cannot stop thinking about it- suddenly screams "Leah" in the middle... I cannot stop thinking about it. About that boy that you tried to cure... He must have been very ill, or something, that's why... It's not your fault. But why didn't you tell me anything? I adored you when we were little. Remember when they separated us after your Bar-Mitzva, so you won't tempt me? Why didn't you? Where the letters in the prayers really more beautiful than me? Why didn't you give me a sign? I would have taken you myself and made you my husband, in spite of daddy and grandmother. There, you see, you are pulling me towards you again. Stop, stop, stop... Father found me a groom. Menashe... I haven't seen him yet. Menashe... He doesn't know yet how difficult I am, I think that on our wedding night I will devour him... I'm saying such nonsense, I would have never spoken like this with somebody alive. Well, I am leaving now. I will come to visit you again. Maybe even with my daughter. If it will be a girl. A son is good too. Yes. Here, a rock, crooked but smooth. (put a small stone on his grave, and lies down on it) Don't be scared, Hanan, it's only for a moment. Do not be scared, I'll get up soon. I already get up.

(Leah falls asleep. Dead souls of her relatives are gathering around her)

Bella. Look, there is somebody here.

Menahem. Isn't that Sender's little girl?

Baruch. Leah'le? Can't be! I remember her, she used to pull on my beard.

Rachel. It's her, Baruch. Look how she has grown.

Menahem. It just shows you how long we have been here.

Bella. She is very pale.

Baruch. Almost like us.

Rachel. Is she breathing, or not?

Menahem. Breathing so far. But it's cold, so she'll stop soon enough.

Bella. We should tell Hannah. She will be very happy.

Baruch (to Rachel). I remember the day you died, I waited so long for you, I prayed for you to die already...

Rachel. You're just saying that.

Bella. Hannah, look who came to see us. It's your Leah'le!

Hannah. Leah... Leah... Where? Why is she laying there?

Menahem. She is resting.

Baruch. In peace.

Hannah. What happened?

Bella. Maybe she is exhausted.

Hannah. She's not exhausted! She is getting married soon.

Rachel. Getting married soon is exhausting.

Hannah. I need to speak with her.

Menahem. Soon she will cross over to our side, then you can talk to her.

Hannah. She won't cross over, why would she cross over, she is alive, can't you see how alive she is? Leah, get up!

Rachel. Hannah, it does not work like that.

Baruch. Our children also visit us for the memorial, so should we jump up and talk to them? They will be scared to death.

Hannah. It's too early for her to lay here. Her blood is still flowing and her heart is still beating. It's always too early. I wasn't a good mother. A dead mother is a very bad mother. And I want to ask for her forgiveness. But not now. Now she has to get up and get married...

Rachel. She doesn't want to get married.

Bella. She does, just not with the one he arranged for her, but with the one that she loves.

Hannah. So she should marry the one she loves.

Baruch. But he is dead, Hannah.

Hannah. So what? What's death? It's all in the mind. Rather have a dead husband you love, than a live one you hate.

Rachel. We shouldn't interfere. The Lord gave, the Lord will take away.

Hannah. You will be a great wife, Leah, and a mother, a good mother, not like me, you will be alive mother. And you will have children. I wanted many, but didn't manage. Give him plenty of children, Leah.

Baruch. We're telling you that he's dead, Hannah.

Hannah. So they will have dead children! But they will love them, as if they were alive. Don't touch her - the living are full of diseases! Just get up already and get out of here. You are stronger than I am, smarter, you're already older than I am, and because of that you must understand that you have nothing to look for here. The only thing we have are memories. I remember: How you bit me when I breast fed you, how I bathed you in a wooden tub, how I showed you the moon outside, how... Not that much actually... You see, if you won't have Enough memories, you will be very bored here. You have to fill yourself with memories, dreams, mistakes, everything... And for that you have to get up. Get up, Leah! Get out of here!

Scene four

(Sender drinks and dance with the beggars in the traditional feast, a day before wedding. On the back – Leah is dancing with Frida and other women)

Sender. Oy,oy,oy! He who does not dance - is a gentile!

1-st beggar. Rebbe Sender, God bless you, I feel rich like a householder!

Sender. Maybe you are a rich?

1-st beggar. Me?

Sender. I'm not talking about this life, in this life you are a poor man and the son of a worthless poor man. But who knows who we were in a previous life? Maybe someone amongst us in a previous life was a member of a higher class. (to the first beggar) For example - A great rabbi of the Torah...

2-st beggar. Who - me?

Sender (to another beggar). a rich community leader, a saint, a Messiah, a duke... No, there are no Jewish dukes. Besides me. (to one of the beggars) Maybe in a previous life, you fed me in a poor man's feast that you had in honor of your daughter's wedding. A daughter leaves her father and the world keeps on turning! Go forth from your country and your kindred, and your father's house to your villain husband that I show you.

2-nd beggar. I would switch places with this husband joyfully.

3-rd. He fell into a pot of gold, this Menashe...

Sender. Oh, Menashe, if you ever raise a hand on my daughter, not a hand - if you ever raise your voice - I will slaughter you like a chicken. Where is she? Leah! I don't understand... She is dancing and enjoying herself and completely forgot about her father.

4-th beggar. Why does she dance only with women? I would like to spin her around too.

Sender. I will spin your neck around. Leah!

(Frida comes to her drunk son)

Frida. Drunk like Ahasuerus!

Sender. My daughter is being taken away, mother. She will live in a strange house, and sleep on strange sheets...

Frida. If your father could have seen you now...

Sender. My father was a saint! A rotten man, but a saint!

Frida. Enough, there is no respect for anything, or have the Jews stopped being Jewish? You have your only daughter to marry and

you will do everything accordingly.

(Frida returns to Leah and the dancing women. Leah is dancing in the middle)

Sender. Beautiful! Isn't she beautiful? Look how she is blushing, her whole life she was pale, now that she is getting married she starts to blush. What, Leah, are you happy? Did you realize your father was right? Happy to leave your father, eh, evil one? Leave me to rot with your grandmother? She was born to be a bride.

(sender gets Leah and dance with her)

Leah. A fly fell into the honey during dessert, I was sure it was dead, but when I took it out, it flew away and disappeared.

Sender. Miracles and wonders! I would marry her myself. If only your mother could see you now.

Leah. She did see me, yesterday night.

Sender. Who?

Leah. Mother. In a dream.

Sender. Oh, in a dream... She doesn't come to me in my dreams. She never came to me when she was alive

(women beggars come to dance with Leah)

1-st woman. I have never danced with a bride before.

2-nd. But you haven't danced with me yet,

3-rd. you said that you would...

2-st. It's my turn, you promised...

3-rd. You have danced ten times and only once with me...

Scene five

(Frida and Leah in the Mikve)

Frida. I have accompanied so many girls to the mikveh before their wedding, always thinking, when will it be Leah? Thank God, at least with this my conscience will be clean. And I can die in peace.

Leah. The souls of people that died prematurely surround us.

Frida. Leah!

Leah. They see everything and hear everything.

Frida. God help us, Leah'le, what souls? The pure souls go to heaven, to the Garden of Eden, but here on the ground are the bad ones, they sit tightly fit in wholes and cracks and as soon as they are mentioned ,they jump out and attack the person. But there aren't any in the mikveh.

Leah. They're not evil spirits, they are human. Man is born for a long life, and when he dies before his time - where does the rest of his life go? the days of happiness and sorrow? The thoughts and actions that have been destined for him - what about them? And the children he did not have? Where are they? Don't seek that is beyond us, the Lord is a mystery and we are all blind. There once was a man, with a high spirit and deep thoughts. And all of a sudden, in a flash his life was cut short. Strange people

buried him in strange soil. Where are his days? The sentences unsaid, the prayers he did not finish? A burned candle can be lit again, but the candle of life that is burned out before its time - where does it go?

Frida. The water in the mikveh is holy water, it will wash it all away - the fears, the spirits, the ghosts and the ghouls. You will come out of the mikveh a clean and pure bride, so that God willing tomorrow after the wedding, you will be pure for Menashe. And you will invite him into your pure place, and he will give you a miracle in the shape of a baby. Repeat after me: Blessed are you my Lord'.

Leah. Blessed are you my lord'

Frida. Sovereign of the World...

Leah. Sovereign of the World...

Frida. Who has sanctified us and commanded us

Leah. Who has sanctified us and commanded us

Frida. concerning immersion.

Leah. concerning immersion.

Scene six Inside the Mikve

(leah gets under the water. Hanan appears inside the water)

Hanan. Leah'le...

Leah. But you are dead!

Hanan. Everything in the world has a heart. Even the world itself has a heart. This heart resides on a high mountain, across from another mountain that has a fountain on its peak.

Leah. There was a funeral, they buried you, didn't they?

Hanan. This heart desires to go to the fountain, but doesn't go because if this heart leaves the mountain to get to the fountain, the other mountains peak will disappear, thus the fountain will disappear too. And if the heart cannot see the fountain even for one moment, his soul will leave him and die. And if the heart dies, the whole world will die.

Leah. You are dead...

Hanan. Leah, if we won't be together the world will die.

Leah. You are dead...

Hanan. The world will cease to exist, Leah, be my fountain, I will be your heart.

Leah. I am getting married tomorrow!

Hanan. Tomorrow ?

Leah. Congratulations.

Scene seven The Wedding

(sender walks with Frida and Leah to the chuppa. Guests and beggars all around)

Rabbi. Jews, sacred sheep, come forth in all sizes it is a commandment to make the bridegroom and bride happy. The bride has cried a full set of tears and is now cleansed, pure and white as if it is Judgment day.

(Menahse's parents and menashe come to the chuppa)

Rabbi. Welcome, bridegroom, welcome!

(The ceremony begins)

Rabbi. He who is mighty above all beings,
he who is blessed above all beings,
he who is great above all beings,
he who is distinguished above all beings,
may he bless the bridegroom and bride.
Blessed are you lord our God Sovereign of the World creator of
the fruit of the vine:

(the groom drinks wine and gives to Leah)

Everybody. Amen.

Rabbi. Blessed are you Lord our God Sovereign of the World who has sanctified us, and commanded us regarding illicit relations, and prohibited us the merely betrothed, but has permitted the lawfully married, by the chuppah and sanctification. Blessed are you lord our God sanctifying his people of Israel by the chuppah and sanctification.

Everybody. Amen.

Rabbi. Menashe son of Haim. Do you have the ring?

Menashe. Yes.

Rabbi. Is it your property?

Menashe. Yes.

Rabbi (to the witnesses). Is it worth a penny?

A guest. Yes.

Rabbi. Repeat after me: You are hereby

Menashe. You are hereby...

Rabbi. sanctified to me,

Menashe. sanctified to me,

Rabbi. with this ring,

Menashe. with this ring,

Leah (suddenly, to menashe). You are not my groom.

Frida. What is she saying?

Leah. You are not my groom!

Sender. What are you doing?

Leah. Don't touch me!

Rabbi. You are desecrating a holy ceremony.

Leah. Don't come near me!

Sender. Leah!

Leah (to sender, with a new voice). Go away. You buried me! You buried me! No! No! You buried me! You buried me! I am her groom! I am her groom!
I am not dead. I am not dead!

Rabbi. Dybbuk! The bride has been possessed!

Second act

Scene eight After the wedding

(Frida is trying to cure Leah by expelling the Dybbuk using Jewish folk medicine)

Frida. How did he get inside you, the vermin? We immersed in the mikveh, we prayed to our blessed Lord... Why did he stuck to you, damn him? Take him out, come on, pull him out. Otherwise they will take you to Miropol, to Rabbi Azriel, and there, either the dybbuk comes out or your soul will.

Leah (whispers, with Hanan inside). You, you, you, you...

Frida. I hereby swear upon any kind of evil eye: a black eye, a brown eye, a green eye, a blue eye, a wide eye, a narrow eye, a long eye, a short eye, an eye that sees, an eye that observes, an eye that is set, a bulging eye, an eye of a husband and his wife, an eye of the youth, the eye of an old man or old woman, any kind of evil eye in the world that has seen, looked or spoken upon with an evil eye at Leah daughter of Hannah.

Leah. You, you...

Frida. The guardian of Israel shall not sleep, the Lord will have you deviated, defected, barred and banished from Leah daughter of Hannah you will not have the strength to control Leah daughter of Hannah not during the day nor night, not during awakening nor dreaming, not any of her 248 limbs and not any of her 365 tendons from now on until forever. Amen forever and ever. Well, is he gone?

Leah. You, you, you...

Frida. Have a rest.
(Frida Exits)

Scene nine

(leah and Hanan)

Hanan. Forgive me. I ruined your wedding. I was on my way to the afterlife, but got scared.

Leah. Surely everybody gets scared on the way.

Hanan. No, I got scared when I realized you weren't going to be there. Now I am hung between life and death.

Leah. But you are hanging me as well between the living and the dead.

Hanan. At least we are hung together. Remember when we were children, We used to play that you were a boy and I was a girl, remember?

Leah. No.

Hanan. I wore your dress and you made sidelocks from your braids, like a yeshiva student.

Leah. You are making this up.

Hanan. No. We played bride and groom, we got married, Leah'le. When your father found out about it he pushed me down the stairs and broke my leg. He was so scared we would be together, and here we are together.

Leah. Stop it.

Hanan. It's so warm inside of you. You are warm as well, when I am here.

Leah. I have a hole in my soul, that's how you managed to squeeze in.

Hanan. You know what you are, Leah? You are my dybbuk.
You are the one who got inside of me, it is you that I cannot get out of me...

(they are laughing and dancing together)

Scene ten The other side

(Dead souls appear.)

Menahem. Hanan, Hanan...

Baruch. Hanan, come here!

(Hanan sees them but ignores them)

Rachel. Leave them alone. Don't bother them.

Bella. Look at what the living do at night... Only I, like an idiot, died at night.

Menahem. But he's dead too, isn't he?

Baruch. He is dead, he is dead. He came back just for a moment.

Rachel. You see Baruch, he came back for her. Would you come back for me?

Baruch. He did something forbidden. Hanan!

Menahem. Hanan!

Hannah. He wants to live.

Baruch. Who doesn't want to live?

Menahem. I'm sorry, everybody dies and he doesn't? What is he, Elijah the prophet?

Bella. You are jealous, Menachem.

Baruch. He should wait like the rest of us for the resurrection of the dead.

(Hanan puts his hands on Leah's eyes)

Hanan. I have an idea. You and me are a great strength, Leah, Do not peak. We'll bring an end to longing in the world. We blurred the border between life and death. We have broken all boundaries. There is no this world or the next world - there is only one world, in it all is stuck together and possessed.

Leah. May I?

Hanan. Not yet. Now.

Leah. Who are they?

Hanan. Good souls who came to bless us, to bring joy to the bride and groom.

Leah. Who is she?

Hanan. She is your mother...

Leah. Are you alive?

Hannah. Shhhh...

Hanan. Did you think that you would stand under the chuppah without your mother?

Leah. What chuppah? What do you mean?

Hanan. Our chuppah. We are getting married.

Bella. Congratulations. Good luck Leah. There are a few that didn't get to...

Rachel. As many weddings as I have attended, I have never seen anything, I always cry.

Baruch. Even at our wedding she cried like this. I married a cloud.

Menahe. I don't understand what all this is... Have you all lost your mind? A dead man marrying a live woman...

All the dead souls. Menachem!

Menahem. I will keep quiet. Mazl tov!

Bella. Wait, we need a veil...

Hannah. The veil...

Hanan. We are ready, Rabbi.

Baruch. Me the Rabbi? I was a watchmaker, what do I know about it...

Rachel. Baruch, marry them. It's a commandment.

Baruch. How does it start? Anyone remember?

Rachel. Baruch!

Baruch. I'm excited, I forgot.

Menahem. The wine blessing...

Baruch. Thank you. Blessed are you, Lord our God, Sovereign. There is no wine...

Bella Yes there is...

Baruch. Blessed are you, Lord our God,

Baruch. Sovereign of the World, creator of the fruit of the vine:

Everybody. Amen.

Baruch. Blessed are you Lord our God Sovereign of the World, who has sanctified us and...

Menahem. commanded us regarding illicit relations,

Baruch. commanded us regarding illicit relations, and prohibited those merely betrothed, and permitted us the lawfully married, by the chuppah and sanctifications.

Everybody. Amen.

(Baruch gives Hanan the wine and hands Hannah the glass. Hanna gives Leah)

Hanan. Sip.

Hannah. Leah...

Baruch. Hanan, do you have the ring?

Hanan. The ring...

Hannah. Here, I never took it off since my wedding.

Baruch. Hanan, is this ring your property?

Hannah. It is yours.

Hanan. It is mine.

Baruch. Worth a penny?

Menahem. A penny maybe.

Baruch. Hanan, repeat after me: You are...

Hanan. You are

Baruch. sanctified to me

Hanan. sanctified to me

Baruch. by this ring

Hanan. by this ring

Baruch. according the ritual of Moses and Israel.

Hanan. according the ritual of Moses and Israel.

Baruch. Sanctified, sanctified, sanctified....,

(Hanan takes her back to the armchair)

Leah. The ring...

Hanan. What?

Leah. There is no ring... there is no ring...

Hanan. That is your mothers ring.

Leah. My mother is dead! She is dead! Stop it!

Hanan. You have been sanctified to me.

Leah. There is nobody here. You are not here, you do not exist!

Hanan. There was a wedding...

Leah. There was no wedding. Go away, get out of here, all of you.

Hanan. Leah...

Leah. You too. You are dead.

Hanan. I am not dead. Feel this - is this dead?

Leah. Leave me alone, get out of me. You are dead!

Hanan. You are dead, I am alive. You simply do not love me.

Leah. Leave me alone. Go away, all of you. There is nobody here.

Scene eleven Menashe

(Menashe enters)

Menashe. Leah... It is me. I asked your grandmother's permission to sneak in here. It is just... since the wedding last night my father cannot stop praying, my mother cannot stop crying and I... cannot stop thinking about you. Look, I also have many thoughts in my head, not always normal ones. What happened to you only happens to a broad soul, an extraordinary one. I think I am extraordinary as well. You look at me like that... You must know that I am not scared. Something happened to me tonight, I am not the same Menashe. As your groom I...

Leah. You are not my groom.

Menashe. You said that already, under the chuppah. At least now it is in your own voice.

Leah. Menashe, what do you want from me?

Menashe. Leah, like you, I am from a wealthy family, I haven't done anything important yet, I had everything I wanted, I've seen everything but nobody saw me, nobody heard me or needed me. Tonight, after coming home, instead of feeling shame or fear, I felt alive. Alive! Alive! I thought I heard your voice. "Menashe..." "Menashe..." I will get him out of you, I will save you.

Leah. You should thank the Lord for saving you from me, I am not for you...

Menashe. Yes you are!

Leah. Go find yourself a young woman, a healthy one, and marry her.

Menashe. I fell in love with you.

Leah. You fell in love with me? When did you manage?

Menashe. Under the chuppah. At night. I don't know when, but it happened. That's it, you are inside of me.

Leah. You made that up ,it's all in your head.

Menashe. Fine, then it's all in my head, everyone has something in their head, you have a dybbuk and I have you.

Leah. Menashe, go away.

Menashe. We will have children.

Leah. I won't have children from you. You are a boring person.

Menashe. That's not you talking, that's the dybbuk. Where is he? Inside of you? Dybbuk - come out! I am not afraid of you, dybbuk! You will leave my wife! You will leave my wife!

Leah. I am not your wife, I will never be your wife!

Menashe. Don't say that! Dybbuk, leave her! Go back to your grave! This woman is mine! She is mine, not yours! What gave you the right to come in here,

Leah. Who are you to me? Touching me, you piece of filth... They are pushing a man on to a woman who does not want him. We met by accident under the chuppah did you dream of intercourse already? Do you want to mount me? I will mount you, I will slaughter you, I will burry you, filthy, dog... Dog... Get out!

(menashe exits)

Grandmother. Grandmother!

Scene twelve The Dybbuk is back

Frida. I am here... I am here...

Leah. Hold me...

Frida. What, Leah?

Leah. Help me, grandmother, he is gone...

Frida. Who is gone, Menashe? Menashe is gone.

Leah. No! He was with me, he held me, but I banished him, so he is gone...

Frida. Who is gone? The dybbuk? Thank God!

Leah. Bring him back to me.

Frida. God expelled him, God cured you!

Leah. I don't understand what happened to me. Help me, grandmother, help me...

Frida. Holy, holy, holy.. Creator of the earth...

Leah. Bring him back to me, you know all kinds of spells... I'm begging you...

Frida. No need for begging, child, thank God, you are healthy.

(sender enters)

Frida. Gone! The dybbuk is gone!

Sender. How is it gone?

Frida. Gone, by itself, the Lord saved us.

Sender. It simply left? What do you have to say? Yesterday it was here and today it's gone. Yesterday it ruined the wedding, humiliated me in front of the world, and today, kindly enough it simply left... Eh, Leah? There was no dybbuk, you did it all on purpose. You shamed me and you shamed yourself...ever since your mothers death... I dedicated my life to you, I did not remarry so you wouldn't have to share me, so I can give you my all and this is what you...

Frida. Sender, the main thing - the dybbuk went.

Sender. What dybbuk!? You believe the voices she is making? Stupid old woman! There never was a dybbuk in the world, and nobody ever had one, what there is - is a daughter that has been possessed with audacity and rudeness. Who does not have any respect to the one who raised her and gave her life...

Frida. Sender, I am asking of you, For me, for Hannah...

Sender. For your begging grandmother and for your ashamed mother in heaven - I am willing to forgive and have your wedding. Not like yesterday, without guests, not in the light - in the dark. Me, you, Menashe and a Rabbi. So you won't be left alone like a dog. Even though you deserve it. But on one condition - no acting up and no voices. Yes or no?

(hanan enters)

Leah. There you are. You came back to me...

Sender. What is she saying? Yes or no?

Leah. You fool, I didn't mean...

Sender. What are you mumbling over there? I will break your bones...

Leah (in the new voice). Take your hand off!

Frida. No dybbuk? No dybbuk? We are leaving for Miropol, to Rabbi Azriel. Now!

Scene thirteen Rabbi Azriel in Miropol

Azriel. Dybbuk, you say? Horrible times, dybbuks are multiplying like the stars, the power of faith is weakening, the Jewish heart is sick... That's why we're having these calamities. A day before yesterday - there was this case. A shoemaker got inside of a thirteen year old girl...

Sender. Honorable Rabbi, this is a private case, I do not think everybody needs to...

Azriel. Have no fear, These are scholars, righteous students, And it is impossible to banish a dybbuk alone.

Sender. But maybe it's not a dybbuk?

Frida. What? You yourself heard his voice.

Sender. Who is he? I heard my daughter bark at me, that's what I heard..

Azriel. Rebbe Sender, you are in doubt, and that is acceptable. Many have entered in doubt and left with a blessing upon deliverance. Now please tell me, why has this evil spirit entered?

Frida. He got inside her during the wedding, suddenly she started to speak like this - "You are not my groom..."

Azriel. I did not ask when he entered, but why.

Frida. What do you mean?

Azriel. The worm does not enter the apple, unless there is some decay.

Sender. In whom are you searching for decay? A pure virgin... Her whole life spent under my supervision.

Azriel. Did you ask the dybbuk why he entered her?

Frida. He did not speak to us. Just under the chuppah and today, before we came. But he speaks to her all the time.. She answers him as well.

Azriel. Did you not recognize the voice? Didn't he give up a sign? Did you know the spirit before he died? Did you sin in relation to him?

Sender. Honorable Rabbi, a word please? My daughter doesn't feel good. Enough with the questions, get him out of her and that's it. You will receive a larger wage than agreed and then some more, you will drink in our honor and forget we were here.

Azriel. No, no...

Sender. A donation! Honorable Rabbi, she is my only child. I will give everything, everything, I will rip off my only garment, I will tear

off my skin...

Azriel. Rebbe Sender! We are all here with divine respect, to try and fix sinful souls, that have come down to our world and find them a final resting place in the after life. We will release and cure God willing...

Frida. Leah..

Azriel. Daughter of...

Frid. Leah daughter of Hannah and Sender.

Azriel. Keep calm. Sometimes the dybbuk exits by itself, easily.

Sender. Yes?

Aziriel. Yes. Because what is a dybbuk? A dybbuk is like a child who crept in. Didn't it ever happen to you in your childhood, Rebbe Sender, that you saw a hole in the fence and said - let's sneak in and have a look...

Sender. No.

(Rabbi Azriel look Leah right in the eyes)

Azriel (calm). Dybbuk... Get out. Dybbuk... Get out. (to the others) Stubborn. They all come out eventually. (To Leah) Dybbuk, I want to help you. The Torah does not allow the dead to be amongst the living. Who are you? A jew? A gentile? Who are you and what is your sin? Dybbuk, come out.

Leah. I don't want to come out.

Frida. It spoke! There, it is him!

Azriel. Dybbuk, you've no right to be in a body that the Lord has given to another person. This is not your body. Do you hear me? In what part of the body are you in? Dybbuk, come out. No.

Sender. Damn him, he is saying no!

Azriel. I, Azriel son of Hadassah, with this holy crowd gathered here, command you to come out of this virgin Leah daughter of Hannah without harming her or anybody else that is standing here today. The blessed Lord does not desire world corruption, the Lord is merciful and compassionate, desires life and loves grace. You will not exit via her eyes nor via her mouth, not via her ears and not via any other hole God forbid that can harm this woman but via the small toe on the left foot between the nail and the flesh. You will return to your rightful place until resurrection.

Leah. There is no other place for me except her. All other paths have been blocked for me, all gates have been locked. I am awaiting an abyss.

Sender. You will leave my daughters body, you vermin! Rabbi Azriel, tell him that I will kill him!

Azriel. If you do as I ask I will try to fix you and banish all of the evil demons and spirits that surround you. Are you coming out?

Leah. No.

Azriel. Everybody say out loud: Lord our God, God of our ancestors. Hear our prayers. Do not disregard our pleas. We are not rude or stubborn by telling you Lord our God, God of our ancestors, we are righteous and have not sinned, but we have sinned. We have committed a crime. We, and our ancestors. We have betrayed, and are guilty, we have stolen and spoken with evil eyes.

Do you hear this, dybbuk? Us Honest advocates are speaking on your behalf to the Highest court, and the blessed Lord promises forgiveness, pardon and amendment for anyone who once again finds religion.

Did you sin? Did they sin towards you? No spirit in our world is without sin, but the Lord will not forgive unless you tell us your name. Speak or we will banish you.

Leah. Do not banish me.

Azriel. You will wander forever between worlds!

Leah. Do not banish me!

Azriel. Come out!

Leah. No!

Azriel. I am forced to go against you with boycotts and banishments, and you will not have a path to Kingdom of Heaven. If you don't tell us your name, we will banish you using force, and banish you from Israel entirely! Gentlemen, prepare the horns.

Leah. Hanan... Leah, no...

Azriel. What? You said a name? Repeat the name.

Leah. Hanan.

Sender. Hanan... It is Hanan... I'm such an idiot, it's him that's inside Leah. Damn, why didn't he possess me... Hanan, Hanan! Can you hear me? Do not harm her, I am to blame, not her... You are stuck between two worlds, because of me. If you didn't find your place in this world, and couldn't find it in the next, it's all because of me. Before your father passed away, you were a small boy, we were soul mates, I promised him I would marry you to my only daughter. I swore to have for you a large wedding, and vowed to the blessed Lord. But then the blessed Lord took my wife away, took her to him, and left me all alone with Leah's, so I decided to keep her by my side, close, close, and not to give her away unless an angel will come. Hanan, you are not an angel... You could hardly care for yourself. What does a father want? That his daughter won't go hungry, that her husband will keep her warm, that he will have heart, that he will have honor, money, and protect her from any kind of filth that may stick to her, once her father is gone. You stole her away from me and you didn't even know why, it's not because you love her - the dead do not love, it's because of me and my damn vow that I didn't want to keep. I distorted the ways of the world, I have sinned, I have lied. Here, I am on my knees asking for forgiveness, Hanan, forgive me and get out of her...

Sender. Hanan, Sender is asking for forgiveness in front of this holy crowd, I plead you to forgive him and sentence him to say a sanction prayer for the remainder of his life in your honor and your father's. But you, now that the wrong doing has been cleared and fixed, you must leave the pure body of Leah daughter of Hannah and the good Lord will have mercy on you and will unite you with your father's soul and will bind you to his

heavenly soul. Amen!

Everybody. Amen!

Azriel. Did you hear me, Hanan? Do you forgive? Do you accept this judgment? Time is running out, Hanan. Do you accept this judgment?

Sender. He doesn't accept it... Doesn't forgive... Won't leave... You vermin! You ugly gimp! I wasn't wrong when I refused to give her to you! Stubborn! Freak! And I'm not giving her to you now as well, do you hear me? I am not giving her to you! Leave my daughter! Leave!

Azriel. Hanan, the truth has come out, and you must as well come out and return to your place.

Leah-Hanan. I've searched the heavens and the earth and have not found a place more holy than this body. I have found here peace and stopped being afraid. And now you want to banish me from here? I will not leave! I will not leave!

Azriel. You will against your will. Well, a great honor has come upon us. Israel will not allow pests and demons to cling on to us. We are persecuted enough, and are wished to be obliterated. We will not allow deviate souls who haven't been accepted in the high court to persecute us as well. Angels of destruction will haunt you till the end of times. Hanan, I hereby declare a banishment of your soul from all of Israel! Blast the horns! Rise Lord and banish your enemies and scare off your haters! In the name of the supreme judge sitting in Jerusalem, and by permission of this holy court, I, Azriel son of Hadassah, disconnect all of

the laws that tied you to this world and to the body and soul of Leah daughter of Hannah I hereby Banish you from all of Israel! Gentlemen, a rare case, The dybbuk is assisted by Asmodeus, and is stuck to the root of the soul... Let us fast and devote ourselves to prayer and continue again at dawn.

(Azriel and his pupils exit)

Hanan. Leah... I cannot see you like this... I have been tormented my entire life and now I am tormenting you... I'm going, I'm leaving you, I'm getting out. Forget me. Live!

Scene 14 Gone?

(Sender and Frida enters the room where Azriel tried to exorcise the Dybbuk)

Frida. Gone? (Lea nods) Tell the truth! Gone?

Sender. Never mind... There shouldn't have been a wedding, there is no need for anything, if he is here - so be it. We will all live together. You hear me, Hanan?

(Sender exits)

Frida. I'm asking you again: is he gone? Than listen to me carefully, it's not important what you have seen, who you have talked to or whose voice came out of your mouth. It's over. I promised your mother that you will marry and you will marry. You won't be alone in this life, you won't have a lonely grave. Your bones will be kept warm by your husbands bones. Your groom, Menashe, is madly in love with you, and is ready to go under the chuppah any day we decide. And I told him - this Saturday evening. And

you will stand under the chuppah. A healthy and wholesome bride. Do you understand me? (Leah nods) Do you agree? (Leah nods) Best of luck.

(Frida Exits. Leah stays alone. She frees herself from this life, transferring to the "other side")

The End