

The Cuckoo

1. A wal - - king and a tal - - king and a wal - - king goes
I, For to meet my sweet Will - iam he will come by and bye.

2. For to meet him it's pleasure and to part it is grief,
For a false-hearted young man he's worse than a thief.
3. For a thief he will rob you and take all you have,
When a false-hearted young man will bring you to the grave.
4. The grave it will rot you and turn you to dust,
There is not one in twenty that a maiden can trust.
5. The cuckoo is a small bird, he sings as he flies,
He brings us good tidings and he tells us no lies.
6. He sucks the little small birds' eggs to make his voice clear,
And then he sings Cuckoo three months in the year.
7. So if he's gone let him go, let him sink, or let him swim,
For he's sadly mistaken if he thinks that I mourn.

Source: Mrs Elizabeth Smitherd (Smithers) (65) at Tewkesbury. Collected by Cecil J. Sharp on 10 April 1908.

Notes: Cecil Sharp Manuscript Collection (at Clare College, Cambridge, CJS2/10/1626).

Cecil Sharp Manuscript Collection (at Clare College, Cambridge, CJS2/9/1479).

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