

# Mother, mother, make my bed

Mrs Ford

Collected by Anne Gilchrist, Blackham, Sussex, June 1906

Anne Gilchrist MSS Collection AGG/8/48, AGG/3/6/2a, *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* 5 (1915) pp.135-137

Roud 32444

Mo- ther, mo- ther, make my bed. And wrap me in a  
milk- white sheet, And wrap me in a  
cloak of gold And see whe- ther I can sleep.

The first verse is written on three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody is simple and folk-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are two 'X' marks above the final two notes of the first line of music.

"Succeeding verses"

sis\_ ter's\_ son And send to\_ me own\_ true love

The succeeding verses are written on a single staff of music in G major and common time. The melody continues from the first verse. The lyrics are written below the notes. There is one 'X' mark above the final note of the first line of music.

Anne Gilchrist MSS, AGG/3/6/2a

"Verse 2, lines 1 and 2"

Verse 2 is written on three staves of music in G major and common time. The melody is simple and folk-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Journal of the Folk-Song Society* 5



1. "Mother, mother, make my bed,  
And wrap me in a milk-white sheet,  
And wrap me in a cloak of gold,  
And see whether I can sleep.
2. And send to me the two bailies,  
Likewise my sister's son,  
That they may fetch me my own true love,  
Or I shall die before ever he can come."
3. The first three miles they walked,  
The next three miles they ran,  
Until they came to the high water-side,  
And laid on their breast and swam.
4. They swam till they came to the high castle  
Where my lord he was sitting at meat  
"If you did but know what news I brought,  
Not one mouthful more would you eat."
5. "What news, what news have you brought me?  
Is my castle burnt down?"  
"Oh no, your true love is very, very ill,  
And she'll die before ever you can come."
6. "Saddle me my milk-white steed,  
And bridle him so neat,  
That I may kiss of her lily lips  
That are to me so sweet."
7. They saddled him his milk-white steed  
At twelve o'clock at night,  
He rode, he rode till he met six young men  
With a corpse all drest in white.



8. "Come set her down, come set her down,  
Come set her down by me,  
That I may kiss of her lily, lily lips,  
Before she is taken away."
9. My lady, she died on the Saturday night  
Before the sun went down.  
My lord he died on the Sunday following,  
Before evening prayers began.
10. My lady she was buried in the high castle,  
My lord was buried in the choir;  
Out of my lady there grew a red rose,  
And out of my lord a sweet briar.
11. The rose did grow, and so did the briar,  
Until they reached the choir;  
They met at the top in a true lover's knot,  
And the rose it clung round the sweet briar.

"Mrs Ford. Learnt from her mother."