

1599

**THE PASSIONATE SHEPHERD TO HIS
LOVE**

Christopher Marlowe

Marlowe, Christopher (1564-1593) - English poet and dramatist. His legendary life, full of reckless adventure and unconventionality, ended when he was stabbed in the eye in a tavern brawl at the age of 29. Marlowe is known as the greatest Elizabethan author before Shakespeare. *The Passionate Shepherd to His Love* (1599) - One of the most popular Elizabethan poems. Opening lines: Come live with me and be my Love, / And we will all the pleasures prove ...

PASSIONATE SHEPHERD TO HIS LOVE

COME live with me and be my Love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That hills and valleys, dale and field,
And all the craggy mountains yield.

There will we sit upon the rocks
And see the shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow rivers, to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

There will I make thee beds of roses
And a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle
Embroider'd all with leaves of myrtle.

A gown made of the finest wool,
Which from our pretty lambs we pull,
Fair lined slippers for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold.

A belt of straw and ivy buds
With coral clasps and amber studs:
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me and by my Love.

Thy silver dishes for thy meat
As precious as the gods do eat,
Shall on an ivory table be
Prepared each day for thee and me.
The shepherd swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May-morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me and be my Love.

(See also THE NYMPH'S REPLY TO THE SHEPHERD by Sir Walter Raleigh.)

THE END