

Scots Poetry

SHEEP



MY HOGGIE

by Robert "Rabbie" Burns

What will I do gin my **hoggie** die?
My joy, my pride, my hoggie!
My only beast, I had nae mae,
And vow but I was **vogie**!
The lee-**lang** night we watched the **fauld**,
Me and my faithfu' doggie;
We heard nocht but the roaring **linn**
Amang the **braes** sae **scoggie**.

My Lamb
What will I do should my (pet) lamb die?
My joy, my pride, my lamb!
My only animal / sheep, I had no more,
And I swear I was hopeless!
The live-long night we watched the fold,
Me and my faithful doggy;
We heard nothing but the roaring waterfall
Among the hill-sides so rough / ragged.

But the **houlet** cry'd frae the castle **wa'**,
The **blitter frae** the boggie,
The **tod** reply'd upon the hill:
I trembled for my hoggie.
When day did daw, and cocks did craw,
The morning it was foggie,
An **unco tyke lap** o'er the **dyke**,
And **maist** has kill'd my hoggie!

But the owl cried from the castle wall,
The snipe (bird) from the bog,(wet, muddy ground)
The fox replied upon the hill:
I trembled for my lamb.
When day did dawn, and cocks (cockerels) did crow,
The morning it was foggy,
A strange dog leaped over the stone wall,
And almost has killed my lamb!

History and meaning

Burns composed this pastoral song, about a young sheep of whom he is most fond. The poem relates the anxiety felt by a shepherd at the risk of his prize lamb being killedd by a fox (or other predator) and how he is powerless to protect it fully.
Written for James Johnson's Scots Musical Museum. It was published in **1788**
Themes: nature, regret, rural life, anxiety, vulnerability



Source:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/robertburns/works/what_will_i_do_gin_my_hoggie_die/