

# Baleboste Zisinke

*"Sweet Homemaker" - variously described  
as a miners' song and/or a drinking song*

From a wax cylinder, collected in 1912 by J. Engel,  
at the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine in Kiev

**A**



Ba - le-bo - ste zi - sin - ke zi - sin - ke zi - sin - ke zi - sin - ke ba - le - bo - o - ste ba - le - bo - ste



7  
zi - sin - ke zi - sin - ke zi - sin - ke ba - le - bo - ste

**B**



11  
Ba-le-bo - ste zi - sin - ke Ba-le-bo - ste zi - sin - ke zi - sin - ke zi - sin - ke ba - le - bo - ste

**C**



18  
Ba - le - bo - stin - ke zi - sin - ke zi - sin - ke ba - le - bo - o - ste Ba - le - bo - stin - ke zi - sin - ke be - le - le

Described by the Yiddishkayt blog at Soundcloud.com (Jan 2014) as "a drinking song, recorded in 1912 in a village in the Ruzhin region, Ukraine."

Described in the liner notes to Michael Alpert's "The Upward Flight"(2006) as a Miners' Song

Ruth Rubin's "Voices of a People: The Story of Yiddish Folksong" (Univ. Illinois Press 1979) notes: The drinking songs sung around the festive table had an air of well-being, of expansiveness. One such which describes the delicious dishes served by a charming hostess begins with: 'Baleboste zisinke, zisinke, zisinke, zise baleboste' ("Sweet little hostess, sweet, sweet little hostess") and goes on to list the delicious preparations served by her" 'zisinke ugerlech,...frishinke bulkelech,...tsapldike fishelech,...fetinke yaychelech,...heysinke kartofelech' ("Sweet little cucumbers,...fresh little rolls,...wriggling little fishes,...little bowls of fat soup,... hot little potatoes)."

Itzik Nakhmen Gottesman's "Defining the Yiddish Nation: The Jewish Folklorists of Poland" (Wayne State University Press 2003) quotes Polish folklorist Kipnis as writing, "For this folksong, Sholem Aleichem sang many folksy, double meaning flattery and praise words for the hostess."