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BONNY BARBARA ALLEN

Anonymous

IT was in and about the Martimas time,

When the green leaves were a falling,

That Sir John Graeme in the west country

Fell in love with Barbara Allan.

He sent his man down through the town,

To the place where she was dwelling,

O haste, and come to my master dear,

Gin ye be Barbara Allan.

O hooly, hooly rose she up.

To the place where he was lying,

And when she drew the curtain by,

Young man, I think you're dying.

O it’s I’m sick, and very sick,

And ’tis a’ for Barbara Allan,

O the better for me ye’s never be,

Tho’ your heart’s blood were a spilling.

O dinna ye mind, young man, said she,

When ye was in the tavern a drinking,

That ye made the healths gae round & round

And slighted Barbara Allan.

He turn’d his face unto the wall,

And death was with him dealing;

Adieu, adieu, my dear friends all,

And be kind to Barbara Allan.

And slowly, slowly rose she up,

And slowly, slowly left him;

And sighing, said, she could not stay,

Since death of life had reft him.

She had not gane a mile but twa,

When she heard the death-bell ringing,

And every jow that the dead-bell gied,

It cry’d, Wo to Barbara Allan.

ANALYSIS

The title is composed by one adjective and two nouns *Bonny* *Barbara Allen:* I think that they refer to the protagonist of the poem and I think she is a woman.

The poem is divided in eight verses each of these have four lines. Bonny Barbara Allen is a ballad, a low sentimental and romantic song narrating in short stanzas. It was produce anonymously.

This ballad is about a tragic love story between Sir John Graeme and Barbara Allen who loved each other but they were united only after death.

In Bonny Barbara Allan, by Anonymous guilt and forgiveness make humans weak through conflict, symbol, and irony.

The semantic fields are love and death. In the first part of the ballad we find some words refer to death, because Sir Graeme dies. Then we find love words which are told by Sir Graeme and Barbara Allen.

The ballad is full of n-t-r-b-l tones. These are included on the key words of the ballad.

Personification: Death is personified in lines 22 and 28 as one that deprives the speaker Sir John Graeme of life and health. A powerful force that comes at the end of one’s life to set Graeme’s dead-bell ringing (31). The dead bell itself is also personified as crying out its woe to Barbara Allan.

Repeated words and phrases: These words are repeated for emphasis—hooly, sick, round, adieu, slowly, mother, and Barbara Allan.

Use of –ing verbs: In every stanza except the last, there is at least one –ing verb used. These verbs maintain a continuous flow among stanzas and help to keep the action moving throughout the ballad.