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The Passionate Shepherd To His Love: اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة الإنكليزية

#### محتوى المحاضرة الحادية عشر

## The Passionate Shepherd To His Love

The Passionate Shepherd to his Love was among the best known of Elizabethan lyrics and was endlessly imitated, parodied and answered, well into the seventeenth century. It is one of the most enticing love poems written by Christopher Marlowe which was published in 1599. In this pastoral poem, a young shepherd describes his heartfelt love and ardent desire to be with his mistress. The shepherd wants to win the heart of his beloved at any cost. He wants to gift her with all the material objects that nature could provide him.

The poem begins with the <u>speaker</u> asking his lover to come and be with him forever. The shepherd asks his lady love to join him amidst the beauty of nature in the countryside .If she does this simple thing, they will be able to experience all the joy that the world offer. He will make to her a bed of roses with a cap of flowers and kirtle embroidered with myrtle leaves with the Madrigals singing in the background. Also, he promises to make her a gown made of the finest wool and a belt of straw and ivy buds. The shepherd will also uses the wool from their lambs to make her dresses. He clearly believes that these items of clothing will be enough to entice her to live with him. They will have all the best in their life .He continues on to state that not only him will be happy in their love, but all the farmers and people around them. By the end of the piece, it is not clear whether or not she accepts his offer, but it seems to that it is up to her. He has done his best, and he is awaiting her answer.

## **Structural Analysis**

*'The Passionate Shepherd to His Love'* is six <u>stanza</u> poem which is made up of sets of four lines, or quatrains. Each of these quatrains follows the consistent rhyming pattern of

aabb ccdd... and so on. The poet has chosen to utilize this rhyming pattern in an effort to create a sing-song-like melody to the poem. It is a piece with a hopeful and pleasant tone, and the <u>rhyme scheme</u> emphasizes this feature.

Come live with me and be my love,

And we will all the pleasures prove,

That Valleys, groves, hills, and fields,

Woods, or steepy mountain yields.

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 is hoping that she will come and "be [his] love" wherever he may be. He spends the majority of 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 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.

And we will sit upon the Rocks,

Seeing the Shepherds feed their flocks,

By shallow Rivers to whose falls

Melodious birds sing Madrigals.

In the second stanza, 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. 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 will be like "Madrigals," or harmonious pieces of music written for multiple voices.

#### And I will make thee beds of Roses

And a thousand fragrant posies,

A cap of flowers, and a kirtle

#### Embroidered all with leaves of Myrtle;

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.

A gown made of the finest wool

Which from our pretty Lambs we pull;

Fair lined slippers for the cold,

### With buckles of the purest gold;

In the fourth quatrain, the speaker continues on describing the different pieces of clothing and accessories that he will craft for his lover. 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."

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.

In this 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. Then he <u>repeats</u> his request that if only she will "live with [him]" all "these pleasures" will be hers.

The Shepherds' 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.

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."

# **Literary Analysis**

This <u>poem</u> is a celebration of love, innocence, youth, and poetry. Since the traditional image of shepherds is that they are innocent and accustomed to living in an idyllic <u>setting</u>, the purpose of such a pastoral poem is to idealize the harmony, peace, and simplicity of the shepherd's life. The <u>main idea</u> of this poem is romantic love mingled with <u>themes</u> such as, the natural world, and the pastoral life. a shepherd is presented as speaking to his <u>beloved</u>, evoking "all the pleasures" of the springtime. The <u>speaker</u> is a loving shepherd, who tries to persuade his beloved to stay with him in the countryside. As it is a pastoral poem, its physical setting is the countryside, and its temporal setting is <u>the spring</u> season. The title "<u>The Passionate Shepherd to His Love</u>" refers to the love of a shepherd for his beloved, based on his romantic ideals of presenting her the <u>beauty</u> of the idyllic world in which he is living. The poem opens with the popular romantic line, "Come live with me, and be my love." He is addressing his beloved. He

wants her to come and experience pleasures as he says, "we will all the pleasures prove."

The <u>literary devices</u> are tools that enable the writers to enhance their simple texts to bring richness and uniqueness in the texts and open multiple interpretations. Christopher Marlowe has also used some literary elements in this poem. The analysis of a few <u>literary devices</u> used in this poem has been analyzed below.

- **Symbolism:** is using <u>symbols</u> to signify ideas and qualities, giving them symbolic meanings different from literal meanings. "Roses" are symbols of love, <u>beauty</u>, and desire. The country referred by the shepherd symbolizes the peace, tranquility and never-ending hope.
- Alliteration: is the repetition of consonant sounds in the same line such as the sound of /p/ in "And we will all the pleasures prove" and the sound of /sh/ and /s/ in "The Shepherds' Swains shall dance and sing."
- <u>Imagery</u>: is used to make the readers perceive things involving their five senses. For example, "That Valleys, groves, hills, and fields"; "A gown made of the finest wool" and "A belt of straw and Ivy buds."
- Metaphor: It is a figure of speech when comparing between different objects. For example, in the eighth line, "Melodious birds sing Madrigals" the speaker compares songs of the birds to poems that are set to music.

# "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" Themes

#### Love and Pleasure

"The Passionate Shepherd" is a poem of seduction. In it, the speaker tries to convince his listener to come to the country and be his lover. The speaker makes his case on the basis of the luxuries they will enjoy together in the countryside, describing it as a place of pleasure that is at once sensual and innocent. He wants his "love" to simply sit on the rocks for a while and appreciate the scene, without worrying about their responsibilities. Although the joys the speaker describes may be fleeting, they are still rich and seductive. Listing them, the speaker makes a case for embracing the pure pleasure of love and rejects the idea that doing so might have negative consequences.

For the speaker, the countryside is a very sensual place. He is attentive to the materials and objects one finds in rural life: "straw," "ivy-buds," "beds of roses," and "fragrant posies." In his fantasy, he brings these objects into contact with the body of his "love" making them into garments and beds. The fact that the speaker uses these objects in a suggestive fashion implies his underlying desire: he seems to want to take their place and caress his "love," to pay close and sensual attention to the lover's body.

## Country

It's important that the speaker locates the pleasures he describes in a specific landscape of "valleys, groves, hills and fields, woods or steepy mountain." The speaker begins the poem with an invitation: "Come live with me." The word "come" suggests that his love must cross some distance before being able to enjoy the pleasures which the poem describes.

Indeed, given that the speaker lists specific things about life in the countryside in order to entice the lover to leave the city behind, readers can assume that the city doesn't share any of these positive attributes. For example, where the countryside is filled with

"melodious birds," Also, in the country the lovers can sit idly and watch shepherds tending to their flocks.

Marlowe poses the innocence and pleasures of country life. The speaker's presentation of the countryside here follows the ideals of the pastoral tradition: it is an innocent and pleasure-filled space. The poem thus argues for a return to a simpler, purer way of life embodied by the countryside.