

# Whelyow Garyoryon / Lovers Tasks

Trelyes Gans Ken George Mys Gwyngala 1982

F#m A E

A pren dhym Ar - lodh - es crys sen dal pur gan, Pan  
Oh buy me my lad - y a cam - bric shirt, Whilst

3 F#m C#m E F#m

dhas - son dy - guth pup kell - y a - wyth, Ha'y  
ev - ry grove - rings with a merr - ry an - tine, And

5 A E A E A D C#m F#m

wry - as hep or - ra an nas - wyeth y'n pan, Ha dhymm - mo - vy car - es wyr ty - a vyth.  
stitch it with - out an - y need - le - work, And thou shalt be a true - lov - er of mine.

Ef:

A pren dhy-, Arlodhes, crys sendal pur gan'  
*Pan dhasson dyguth pup kelly a wyth,*  
Ha'y wryas hep gorra an nasweth y'n pan,  
*Ha dhymm-mo-vy cares wyr ty a vyth.*

Y wolghy yu res dhys y'n fenten enos,  
*Pan.....*  
Ma na godha dagren a dhowr a'y os.  
*Ha.....*

War'n wels-na y'n cannyth mar wyn avel ergh,  
Le na vedha bythqueth nag olow na lerg.

Y gregy war dhrenen yn-hons yu res dhys,  
Re bu hep blejennow a dhalleth an bys.

Ha pan vo gorfennys an whelyow yn-cowl,  
Y'th cafaf 'vel pryas y'n'dan an howl.

Hy:  
Ow Arluth mar jentyl, dhym prena a wreth,  
*Pan.....*  
Un erow a dyr ynter hyly ha treth,  
*Ha.....*

Y aras gans corn dyworth margh yu res dhys,  
Ha puber yu da avel has, my a grys.

Gans grommen a groghen y vyiy a wreth,  
Gans pluyen a bayon y gelmy ynweth.

Y worra yn tygen dhywoles res yu'  
Ha'y dhegy dhe'n velyn war geyn tykky Dew'

Ha pan vo gorfennys an whelyow yn'cowl,  
Y'th cafaf 'vel pryas y'n'dan an howl.

He:

Oh buy me my lady, a cambric shirt,  
*Whilst every grove rings, with a merry antine;*  
And stitch it without any needle work,  
*And thou shalt be a true lover of mine.*

O thou must wash it in yonder dry well,  
*Whilst.....*  
Where never a drop of water fell;  
*And.....*

And thou must bleach it on yonder grass  
Where never a hoof or foot did pass,

And thou must hang it on yonder thorn,  
That never blossomed since Adam was born,

And when these works are finished and done,  
I'll take and marry thee under the sun,

She:

Thou must buy for me an acre of land,  
*Whilst.....*  
Between the salt water and the yellow sand,  
*And.....*

Thou must plough it o'er with a horses horn,  
And sow it o'er with a peppercorn,

Thou must reap it too with a sickle of leather,  
And bind it up with a peacocks feather,

Thou must take it up in a bottomless sack,  
And bear it to the mill on a butterfly's back

And when these works are finished and done,  
I'll take and marry thee under the sun,

Notes From Merv Davey "Hengan", (Redruth, Dyllansow, Truran, 1983) : Also known as 'The Tasks' and the 'Cornish Puzzle song'. Two melodies for this song were noted. By Baring Gould from singers from St Mawgan in Pydar, one from Joseph Dyer in 1891, the other from an S Lobb in 1893 (*Baring Gould Heritage Project/Wren Trust, fair copy, manuscript page 321 p.128*). I have used the tune given in the latter case. A further version from St Mawgan was sent to Cecil Sharp in 1904 by a Mr Gilbert. Although the melody is different most people will recognise the ubiquitous Scarborough Fair in the words. Bronson (*Bronson, Bertrand H. The Traditional Tunes of the Child Ballads: With Their Texts, According to the Extant Records of Great Britain and America. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1959*), describes it as belonging to 'The Elfin Knight' family of songs with 55 tunes and variants. The tunes from Cornwall he classes as a separate type together with four other variants coming from Ireland, British Columbia and Michigan. A version was also noted by Davies Gilbert in 1822, "Jenefer, Gentle and Rosemary" (*Gilbert, Davies. Some Ancient Christmas Carols, with the Tunes to Which They Were Formerly Sung, London: Nichols, 1822, 2nd ed., p. 65*).