

The Parting Glass

Trad. Irish

Oh of all the money that e'er I had
Well I spent it in good company
And of all the harm that e'er I've done
Well alas, it was to none but me
And all I've done for want of wit
To mem'ry now I can't recall
So fill to me the parting glass
Goodnight and joy be with you all

Oh of all the comrades that e'er I had,
Well they're sorry I should go away.
And of all the sweethearts e'er I had,
They would wish me one more day t'stay
But since it falls unto my lot,
That I should rise and you should not
Then lift the glass and softly call
Goodnight and joy be with you all

If I had money enough to spend
And leisure time to sit awhile
There is a fair maid in this town
That sorely has my heart beguiled
Her rosy cheeks and ruby lips
I own, she has my heart in thrall
Then fill to me the parting glass
Goodnight and joy be with you all

An Irish traditional song, often sung at the end of a gathering of friends. It was allegedly the most popular song sung in both Scotland and Ireland before Robert Burns wrote "Auld Lang Syne". The song was printed as a broadside in the 1770s, and first appeared in book form in "Scots Songs" by Herd. The Irish version is usually considered more suitable for modern listeners. The song is doubtless older than its 1770 appearance in broadside, as it was recorded in the Skene Manuscript, a collection of Scottish airs written at various dates between 1615 and 1635.[3] It was known at least as early as 1605, when a portion of the first stanza was written in a farewell letter, as a poem now known as "Armstrong's Goodnight", by one of the Border Reivers executed that year for the murder in 1600 of Sir John Carmichael, Warden of the Scottish West March.

Sing Out