Lyrics: Yankele Hershkowitz
Melody: folk songs

Verse 1
Jews are blessed with Khayim
Life unto death
Khayim from the house of Life
Rumkowski Khayim with his great miracle
He performs miracles every day
Enough to make you cry 'Gevalt'
Everyone’s asking a different question
But Khayim just says 'Everything is fine!'

Refrain:
But our Khayim is great
He gives us bran
He gives us barley
He gives us manna
In times gone by, Jews ate man in the desert
Today every wife is eating her own man
Rumkowski Khayim thought it through well
Worked hard by day and night
He created a ghetto with a diet
And he cries 'gevalt' that he is right

Verse 2
Khayim Weitzmann said
He wanted Jews to go to Palestine
He told them to plow and to sow
He sent them all to hell!
But our Khayim,
Rumkowski Khayim
He gives us the leftovers every day
One person gets a piece of bread
Another a piece of horsemeat
He’s sending the whole ghetto to hell

Who was Khayim Weitzmann?
What is the significance of ‘horsemeat’ in this context?
What do we learn about conditions in the ghetto from this verse?
What choices did people living in the ghetto have to make?
Verse 3
The third Khayim from the House of Life
Made a good deal with the Angel of Death
He should provide him more and more corpses
He should provide them day and night
So the Angel of Death Got to work right away
He makes a mess out of every hero
He does it quickly
He does it well
He makes the whole ghetto weak and tired

Who was the third Khayim?
What can we learn about conditions in the ghetto from this verse?

Verse 4
On a summer day
A hot day
Rumkowski goes through the streets
Looking like an emperor
A light colored suit
And dark glasses
Surrounded by police
I tell you, folks
Our emperor has grey hair
May he live to be a hundred

How does the song change in this verse?
What is the significance of the idea that he should live to be 100?

Verse 5:
Rumkowski Khayim, the Eldest of the Jews
Is employed by the Gestapo
We Jews are his brothers
And he supplies us food
He makes miracles,
Every day
For heaven's sake oy, oy, oy
Everyone asks
A second question oy
Khayim says: It's good this way!

What do we learn about the structure of ghetto life and the relationship between Rumkowski and other Jews from this verse?
What choices did Rumkowski have to make?