

**THE WALLET**  
**by Barbara Bellman**  
**1-minute Play Festival**

An older married couple (first generation immigrants in their 60s or 70s) argue as they walk along a busy urban street. They speak with accents (preferably Yiddish).

CELIA

Why do you always do this?

LAMAR

What's so wrong?

CELIA

You encourage them. They're like pigeons. They come back to get more when they know there are crumbs to be had.

LAMAR

It doesn't hurt anybody.

CELIA

But you're just throwing your money away! It doesn't grow on trees you know.

LAMAR

I know. I work hard for it.

CELIA

And I work hard to make it stretch a little farther.

LAMAR

I don't know why it makes you so angry.

CELIA

Because you're a sucker for anyone with a hand out, shaking a cup. Any one with a long face or a shabby coat – you're right there with a dollar here, a dollar there. What is this that you have such a need to help every beggar you see?

LAMAR stops, pulls out his wallet, opens it and thrusts towards CELIA.

LAMAR

Why? *WHY?* Because every day I thank God that I'm on *THIS* side of the wallet.