

Over the Hill and Over the Dale

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

$\text{♩} = 60$

1. O - ver the hill ___ and o - ver the dale, Came ___ three kings ___ to - ge - ther, ___

Car ___ ing nought ___ for snow ___ and hail, Cold ___ and wind ___ and wea - ther. ___

Now on Per - sia's san ___ dy plain, Now where Ti ___ gris swells ___ with rain,

They ___ their ca ___ mels te - ther. ___ Now through Sy - rian lands ___ they go,

Now through Mo ___ ab, faint ___ and slow, Now ___ o'er E ___ dom's hea - ther. ___

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 *Piae 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*.]