

## The farmer's boy

Traditional English ballad, c.1800

- 1 The sun had set behind yon hills,  
Across yon dreary moor,  
Weary and lame, a boy there came  
Up to a farmer's door  
'Can you tell me if any there be  
That will give me employ,  
To plough and sow, and reap and mow,  
And be a farmer's boy?
- 4 'Come, try the lad,' the mistress said,  
'Let him no further seek.'  
'O, do, dear father!' the daughter cried,  
While tears ran down her cheek  
'He'd work if he could, so 'tis hard to want food  
And wander for employ;  
Don't turn him away, but let him stay,  
And be a farmer's boy.'
- 5 And when the lad became a man,  
The good old farmer died,  
And left the lad the farm he had,  
And his daughter for his bride.  
The lad that was, the farm now has,  
Oft smiles, and thinks with joy  
Of the lucky day he came that way,  
To be a farmer's boy.

Translation into Cornish by Ken George, c. 1979

Howlsedhez o a-dryv an vre  
a-dreus an hallow hir,  
pan dheuth maw skwith rag hwilaz gweyth  
dhe dharaz bargaen-tir:  
"A yllowgh hwi dhymm arveth ri  
y'n prazow po y'n koez?  
Kynth ov vy manz, yma dhymm hwanz  
maw tiek doz ha boz, maw tiek doz ha boz.

Yn-medh an wre'ti: "Prevyn e',  
namoy re hwillo ev!"  
"Y kewsydh gwir", yn-medh an vyrgh,  
dre oelva yn hy lev;  
"Ny via gwell mar pe a-bell  
hag yn unn wandra moz;  
re drikko, 'tho, ev may hallo  
maw tiek doz ha boz, maw tiek doz ha boz."

Devedhyz den re wrussa'n maw,  
pan verwis an dhewdhen,  
y'n jevo sur an bargaen-tir  
ha'n vyrgh 'vel priez len.  
An maw neb o, y pleg dhodho  
dhe berthi kov pub nos;  
y son an jydh kynz oll pan dhe'th  
maw tiek doz ha boz, maw tiek doz ha boz.