

# What Do the Simple Folk Do

Richard Burton

GUENEVERE

What do the simple folk do

To help them escape when they're blue?

The shepherd who is ailing, the milkmaid who is glum

The cobbler who is wailing from nailing his thumb

When they're beset and besieged

The folk not noblessly obliged

However do they manage to shed their weary lot?

Oh, what do simple folk do we do not?ARTHUR

I have been informed by those who know them well

They find relief in quite a clever way

When they're sorely pressed, they whistle for a spell

And whistling seems to brighten up their day

And that's what simple folk do

So they sayGUENEVERE

They whistle?ARTHUR

So they say(they whistle for a while)GUENEVERE

What else do the simple folk do

To pluck up the heart and get through?

The wee folk and the grown folk

Who wander to and fro

Have ways known to their own folk

We throne folk don't know

When all the doldrums begin

What keeps each of them in his skin?

What ancient native custom provides the needed glow?

Oh, what do simple folk do?

Do you know?ARTHUR

Once, upon the road, I came upon a lad

Singing in a voice three times his size

When I asked him why, he told me he was sad

And singing always made his spirits rise

And that's what simple folk do

I surmiseGUENEVERE

They sing?ARTHUR

I surmiseBOTH

Arise, my love, arise, my love

Apollo's lighting the skies, my love

The meadows shine with columbine

And daffodils blossom away  
Hear Venus call to one and all  
And taste delight while you may  
The world is bright and all is right  
And life is merry and gayGUENEVERE  
What else do the simple folk do?  
They must have a system or two  
They obviously outshine us at turning tears to mirth  
And tricks a royal highness is minus from birth  
What, then, I wonder, do they  
To chase all the goblins away?  
They have some tribal sorcery you haven't mentioned yet  
Oh, what do simple folk do to forget?ARTHUR  
Often, I am told, they dance a fiery dance  
And whirl 'till they're completely uncontrolled  
Soon the mind is blank and oh, they're in a trance  
A violent trance astounding to behold  
And that's what simple folk do  
So I'm toldGUENEVERE  
They dance?ARTHUR  
So I'm told(they dance)GUENEVERE  
What else do the simple folk do  
To help them escape when they're blue?ARTHUR  
They sit around and wonder what royal folk would do  
And that's what simple folk doGUENEVERE  
(spoken)  
Oh, no, really?ARTHUR  
I have it on the best authority.BOTH  
(sung)  
Yes, that's what simple folk do

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