

# It was a time when silly bees

Words ascribed to Robert, Earl of Essex

John Dowland

It was a time when sil- - ly bees could speak; And in that time, I  
Then thus I buzz'd when thyme - no sap would give: "Why should this bless- ed  
"My liege, gods grant thy time - may nev- er end! And yet vouch-safe to

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was a sil- ly bee Who fed on thyme un- til my heart 'gan break, Yet nev- -  
thyme to me be dry, Sith by this thyme the la- zy drone doth live, The wasp, -  
hear my plaint of thyme Which fruit- less flies have found to have a friend, And I, -

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- er found the time would fa- vour me. Of all the swarm I on- ly did  
- the worm, the gnat the but- ter- fly?" Mat- ed with grief, I kneel- ed on  
- cast down when a- tom- ies do climb?" The king re- plied but thus: "Peace, peev-

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- not thrive, Yet brought I wax - and ho- ney - to the hive.  
- my knees And thus com- plain'd - un- to the - king of bees:  
- vish bee! Thou'rt bound to serve - the time, the - thyme not thee."