

The Passionate Shepherd to His Love. By: Christopher Marlowe

COME live with me

And we will all the pleasures prove

That hills and valleys, dale and field,

And all the craggy mountains yield.

There will we sit upon the rocks

And see the shepherds feed their flocks,

By shallow rivers, to whose falls

Melodious birds sing madrigals.

There will I make thee beds of roses

And a thousand fragrant posies,

A cap of flowers, and a kirtle

Embroider'd all with leaves of myrtle.

A gown made of the finest wool

Which from our pretty lambs we pull,

Fair linèd slippers for the cold,

With buckles of the purest gold.

A belt of straw and ivy buds
With coral clasps and amber studs
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me and be my Love.
The shepherd swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May-morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me and be my Love.

Summary: The poem is atypical pastoral poem describing life in the country side, the poet expresses his deep passion and he invites beloved to come and live with him the country side and enjoy the pleasures and beauty of nature.

Themes: nature(countryside), pure and innocent love, youth, time.

The speaker of this poem begins by making the one request of his lover that serves as the basis for the rest of the poem He at once lives up to his name as he asks his unnamed lover to "Come live with me. He is hoping that she, upon hearing his request, will leave whatever life she is living behind, and come and "be [his] love" wherever he may be. He does not leave her without some idea of what it will be like to live with him, in fact, he spends the rest of the poem describing to his love

what her life will be if she agrees. The second half of this first quatrain describes how when the two of them are together, with nothing standing between them, they will "all the pleasures prove." They will venture out into the world and "yield," or take, from the "Valleys, groves, hills and fields / Woods, or steepy mountain[s]," everything they have to offer. There will be nothing in the world from which the couple cannot feel passion. In the second stanza of "The Passionate Shephend to His Love', the speaker

goes on to describe some day-to-day details of what their lives would be like together. He states that they will "sit upon the Rocks" of this new and beautiful world they are living in together and "See" the "Shepherds" with their flocks of sheep. They will observe the world that they used to live in, and appreciate its details.

Due to the fact that their lives are now devoted to one another and to the world they inhabit, they have time to notice the details around them. They will see and hear the "shallow Rivers," and the "Melodious birds" which sing to the crashing of the falling water. The songs the birds sing will be like "Madrigals," or harmonious pieces of music written for multiple voices. The shepherd still has a number of different enticements to offer his lover in the hope that she will join him. He describes how he will "make [her] a bed of

Roses. "He will fill her life with flowers by creating for her a "kirtle" or an outer gown, and a "cap," which will all be "Embroidered...with the leaves of Myrtle," a common flowering shrub. In the fourth quatrain and the halfway point of the poem, the speaker continues on

describing the different pieces of clothing and accessories that he will craft for his lover. It is important to remember that all of these items are contingent on her coming to live with him. He will spin for her a "gown made of the finest wool" from the lambs that they will tend together. His occupation is now working in her favor and he is able to make her exactly.

what he thinks, she wants he does not neglect her feet and states that she will also have "Fair lined slippers" that she can wear when it gets cold.

Her buckles on her shoes will be made of the "purest gold..In the second to last stanza, he begins to conclude his offer. He finishes up describing the wardrobe she will have by describing her gaining a belt made "of straw and Ivy buds." It will also feature "Coral clasps and Amber studs." It is clear that the speaker is doing his utmost to find and describe things that he thinks she wants the most. Whether this is the case or not the reader will never know. In the second half of the stanza, he repeats his request that if only she will "live with [him]" all "these pleasures" will

be hers. Her buckles on her shoes will be made of the "purest gold. In the second to last

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9

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will be hers. In the final section of "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" the

speaker describes how after she has accepted his offer the "Shepherds' Swains," or

their comrades and lovers, will "dance and sing." All people will "delight" in the

fact that they are finally together as they should be. In the last two lines, he repeats,

for the third time, his offer. He asks that if "these delights" move "thy mind" then

she should come "live with [him], and be [his] love."