It's a night in December, when all through the *Shtetl,*
The children, like elsewhere, refusing to settle:
Raised on a life watching US TV,
Some dude in a ski suit gives new toys for free.
Long hair and white beard, and dressed up in red,
The rest of the story gets muddled, it's said,
In holiday songs by Jewish composers,
And holiday specials with all faiths of actors:
White or Hispanic, or some would be black,
Or green in cartoons, with gifts in a sack.

At our house on this night, a noise from the driveway,
Meant parents returning from where they did "Par-tay."
On Harleys, or Triumphs, or old hogs outside,
They'd gathered to toast all the days they can ride.
This night brought a new friend that we didn't know,
Red leathers, and helmet, whose chaps seemed to glow.
His lengthy white beard was shaggy, in knots,
White hair not hiding his head's balding spots.
His stomach was bigger than father's beer belly,
His laugh seemed infectious, and friendly and merry.
As his *tuchus* and legs seemed to flow off the saddle
He moved with grace, and without fat man's waddle.
Mom introduced him as our Uncle Nick,
Who lived far away, brought us toys (plus some *shtick*).
He said that the gifts were all made by himself,
Which made them all special, not off a store shelf.

That we were all tired's what dad and mom said,
After cookies and hugs, then scooted to bed.
Supposedly sleeping when Nick said goodbye,
But windows we crowded, and glanced at the sky.
Biker Santa, we heard, as he geared up to high:
"Merry *yontiff* to all, and really, I don't fly.

Translations for Yiddish-impaired readers
   Shtetl: town with large proportion Jewish population. In U.S., sometimes references a ghetto.
   Tuchus: the part of anatomy over the gluteus maximus, the fleshy backside of your front.
   Shtick: a comic performance or routine
   Yontiff: holiday
Jewish composers: Mel Tormé; Johnny Marks; Irving Berlin; Livingston & Evans; Jerry Herman; Cahn & Styne

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A Jewish Christmas Tale
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