

Name of dance: Dos Tsigale (Romanian spelling: *Das Tighete*)

Pronunciation: dohss TSIH-gah-leh

Place of origin: Bucharest area, Romania

Source of music: Nicolaas Hilferink, Romanian Dances, Stockton '98, Side A Band 7

Learned from: Nicolaas Hilferink, 2002

About the dance: Nicolaas Hilferink, originally from Holland, is an expert on Romanian folk dance and has been collecting folk material in Romania for decades, including dances done by minority populations within Romania. In the 1990s he was taught this dance by Romanian Jews in the Bucharest area, and has been teaching it internationally since then, often to great interest, especially among folkdancers who are Jewish. The words of the song are from a poem by the great Yiddish poet Itzhik Manger, and the song is sung in Yiddish theater style, making it likely that the dance also grew out of Yiddish theater. The dance contains elements of Romanian children's dances such as *Alunelul* ('the little hazelnut'), but also has a distinctly Jewish style. The song is a spin-off of the old Passover song *Had Gadya* ('an only kid'), which refers to the pascal lamb to be sacrificed as an allegory for the infliction of suffering on the innocent. Manger's poem picks up this theme and imagines a little goat freed by children to escape becoming part of the Passover meal. Here are the words (with some transcription corrections by Erik Bendix, Chayele Domergue, and Binyomin Ginzberg), with a (corrected) translation into English originally by Sarah Goodstein, Osi Sladek, and Elliot Gertel. Further corrections are welcome:

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|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>Der tate hot gekoift a tsigale</b><br/><b>Mit yuren lang tzirik</b><br/><b>In hadgadyu es farshpart,</b><br/><b>Gebinden oif a shtrick.</b><br/><b>S'troirig s'voisse tsigale</b><br/><b>Wen di zin im vayt,</b><br/><b>Zimer zayt es nisht kayn gruz,</b><br/><b>In vinter nisht kayn shnay.</b></p>    | <p><i>Father bought a little goat</i><br/><i>Many years ago,</i><br/><i>And imprisoned the only kid,</i><br/><i>Bound by a rope.</i><br/><i>It's sad, the white little goat,</i><br/><i>When the sun is far away,</i><br/><i>In summer it sees no grass,</i><br/><i>In winter not any snow.</i></p>                                  |
| <p>Chorus: <b>Hadgadyu, hadgadyu...</b></p>   | <p><i>An only kid, an only kid...</i></p>  |
| <p>2. <b>Zogt mayn brider "Itzik, her,</b><br/><b>vi azoy der lost es Gott?</b><br/><b>Zeyst im nisht dos tsigale,</b><br/><b>Dos veissinke a shut?"</b><br/><b>Zug ikh, "Lute, bist gerecht,</b><br/><b>In nisht lang getrocht,</b><br/><b>Zis gevayn di selten ven,</b><br/><b>A shayne vays men noch."</b></p> | <p><i>My brother says "Isaac, listen,</i><br/><i>How does God allow this?"</i><br/><i>Don't you see the little goat,</i><br/><i>The white little one, is a sacrifice?"</i><br/><i>I say, "Luteh, you are right,</i><br/><i>And it didn't take you long.</i><br/><i>It is rare when you</i><br/><i>Get to know a pretty one."</i></p> |
| <p>Chorus: <b>Hadgadyu, hadgadyu...</b></p>   |  |

3. **Der tate er shluft, di mame shluft** *Father sleeps, mother sleeps,*  
**Shluft dus gantse hoys.** *The whole house is sleeping.*  
**Firen mir fun em hadgadyu** *We lead the little goat*  
**Di tsigale aroys.** *Away from being an only kid.*  
**Mir firen bay di hernerer** *We lead it by the horns.*  
**Di velt iz veyt un groys.** *The world is wide and big.*  
**Un mir lozen es alayn;** *And we leave it alone;*  
**Dos zugen mir nisht oys.** *We don't utter a word about it.*

Chorus: **Hadgadyu, hadgadyu...**

4. **Pesakh, di ershte Sedernacht** *Passover, the first Seder night,*  
**Dos tsigale is nisht du.** *The little goat is not there.*  
**Zugt der tate, "Itzik, di?"** *Father says "You, Isaac?"*  
**Zug ikh "ober vo?"** *I say "But where?"*  
**Zugt dr tate "Nu dabay!"** *Father says "Get to the point!"*  
**Zugt er "Wus is iyn geveyn?"** *He says "What happened to it?"*  
**Zind far a yuren pesakh tsayt** *It was for the year's Passover time*  
**- Dos tsigale nisht gezeyn!"** *- the little goat hasn't been seen!"*

Chorus: **Hadgadyu, hadgadyu...**

5. **Der tate er maynt, di mame vaynt,** *Father lectures, mother weeps,*  
**In kayner vays nisht vus.** *And no one knows anything.*  
**Sint fun dem hadgadyuvu** *And from the little only kid*  
**Du isst shoyt nisht vos. 2X** *You aren't eating a thing. 2x*  
**In da viza iz dos tsigale,** *In the meadow is the little goat,*  
**Zi shpringt arum in feld,** *She jumps around in the field,*  
**Un hot hanuveh fun der zin** *And has pleasure from the sun,*  
**Un fun der gantse velt. 2X** *And from the whole world. 2x*

Chorus: **Hadgadyu, hadgadyu...**

Rhythm: 2/4 (slow)

Formation: Closed circle with hands held up in “W” position. The style is one of relaxed walking.

<u>Direction</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Step</u>
		<u>Introduction</u> (instrumental prelude): No action.
	1-12	
		<u>Figure I</u> : <i>Beginning with vocals, and facing R of center, walk in LOD:</i>
→	1	Step on R (ct. 1), step on L (ct. 2).
	2	Step on R (ct. 1), bend R knee slightly (ct. &), silent stamp on L without weight next to R, straightening knees (ct. 2), bend R knee slightly as L lifts beside R leg (ct. &).
	3	Silent stamp on L without weight next to R, straightening knees (ct. 1), step backward on L (ct. 2), close R beside L (ct. &).
	4	Step L forward (ct. 1), bend L knee as R lifts beside L leg (ct. &), silent stamp on R without weight beside L, straightening knees (ct. 2), pause (ct. &).
	5-16	Repeat Measures 1-4 three more times as singer completes first verse.
		<u>Figure II</u> : <i>With chorus vocals, face center and move to the side, at first in LOD:</i>
→	1	Step on R to R side (ct. 1), step on L across in front of R with L toe pointing toward center (ct. 2).
	2	Repeat Measure 1.
	3	Step on R to R side (ct. 1), step on L across in front of R (ct. &), repeat cts. 1& of this measure (cts. 2&).
	4	Step on R to R side with knee bent (ct. 1), turning to face L of center and leaning back very slightly, stamp silently without weight on L foot twice (cts. &, 2), pause (ct. &).
←	5-8	Repeat Measures 1-4 with reverse footwork and direction, ending facing R of center.
		<u>Now repeat Figures I and II for the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse and chorus of the song.</u>

Direction	Measure	Step
		<u>Figure III</u> : This “bridge” figure is danced during the instrumental section of the music. Hands release and remain in “W” position during the entire figure.
→	1	<b>½ turn R</b> : Facing R of center and moving LOD, step on R forward in LOD, pivoting 180 degrees CW to face out (ct. 1), touch L slightly to the L or beside R (ct. 2).
	2	<b>½ turn L</b> : Still moving in LOD, step forward on L in LOD while pivoting 180 degrees CCW to face in (ct. 1), touch R slightly to the R or beside L (ct. 2).
	3-4	<b>Full turn R</b> : Still moving in LOD, take 3 steps R,L,R to turn CW once around while still progressing in LOD, ending facing center (cts. 1,2,1), touch L slightly to the L or beside R (ct. 2).
←	5-6	Repeat Measures 3-4 with reverse footwork and direction, turning CCW in RLOD. Rejoin hands to begin next figure.

Now repeat the entire sequence again to take in verses 3 and 4 of the song plus the choruses in between. Finish with a repeat of Figure I (repeating Measures 1-4 **six** times rather than four in all, since 2 of the verses repeat this last time around), and end with a repeat of Measures 1-4 of Figure II.

dance notes by Machi & Nicolaas Hilferink  
corrected by Gurda Ben-Zeev in 1998  
reformatted & slightly expanded by Erik Bendix in 2007