

The Husbandman and Serving Man

1. Well met well met my friend all on the highway riding
All simply all alone
I pray come tell to me what may your calling be
Are you some servant man
2. O no my brother dear what makes you to enquire
Of any such a thing at my hand
Indeed I'll not refrain but I will tell you plain
I am a down-right husbandman
3. If a husbandman you be pray come along with me
And instantly out of hand
All in a little space I will help you to some place
Where you shall be a servant man.
4. As for thy diligence I return thee many thanks
I require no such thing at thy hand
But something to me show where of this I may know
The pleasures of a servant man.
5. Why at court we must be dressed in our livery the best
Live and gay with our hats in our hand
Our shirts as white as milk, and stockings made of silk
That's clothing for a servant man.
6. As for thy rich attire it's not fitting for to wear
Nor to ramble the bushes among
Give me a good great coat and in my purse a groat
That's clothing for a husbandman.
7. A servantman do eat the best of dainty meat
Such as peacock capon goose and swan
Where Lords and Ladies dine they drink sugar in their wine
That's living for a servant man.
8. As for thy goose and capon give me some beans and bacon
Some butter and some cheese now and then
To have good brawn and sauce all in a farmer's house
That's living for the husbandman.
9. Is not it a fine thing to ride out with the king
A Duke Lord or any such a one
To hear the horn to blow see the hounds all in a row
There's pleasure for the servant man.
10. My pleasures more than that, to see my oxen fat
My corn for to flourish in my land
My ploughing and my sowing, my reaping and my mowing
That's pleasure for the husbandman.

11. Well sir I must confess your calling is the best
So I'll give you the upper hand
Neither Lord nor Duke nor King nor any such a one
Can do without the husbandman.

12. So both now and forever, I'll do my best endeavour
To support the servant man
For evermore I'll pray by night and by day
May heaven bless the husbandman

Source: Sung by John Fry, Tormarton
Collector Cecil Sharp on 03 April 1907. (Words only, no tune)

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