

The Gallows-Tree



“Slack your rope, hangs - a-man, O slack it for a while;



I think I see my fath-er com-ing, Rid-ing man-y a mile.



O fath-er, have you brought me gold? Or have you paid my fee?



Or have you come to see me hang-ing On the gal-lows - tree?”



“I have not brought you gold; I have not paid your fee;



But I have come to see you hang-ing On the gal-lows - tree?”

1

“Slack your rope, hangs-a-man,
O slack it for a while;
I think I see my father* coming,
Riding many a mile.
O father*, have you brought me gold?
Or have you paid my fee?
Or have you come to see me hanging
On the gallows-tree?”
“I have not brought you gold;
I have not paid your fee;
But I have come to see you hanging
On the gallows-tree.”

(* For the second, third and fourth verses replace the word “father” with “mother”, “sister”, “brother”.)

5

“Slack your rope, hangs-a-man,
O slack it for a while;
I think I see my true love coming,
Riding many a mile.
O true-love, have you brought me gold?
Or have you paid my fee?
Or have you come to see me hanging
On the gallows-tree?”
“Yes, I have brought you gold;
Yes, I have paid your fee;
Nor have I come to see you hanging
On the gallows-tree.”

The Gallows-Tree¹

1

„Slack your rope,
hangs-a-man,
O slack it for a while;
I think I see
my father coming,
Riding many a mile.
O father,
have you brought me gold?
Or have you paid my fee²?
Or have you come
to see me hanging³
On the gallows-tree?”
“I have not brought you gold;
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to see you hanging
On the gallows-tree.”

*For the second, third and
fourth verses replace the word
„father“ with “mother”,
“sister”, “brother”.

5

„Slack your rope,
hangs-a-man,
O slack it for a while;
I think I see
my true love coming,
Riding many a mile.

Lockere deinen Strick,
Henker,
oh, lockere ihn für eine Weile;
ich glaube, ich sehe
meinen Vater kommen,
manche Meile hergeritten.
Oh, Vater,
hast du mir Gold gebracht
oder hast du mich freigekauft?
Oder bist du gekommen
um mich hängen zu sehen
an dem Galgenbaum?”
Ich habe dir kein Gold gebracht;
ich habe dich nicht freigekauft;
sondern ich bin gekommen
um dich hängen zu sehen
an dem Galgenbaum.”

*In der zweiten, dritten und
vierten Strophe ersetze das Wort
„Vater“ durch „Mutter“,
„Schwester“, „Bruder“.

Lockere deinen Strick,
Henker,
oh, lockere ihn für eine Weile;
ich glaube, ich sehe
meinen Liebsten kommen,
manche Meile hergeritten.

b.w.

O true love,	Oh, Liebster,
have you brought me gold?	hast du mir Gold gebracht,
Or have you paid my fee?	oder hast du mich freigekauft?
Or have you come	Oder bist du gekommen
to see me hanging	um mich hängen zu sehen
On the gallows-tree?"	an dem Galgenbaum?"
"Yes, I have brought you gold;	"Ja, ich habe dir Gold gebracht;
Yes, I have paid your fee;	ja, ich habe dich freigekauft;
Nor have I come	und bin nicht gekommen
to see you hanging	um dich hängen zu sehen
On the gallows-tree."	an dem Galgenbaum."

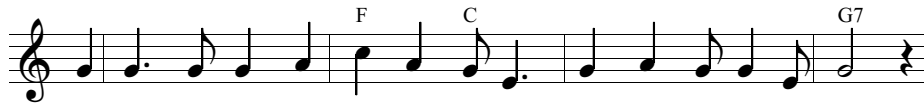
KH 15.08.2023

- 1 *The Maid Freed from the Gallows* ist Nr. 95 in F.J. Child, *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads* (1882-1898). Die Sammlung enthält 11 Versionen dieses Textes und verweist auf Parallelen in anderen europäischen Sprachen.
- 2 *fee*: „Gebühr, Preis“. Das Wort geht auf das *Vieh* zurück, das früher ein Zahlungsmittel war.
- 3 Öffentliche Hinrichtungen waren im Mittelalter Volksbelustigung und Abschreckung zugleich.

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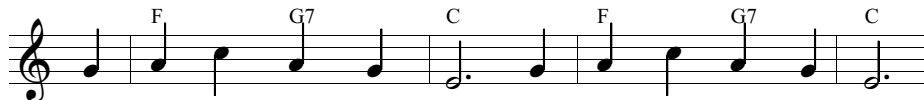
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But I have come to see you hang-ing On the gal-lows - tree?”

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