

The Wee Wee Man

Child 38

This lovely little ballad has been slightly modified by Tom to make the story clearer. He also composed the tune, as he didn't feel the one in 'Bronson' suited the words.

As I wis waakin aa alane
Atween the waater and the waa
It's there I spy'd a wee wee man
He wis the least I iver saa

His legs were but a shathmont's length
And thick and thimber wis his thighs
Atween his broos there wis a span
And atween his shooders there wis three

He picked up a muckle stane
And flung't as far as I could see
Gin I had been a Wallace wicht
I couldna lift it tae my knee

O wee wee man, yer afa strang
Come tell me faar yer dwelling be
My dwelling's doon in yonder glen
will ye come there wi me tae see

Sae up we louped, and awa we rade
Till we cam tae a bonny green
There we got doon tae rest oor horse
And it's oot there cam a lady fine

There were fower and twenty at her back
And aa sae bonny dressed in green
Gin the King o Scotland hid bin there
The worst o them micht'iv bin his queen

Then up we louped, and awa we rade
Till we cam tae a muckle haa
The roofs were o the beaten gowd
And the fleers were o the cristals aa

Fiddlers played in ilka neuk
And ladies dancin jimp and smaa
Then in the twinkling o an ee
My wee wee man wis clean awa

Out gart the lights, on cam the mist
The dancers I nae mare could see
I turned aboot, tae hae a look
And I wis at the fit o Benachie

aa=all
about=around
afa=awfully, very
alane=alone
atween=between
awa=away
bin=been
broos=brows
cam=came
couldna=could not
doon=down
ee=eye
faar=where
fleers=floors
flung't=threw it
fower=four
gart=went, caused
gin=if
gowd=gold
haa=hall
hae=have
hid=had
ilka=every
iver=ever
jimp=neat, slender
louped=jumped
micht'iv=might have
muckle=big
nae mare=no more
neuk=corner, alcove
o=of
oor=our
rade=rode
saa=saw
sae=so

shathmont=a measure from the knuckle of the little finger to the tip of the extended thumb
shooders=shoulders
smaa=small

span=a measure from the tip of the little finger to the tip of the thumb with the whole hand extended
stane=stone
strang=strong
tae=to
thimber=gross, heavy
waa=wall
waakin=walking
wee=little, small
wi=with
wicht=warrior
wis=was