

Down in the Valley #2

Source:

Sylvia and John Kolb

A Treasury of Folk Songs

New York: Bantam Books, 1948

The image shows the first two staves of a musical score for the song 'Down in the Valley #2'. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a half note at the end. The lyrics 'Down in the val - ley, val - ley so low,' are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics 'Hang your head o - ver, Hear the wind blow.' are written below this staff.

Down in the val - ley, val - ley so low,
Hang your head o - ver, Hear the wind blow.

2. Hear the wind blow, love, hear the wind blow;
Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.
3. If you don't love me, love whom you please;
Throw your arms round me, give my heart ease.
4. Give my heart ease, love, give my heart ease;
Throw your arms round me, give my heart ease.
5. Write me a letter, send it by mail,
Send it in care of Birmingham Jail.
6. Birmingham Jail, love, Birmingham Jail,
Send it in care of Birmingham Jail.
7. Writing this letter, containing three lines,
Answer my question, "Will you be mine?"
8. Will you be mine, dear, will you be mine?
Answer my question, "Will you be mine?"
9. Build me a castle forty feet high,
So I can see her as she goes by.
10. As she goes by, dear, as she goes by,
So I can see her as she goes by.
11. Roses love sunshine, violets love dew;
Angels in Heaven know I love you.
12. Know I love you, dear, know I love you;
Angels in Heaven know I love you.

Background Information

"As few of our folk songs, [this song] has crossed the boundaries of geography and background and has become a national song, its stanzas a distillation of many love songs now forgotten. It is a song for many people to sing together with harmony thrown in. Blow it out soft on a harmonica by yourself and it may make you cry."

Lomax, John A. and Alan, *Folk Song: U.S.A.*