

The Poor Man's Song

Oh, poor man, oh, poor man, come tell un-to me true How you main - tain your
6 fam - 'ly and how you car - ry them through; How you main - tain your fam - 'ly when
11 most of them are small With noth - ing but your la - bor to — main - tain them all.

Oh, early in the morning I rise with good cheer
I take a flail all in my hand and a bottle of good beer;
With a flail all in my hand and a bottle of good beer
I'm as happy as a man with ten thousand a year.

Sometimes I do reap and sometimes I do sow,
Sometimes hedging, sometimes ditching, such work I often do;
There's nothing comes amiss to me, I harrow and I plow
And I earn all my living by the sweat of my brow.

When I come home at night, then it's weary I be
I take my youngest up and I dance it on my knee;
The others flock around me with their laughter and their noise
And that is all the comfort a poor man enjoys.

My wife is ever ready to help me with my yoke
We live like two turtle doves who never do provoke;
And though it may be true that we do live poor
Yet we can feed the beggar that comes to our door.

A nobleman, who hearing what this poor man did say
Invited him to dine with him the very next day;
And with him his wife and his children all to bring,
And in token of this favor, he gave him a ring.

So, early the next morning, this poor man arose
He dressed all his children in the best of their clothes;
So, he and his wife and his seven children small
They all went to dine in the nobleman's hall.

Then when they came there, so the story reports
There were victuals provided of several sorts;
And at this fine table, they happily did dine
With the kindest of favor and plenty of wine.

The Poor Man's Song

Then after dinner this nobleman did show
What unto this poor man he had to bestow;
“Since you by honest labor your home do maintain
May you in humble comfort your family sustain.

Now since you have spoken so well of your wife,
Here’s plenty to maintain her the rest of her life;
‘Tis fifty acres of good land I give unto thee
To maintain you, wife and your large family.”