

*The Shepherd Lad*

Adaptation by Battlefield Band. The text is a version of the Scottish ballad *The Shepherd's Son* Childs's version D of *The Baffled Knight* (No. #112).



C            F            C            G  
 1. Once there was a shepherd lad kept sheep upon the hill  
           C                            F                            C            G            C  
 An he's laid his pipe and his crook aside and there he's slept his fill.  
 C            F            C            G  
 He woke up on a riverbank on a fine May mornin,  
           C            F                            C            G            C            F  
 And there he spied a lady swimming in the clothes that she was born in.

2. So he raised his head from his green bed and he approached the maid.  
 "Put on your clothes, my dear," he says, "and do not be afraid.  
 It's fitter for a lady fair to sew a silken seam  
 than to rise on a fine May morning and swim against the stream."

3. "Well, if you'll not touch my mantle and you'll leave my clothes alone,  
 then I'll give you all the money, sir, that you can carry home."  
 "I'll not touch your mantle, and I'll leave your clothes alone,  
 but I'll take you out of the clear water, my dear, to be my own."

4. So he's taken her out o the clear water and he's rowed her in his arms.            Harmony  
 "Put on your clothes, my dear," he says, "and hide your bounteous charms."            Harmony  
 He put her on a milk white steed and himself upon another,            Harmony  
 and it's all along the way they rode like sister and like brother.            Harmony

5. She rode in to her father's gate and she's covered at the pin,  
 and ready stood a porter there to let the fair maid in.  
 When the gates were opened, it's so nimbly she stepped in.  
 She said, "Kind sir, you are a fool without and I'm a maid within."

6. "So fare thee well, my modest boy. I thank you for your care,            Harmony  
 but if you had done as you desired, I'd never have left you there.            Harmony  
 I will sew no silken seam on a fine May morning.            Harmony  
 You can bide your time till your time runs out, so take this as fair warning."            Harmony  
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           You can bide your time till your time runs out, so take this as fair warning."            Harmony