

THE PASSIONATE SHEPHERD TO HIS LOVE.

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THE PASSIONATE SHEPHERD TO HIS LOVE.[\[653\]](#)

Come[\[654\]](#) live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That hills and vallies, dales and fields,[\[655\]](#)
Woods or steepy mountain yields.[\[656\]](#)
And we will[\[657\]](#) sit upon the rocks,
Seeing[\[658\]](#) the shepherds feed their[\[659\]](#) flocks
By shallow rivers to whose falls
Melodious birds sing[\[660\]](#) madrigals.[Pg 284]
And I will make thee beds of roses[\[661\]](#)
And[\[662\]](#) a thousand fragrant posies,
A cup of flowers and a kirtle
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle.
A gown[\[663\]](#) made of the finest wooll
Which from our pretty lambs we pull;
Fair-lined[\[664\]](#) slippers for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold.
A belt of straw and ivy-buds,
With coral clasps and amber studs;
An if these pleasures may thee move,
Come[\[665\]](#) live with me, and be my love.
The shepherd-swains[\[666\]](#) shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May-morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me, and be my love.

FOOTNOTES:

[653] This delightful pastoral song was first published, without the fourth and sixth stanzas, in *The Passionate Pilgrim*, 1599. It appeared complete in *England's Helicon*, 1600, with Marlowe's name subscribed. By quoting it in the *Complete Angler*, 1653, Izaak Walton has made it known to a world of readers.

[654] Omitted in P. P.

[655] So P. P.—E. H. "That vallies, groves, hills and fieldes."—Walton "That vallies, groves, or hills or fields."

[656] So E. H.—P. P. "And the craggy mountain yields."—Walton "Or, woods and steepie mountains yeelds."

[657] So E. H.—P. P. "There will we."—Walton "Where we will."

[658] So E. H.—P. P. and Walton "And see."

[659] So E. H. and P. P.—Walton "our."

[660] So P. P. and Walton.—E. H. "sings."

[661] So E. H. and Walton.—P. P. "There will I make thee a bed of roses."

[662] So E. H.—P. P. "With."—Walton "And then."

[663] This stanza is omitted in P. P.

[664] So E. H.—Walton "Slippers lin'd choicely."

[665] So E. H. and Walton.—P. P. "Then."—After this stanza there follows in the second edition of the *Complete Angler*, 1655, an additional stanza:—

"Thy silver dishes for thy meat
As precious as the gods do eat,
Shall on an ivory table be
Prepar'd each day for thee and me."

[666] This stanza is omitted in P. P.—E. H. and Walton "The sheep-heards swaines."

[In *England's Helicon* Marlowe's song is followed by the "Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" and "Another of the same Nature made since." Both are signed *Ignoto*, but the first of these pieces has been usually ascribed to Sir Walter Raleigh^[667]—on no very substantial grounds.]

THE NYMPH'S REPLY TO THE SHEPHERD.

If all the world and love were young,
And truth in every Shepherd's tongue,
These pretty pleasures might me move
To live with thee, and be thy love.
Times drives the flocks from field to fold,
When rivers rage and rocks grow cold,
And Philomel becometh dumb,
The rest complains of cares to come.
The flowers do fade and wanton fields
To wayward winter reckoning yields;
A honey tongue, a heart of gall,
Is fancy's spring, but sorrow's fall.^[Pg 286]
Thy gowns, thy shoes, thy beds of roses,
Thy cap, thy kirtle, and thy posies,
Soon break, soon wither, soon forgotten;
In folly ripe, in reason rotten.
Thy belt of straw and ivy buds,
Thy coral clasps and amber studs,
All these to me no means can move
To come to thee, and be thy love.
But could youth last and love still breed,
Had joys no date nor age no need,
Then these delights my mind might move
To live with thee, and be thy love.

FOOTNOTES:

^[667]Oldys in his annotated copy (preserved in the British Museum) of Langbaine's *Engl. Dram. Poets*, under the article *Marlowe* remarks:—"Sir Walter Raleigh was an encourager of his [*i.e.* Marlowe's] Muse; and he wrote an answer to a Pastoral Sonnet of Sir Walter's [*sic*], printed by Isaac Walton in his book of fishing." It would be pleasant to think that Marlowe enjoyed Raleigh's patronage; but Oldys gives no authority for his statement.

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