

The Maid and the Palmer

Trad.

Verse 1

[D]Oh the maid went down[D2] to the[A] well for to [D]wash
And the[D5] dew fell down on her [A]snow-white[D] flesh
The[D9] dew fell down on her[A] snow-white[D] flesh
As the sun shone down so[A7] early.[D]

Verse 2

And as she washed and as she wrang,
She hung them out on a hazel wand,
She hung them out on a hazel wand,
And by there came a Palmer man.

Verse 3

"God speed you old man she said,
"And God speed you my pretty fair maid",
"God speed you my pretty fair maid,
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 4

"Have you got a cup, have you got a can?
Could you give a drink to a Palmer man?
Could you give a drink to a Palmer man?
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 5

"Oh I've no cup and I've no can
And I cannot give a drink to a Palmer man,
I cannot give a drink to a Palmer man
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 6

"You lie! You lie! You are foresworn,
For if your true love came from Rome
A cup, a can you'd find for him
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 7

She swore by God and the good St. John
True lover she'd had never a one,
True lover she'd had never a one
As the sun shone down so early.

Verse 8

"You lie! You lie! You are foresworn.
Nine children you have born,
Nine children you have born
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 9

Oh there's three of them lie under your bedhead,
Three of them under the hearth are laid,
Three of them under the hearth are laid,
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 10

"Three more lie on yonder green,
Count fair maid for that makes nine,
Count fair maid for that makes nine
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 11

"Oh Palmer. Oh Palmer pray tell me
Penance that you will give to me,
Penance that you will give to me

As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 12

"Penance I can give thee none
But seven years as a stepping stone,
Seven years as a stepping stone,
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 13

"Seven more as a clapper to ring in a bell,
And seven to run as an ape through hell,
Seven to run as an ape through hell,
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 13

"Oh welcome, welcome stepping stone.
Welcome clapper in a bell to ring,
Welcome clapper in a bell to ring
As the sun shines down so early."

Verse 14

Welcome stone, welcome bell
Christ keep me from the apes of hell,
Christ keep me from the apes of hell
As the sun shines down so early."