The Servingman and the Husbandman



(S)

If a husbandman you be, then go along with me, And quickly you shall see out of hand; Then in a little space, I will help you to a place Where you may be a servingman.

(H)

Kind Sir, I 'turn you thanks for your intelligence These things I receive at your hand; But something pray now show, that first I may plainly know The pleasures of a servingman.

(S)

Why, a servingman has pleasure beyond all sort of measure, With his hawk on his fist as he stands, For the game that he does kill and the meat that does him fill Are pleasures for the servingman.

(H)

And my pleasure's more than that, to see my oxen fat, And a good stock of hay by them stand; My ploughing and my sowing, my reaping and my mowing, Are pleasures for the husbandman.

(S)

Why, it is a gallant thing to ride out with a king, With a lord, duke, or any such man; To hear the horns to blow, and see the hounds all in a row, That is pleasure for the servingman.

(H)

But my pleasure's more, I know, to see my corn to grow, And so thriving all over my land;

And therefore do I mean, with my ploughing, with my team, To keep myself a husbandman.

(S)

Why, the clothing that we wear is delicate and rare, With our coat, lace, buckles and band; Our shirts are white as milk, our stockings they are silk, That is clothing for the hasbandman.

(H)

But I value not a hair for delicate fine wear Such as gold is lac-ed upon; Give me a good great coat and in my purse a groat, That is clothing for the husbandman.

(S)

Kind Sir, it would be bad if none could be had Those tables for to wait upon; There is no lord, duke, or squire, nor ne'er a man of honour Can do without a servingman.

(H)

But Jack, it would be worse if there was none of us, The plough for to follow along; There is neither lord nor king, nor any other one Can do without the husbandman.

(S)

Kind Sir, I must confess and I humbly protest I will give to you the uppermost hand; Although your labour's painful it is so very gainful I wish I were a husbandman.

(H)

So come now let us all both great as well as small Pray for the grain of our land And let us whatsoever do all our best endeavour To maintain the good husbandman.