

Simple Gifts

Source:

Edward D. Andrews

The Gift to be Simple

New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1962

'Tis the gift to be sim- ple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find our - selves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the val - ley of love and de - light.
When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained, To bow and to bend we shan't be a - shamed,
To turn, turn will be our de - light 'Till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

Background Information

Like "Come life, Shaker life," this song was sung everywhere in the United Society. It appears in many collections copied down during the period of "Mother Ann's Work" (1837-1847 and after) and probably was a product of that revival. One manuscript states that the song was "composed by the Alfred Ministry June 28, 1848." It is a rather lively piece, Shaker Allegro in the original MS [*Collection of Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, compiled at New Lebanon in 1830 (New York)].