

Lyrics of **Aušvicate hi kher baro** (There is a Big Building in Auschwitz)

Romani folksong written in Auschwitz

Romani Version (Beginning)	English Translation
<i>Aušvicate hi kher baro Odoj bešel mro pirano</i>	There's a big building in Auschwitz, that's where my beloved sits.
<i>Ej, bešel, bešel, gondolinel The pre mande pobisterel</i>	Oh, he sits and sits, contemplating, and forgetting about me.
<i>Khatar Ruska bavlal phurdel Mro pirano už man mukhel Mukhel, mukhel pharipnaha Kaj naphend'om ačh Devleha</i>	A wind is blowing from Russia. My beloved is leaving me, he is leaving, leaving with a heavy heart Because I could not say goodbye
	He says, Oh you little blackbird... Take my letter... Take it to my wife... To tell her that I'm in Auschwitz.
	There's great hunger in Auschwitz. There's nothing to eat, not a crust of bread.
	And the guard is evil. He beats us every day, he chases us to work.
	And if he wants a woman... He keeps her behind, telling her to lie down.

Discuss with your group and write answers to each question. Then decide who will present the group's results to the whole class:

- What images or lyrics from the song stood out to you?
- How does knowing the historical context change your emotional response?
- Why would prisoners sing this song in their own language? How might that protect or empower them?
- Explain one way the *Aušvicate hi kher baro* (*There is a Big Building in Auschwitz*) acts as testimony or resistance. Use at least one line from the lyrics as evidence.