

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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The Fox and the Goose

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'Pax uobis' quod the fox,
'for I am comyn to toowne'

It fell ageyns the next nyght
the fox yede to with all his myghte,
with-ouen cole or candlelight,
whan that he cam vnto the town.

When he cam all in the yarde,
soore te geys were ill a-frede;
'I shall macke some of youre berde,
or that I goo from the toowne!'

when he cam all in the croofte,
there he stalkyd wundirfull soofte;
'for here haue I be frayed full ofte
whan that i haue come to toowne.'

he hente a goose all be the heye,
faste the goos began to creye!
oowte yede men as they myght heye,
and seyde, 'fals fox, ley it doowne!'

'Nay,' he said, 'soo mot I the-
sche shall go vnto the wode with me;
sche and I wnther a tre,
e-mange the beryis browne.

I haue a wyf, and sche lyeth seke;
many smale whelppis sche haue to eke -
many bonys they must pike
will they ley a-downe.'

[14TH OR 15TH CENTURY]

[Robbins' Secular Lyrics, 1955]

[Unfortunately no music survives for these. The oldest traditional version, in the Harris MS,

Scotland, c 1825, is being edited for publication in the near future

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