

Combining Old Yiddish and a Judeo-Italian Dialect

רעטאָ קראָמער
ריטוֹ קרוֹמיר

Old Yiddish

Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages
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Source

Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

- MS. Canonici Or. 12, Venice 1553, f. 211v–213v:
<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/2303b438-073b-4e0e-81b6-4955acffb6b0/>

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Bibliography

- Claudia Rosenzweig: 'To a King, to a Pig': A Yiddish Poem on the Ages of Man. In Simon Neuberger and Diana Matut (Ed.): *Worlds of Old Yiddish Literature. Studies in Yiddish*, 13 (Cambridge 2023), p. 95–120
- Diana Matut: *Old Yiddish*. Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages, online courses 2022–2023 and 2023–2024

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Bibliography (Italian)

- Marcello Aprile: *Grammatica storica delle parlate giudeo-italiane*. Galatina: Congedo Editore, 2012
- Gerhard Rohlfs: *Grammatica storica della lingua italiana e dei suoi dialetti*. Vol. 1 «Fonetica», vol. 2 «Morfologia» e vol. 3 «Sintassi e formazione delle parole». Bologna: Accademia della Crusca e Società editrice il Mulino, 2021

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Bibliography (English)

- Aaron D. Rubin: "Judeo-Italian". In Lily Kahn and Aaron D. Rubin (Ed.): Handbook of Jewish Languages, p. 298–365. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017
- Aaron D. Rubin and Lily Kahn: Jewish Languages from A to Z, p. 102–109 ("Italian"). London and New York: Routledge, 2021

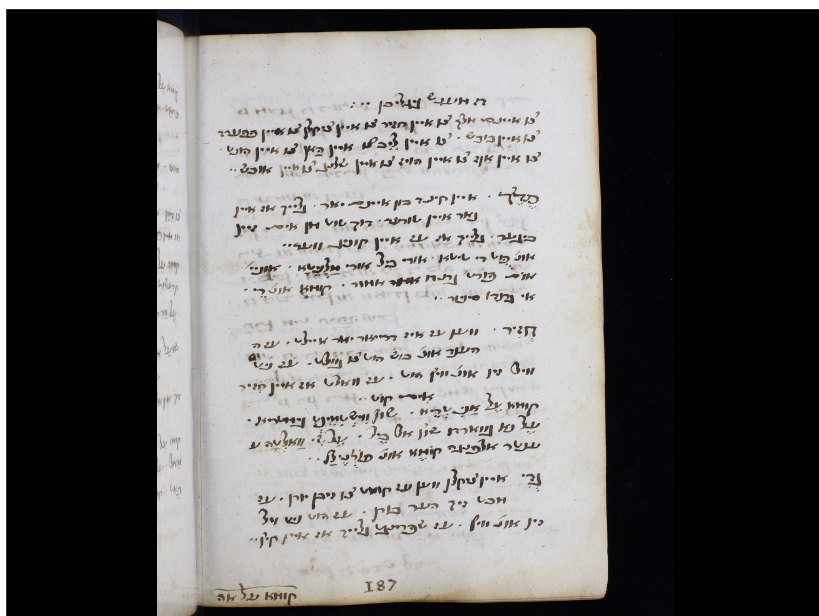
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Poem Structure

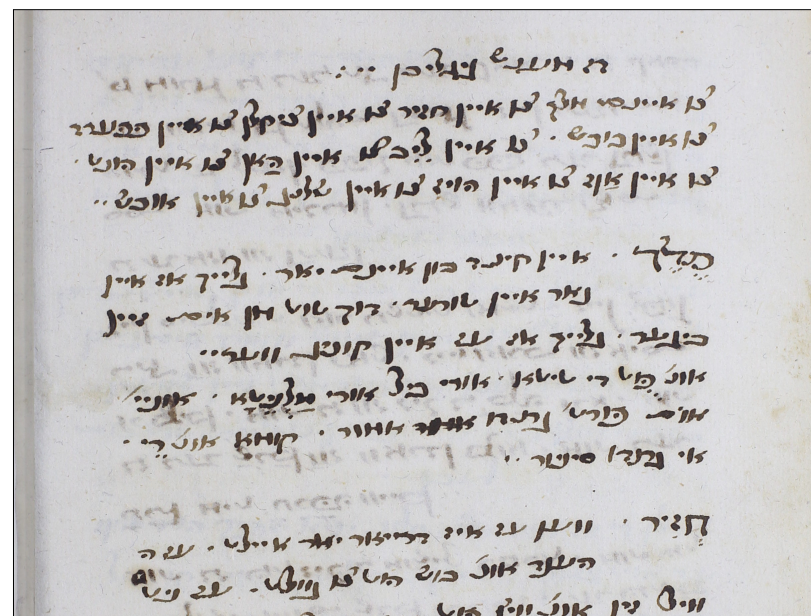
12 stanzas of 8 verses each:

- 4 verses in Yiddish
- 4 verses in a Judeo-Italian dialect
- rhyme AABB CCDD

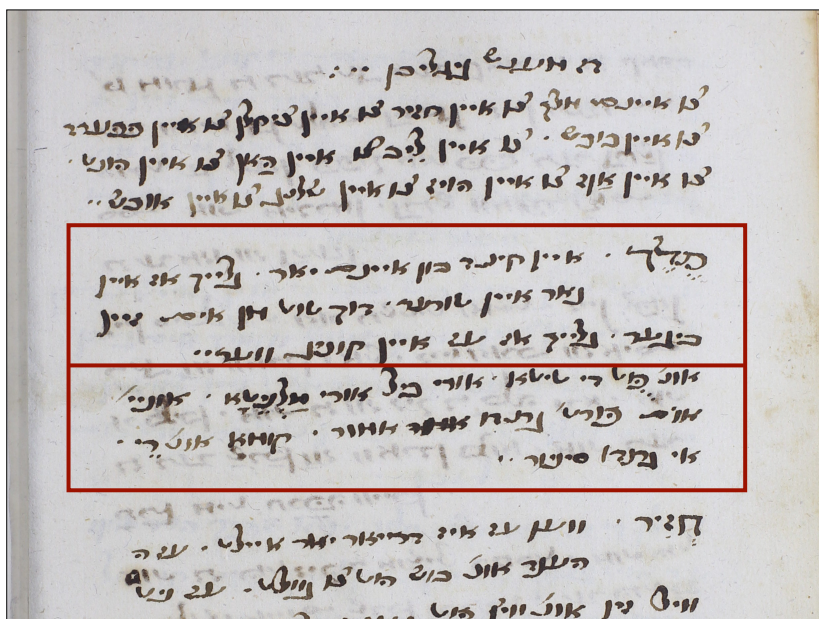
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מ'לך . איין קינד בון איינם יאר .
 גלייך אז איין נאר איין טורער .
 דורך טוט מן אים זיין ביגער .
 גלייך אז עז איין קוניג ווער ..

אונ' פוט די טיטא .
 אורי ביל אורי מלניטא .
 אונ' אום פורט' גרנדו אמור .
 קומא אונ' ר' י אי גרנדו סיניור ..

פוט
 מאלניטה
 אונ'י

10

1:1 melech . ein kind von einem jar .
 gleich az ein nar ein torer .
 doch tut man im sein beger .
 gleich az es ein könig wer ..

1:5 un put de teta .
 ori bel ori malneta .
 ogn'om port grando amor .
 coma un re e grando sinior ..

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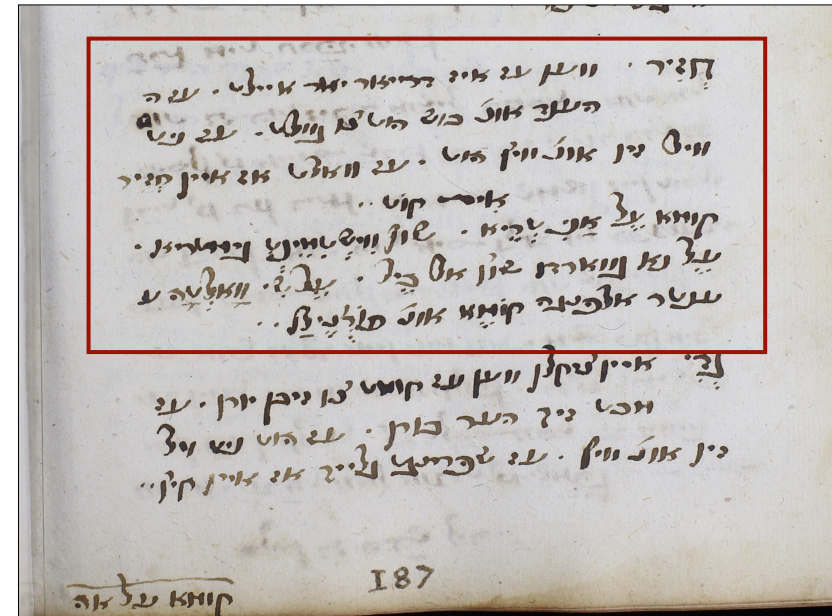
[I]
 [Yiddish] *King*. A one-year-old child
 is equal to a crazy fool
 but everyone does what he desires
 exactly as if he were a king.
 [It. Dial.] A tit's child¹³
 no matter if beautiful or ugly,¹⁴
 each one brings him great love
 as to a king or to a great lord.

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Ages and "Animals"

1: king	50: hen, rooster
3: pig	60: dog
7: kid goat	70: monkey
18: horse	80: snake
30: fox	90: ox
40: lion	100: falling house

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14

חֲזִיר . ווען עז איז דרייאר יאר איילט .
 עז הענד אונ' בוש הוט צו גוולט .
 עז ניט וויל זין אונ' וויץ הוט .
 עז וואלט אז איין חֲזִיר אים קוט ..

קומא על אַני טַריא .
 שון ווישטמינט גימטריא .
 על נא גווארדו שוץ אל ביל .
 על שי וואַלטה ע ענטר אלפנגה קומא אונ' פּוּרְצִילַנ ..

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- 2:1 chesir . wen es is dreiar jar eilt .
 es hend un fus hot zu g(e)w(e)lt .
 es nit fol sin un woiz hot .
 es welt as ein chesir im kot .
- 2:5 coma el ani tre .
 son vistiment [ghimatria?] .
 el na guardo soz al bel .
 el si valta ent(e)r al panaga come un porcel .

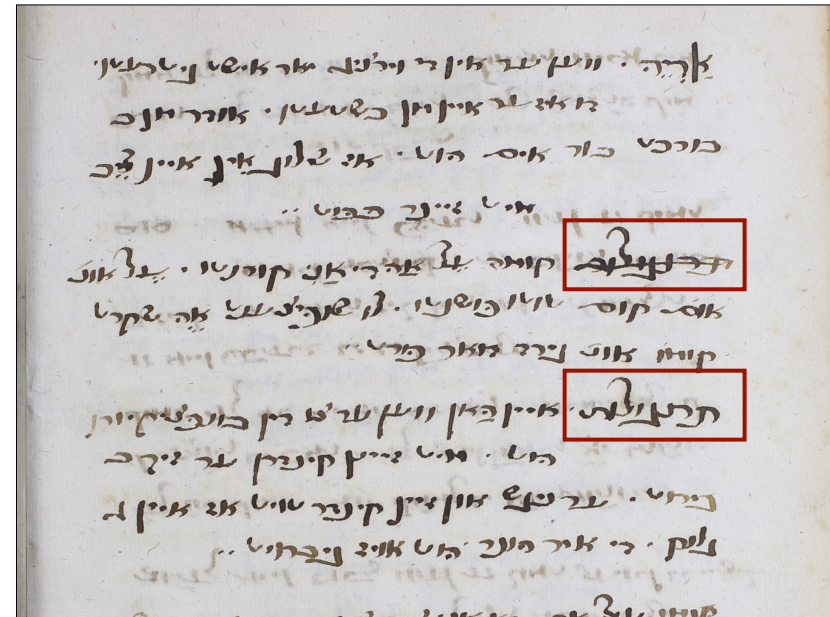
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[2]

[Yiddish] *Pig*. When he [lit. it] is three years old his hands and feet he has under his control he does not have much sense and wit he rolls over like a *pig* in filth¹⁵

[It. Dial.] When he is three years old [he does not worry about his]¹⁶ clothes He does not see the dirt,¹⁷ 'the beauty'¹⁸ he rolls over in mud like a pig.

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Tentative transcription

Italian spelling

- י'א', י' = ii, ij = i
- י' = ji = gi, ge
- י'ל' = lj = gli
- י'נ' = nj = gn

Appendix (from another presentation)

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AV Preservation by
reto.ch

Sandrainstrasse 3
3007 Bern
Switzerland

reto.ch
info@reto.ch



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