

Over the Hill and Over the Dale

Piae Cantiones, 1582
English words by J.M. Neale

♩. = 60



1. O - ver the hill and o - ver the dale, Came three kings to - ge - ther,____
2. O - ver the hill and o - ver the dale, Each king bears a pre - sent,____
3. He is God ye go to meet, There fore in cense prof - fer;____
4. O - ver the hill and o - ver the dale, Ri ding east to - ge - ther,____



Car ing nought for snow and hail, Cold and wind and wea - ther.____
Wise men go, a child to hail, Mon archs seek a pea - sant.____
He is King ye go to greet, Gold is in your cof - fer.____
Car ing nought for snow and hail, Nought for wind and wea - ther.____



Now on Per - sia's san dy plain, Now where Ti gris swells with rain,
And in front, a star pro - ceeds, O - ver rocks and ri vers leads,
Al - so, man, he comes to share, E - very woe that man can bear,
Warned by God from Her od's door, Each king turns for home once more,



They their ca mels te - ther.____ Now through Sy - rian lands they go,
Shines with beams in - ces - sant.____ There - fore on - ward, on ward still,
Temp - ter, rail er, scof - fer.____ There - fore now, a - gainst the day,
Hearts and foot steps light - er.____ Now be - - hind them shines the star,



Now through Mo ab, faint and slow, Now o'er E dom's hea - ther.____
Ford the stream and climb the hill; Love makes all things plea - sant.____
In the grave when Him they lay, Myrrh ye al so of - fer.____
Which they fol lowed from a - far, Shin ing e ver bright - er.____

Tune transposed to F dorian (key relative to E flat). Originally in A dorian. We decided to sing verses 2-4.

1. Over the hill and over the dale
Came three kings together,
Caring nought for snow and hail,
Cold and wind and weather.
Now on Persia's sandy plain,
Now where Tigris swells with rain,
They their camels tether.
Now through Syrian lands they go,
Now through Moab, faint and slow,
Now o'er Edom's heather.

2. Over the hill and over the dale
Each king bears a present,
Wise men go, a child to hail,
Monarchs seek a peasant.
And in front, a star proceeds,
Over rocks and rivers leads,
Shines with beams incessant.
Therefore onward, onward still,
Ford the stream and climb the hill;
Love makes all things pleasant.

3. He is God ye go to meet,
Therefore incense proffer;
He is King ye go to greet,
Gold is in your coffer.
Also, man, he comes to share
Every woe that man can bear,
Tempter, railer, scoffer.
Therefore now, against the day,
In the grave when Him they lay,
Myrrh ye also offer.

4. Over the hill and over the dale
Riding east together,
Caring nought for snow and hail,
Nought for wind and weather.
Warned by God from Herod's door
Each king turns for home once more,
Hearts and footsteps lighter.
Now behind them shines the star
Which they followed from afar,
Shining ever brighter.

Over the Hill and Over the Dale is by J.M. Neale, a setting to a tune from the Piaie Cantiones, a book of Latin carols compiled in Finland in 1582. Neale composed English texts for several of them, Good King Wenceslas being the best-known. [Tune and notes transcribed from Nowell Sing We Clear.]