

The Nobleman's Wedding / The Unconstant Lover

Traditional

It happened to be at a very rich wedding
But as for the bride she did prove untrue
Aye as she thought on her former true lover
Her former true lover still ran in her view
Supper being over and all things being ended
It happened that someone should sing a song
It happened to fall on the bride's former lover and
All about the bride that song did belong

It's how can you sit at another man's table
How can you drink of another man's wine
How can you lie in the arms of another
When many other long nights you have lain in mine
Here's the piece of gold that was broken between us
Here I return it back to you again
Long have I kept it as a true lover's token
But now no longer with me it shall remain

Too much blinking blind-eth the eye love
Too much thinking change-eth the mind
Too much courting turns cold at last love
So has happened with yours and mine
Some of them have been seven years away love
Some of them have returned back again
But I have been scarce three years away love
An inconstant lover to me you have been

The bride as she sat at the head of the table
Every word that pass-eth she mark-eth right well
To sit any longer she was no more able
But down on her knees to the bridegroom she fell
One single favour I'm going to ask you
Hoping I'll never ask you one again
One single night to lie beside my mother
All the rest of my life I'll lie with you again

This one single favour being instantly granted
With weeping and wailing she went to her bed
Early next morning they went to her chamber
They went into her chamber and found that she was dead
Alas ye green valleys how long must I wander
Shall it be for one month or shall it be for two
And then I shall cast off this cheap robe of mourning
And then I shall wear the bonny bonny blue
Then I shall wear the bonny bonny blue
Then I shall wear the bonny bonny blue

The song is 'traditional' because, as yet, there is no record of who wrote it