

*By Chance It Was*

16. Jh.

em

1. By chance it was I met my love  
It did me much surprise  
Down by a shady myrtle grove

H

Just as the sun did rise.

em

The birds they sang right gloriously  
And pleasant was the air  
And there was non save she and I  
among the flowers fair.

2. In dewy grass and green we walked  
She timid was and coy  
How can'st thou choose but pity me  
My pretty pearl, my joy  
How comes it that thou stroll this way?  
Sweet maiden tell me true  
Before bright Phoebus' glittering ray  
Has supped the morning dew?

4. And as we wended down the road  
I said to her, "Sweet maid,  
Three years I in my place abode  
And three more must be stayed  
The three that I am bound so fast  
O fairest wait for me  
And when the weary years are past  
Then wedded we will be."

3. I go to tend the flocks I love  
The ewes and tender lambs  
That pasture by the myrtle grove  
That gambol by their dams  
There I enjoy a pure content  
At dawning of the day  
Then, hand in hand, we lovers went  
To see the flock at play.

5. "Three years are long, three times too long  
Too lengthy the delay"  
And then I answered in my song  
"Hope wastes them quick away  
Where love is fervent, fain and fast  
And knoweth not decay  
There nimbly fleet the seasons past  
Accounted as one day."

Begleitung:

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