

the beginning of

**MURRAY, LEO AND SOL**  
**REWRITE THE CRIMINAL CODE**  
(from **OY!**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

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*Place:* A health club sauna.  
*Time:* Late morning.  
*Characters:* MURRAY, an old Jew  
LEO, an old Jew  
SOL, an old Jew

As the scene begins, MURRAY enters the sauna. With each step, we hear:

MURRAY  
Oy... oy... oy... oy.

Murray sits.

MURRAY (cont'd)  
Oyyyyyyyyy.

LEO enters and crosses to his seat.

LEO  
Oy!... Oy!... Oy!... Oy!

LEO sits.

LEO (cont'd)  
(unwinding)  
Oy, yoy, yoy, yoy, yoy, yoy.

MURRAY  
So how are you, Leo?

LEO  
I've been better, and I've been worse.

MURRAY  
Is that so?

LEO

Well, I assume if I haven't been worse, then somebody has.

MURRAY

What's the matter?

LEO

It's my new dentures, Murray. They're no good.

MURRAY

That's too bad.

LEO

I paid an arm and a leg for these teeth, and now I don't know if I'm ahead or behind.

MURRAY

Why don't you have them fixed?

LEO

I looked into that. They said they could fix them, but it'd take two weeks. What am I going to do for those two weeks – get a loaner? It's no good.

MURRAY

I hear you.

SOL enters and shuffles to his seat. Like an elderly Jewish Indian in a war dance, Sol chants with each step as he moves.

SOL

Oy, oy, oy, oy...  
Oy, oy, oy, oy...  
Oy, oy, oy, oy... (etc.)

As SOL lowers himself on the seat, he makes a long sound like an airline making a dive bomb attack.

SOL (cont'd)

Oyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy - yoy.

MURRAY

So, Sol, how's life?

SOL

It's not even worth kibitzing about; that's how life is.

LEO  
What happened?

SOL  
Someone robbed our apartment.

LEO  
Oyyy.

SOL  
You said it.

MURRAY  
Did they get much?

SOL  
They stole our entire set of silver.

LEO  
Oyyy.

SOL  
You said it.

MURRAY  
How's Esther handling it?

SOL  
Esther is besides herself. Either that, or I have astigmatism.

MURRAY  
That's too bad.

SOL  
And she's insisting we replace the silver with the exact same pattern.

MURRAY  
Can you do that?

SOL  
We haven't used the silver in twenty years; who remembers what it looked like? I tell you, if I could get my hands on whoever did it, I'd kick him in the kishkes, rip out his pupik, and make from him to tsimis.

LEO

Must you be so graphic?

SOL

It makes my blood boil, that's all.

LEO

It makes me angry, too, but it doesn't make my blood boil.

SOL

I have higher blood pressure than you. My blood boils quicker.

MURRAY

The whole justice system today – it's no good.

SOL

I agree.

LEO

They should go back to "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth".

SOL

Eh, there was crime then, too.

MURRAY

Maybe they should try two eyes for an eye; two teeth for a tooth.

SOL

Well, that's fine for eyes and teeth, but what about those things there are only one of, like a nose?

MURRAY

Two eyes for an eye; a nose and one eye for a nose.

LEO

And two teeth.

MURRAY

Good idea.

SOL

And what about a chin?

MURRAY

For a chin, a chin and one ear.

LEO

And two teeth.

SOL

And for murder?

MURRAY

For murder, the death penalty.

SOL

And what if the murderer kills two people?

MURRAY

Then we kill the murderer, we bring him  
back to life, and then we kill him again.

LEO

And two teeth.