1. Adam in Paradise

Father Adam
Eddie Butcher 1966



When Adam was in Paradise
In the first of recreation
Although he was in plentiness
He murmured at our station;
Although he never seen the fair
But aye his notion it was there,
With you, my dear, I'll part and share
And I'll hug you in my bosom.

Fill your glasses to the brim, Toast about the Jorumbo That every lad may get the lass That he loves in his bosom.

2 When Adam he was all alone A slumber it was granted him, A rib was taken from his side To make up what was wanting; But when this rib became a maid Just like a rose or blossom blown Then Adam he began his trade For to hug her in his bosom.

3 - Oh lassie, will you take a walk
To view fair Nature in its bloom
And see the corn growing from the stalk?
And so will I, my dearie.
To yonder bower we did prepare
In search of pleasure and fresh air
And the lassie said she was content
For to lie in his bosom.

Adam and Eve figure in many traditional songs. 'When Adam was first created' (see Dean-Smith) takes the subject seriously and indeed so solemnly that light-hearted treatments may have arisen as a reaction to it. The Irish 'New song called the Garden of Eden' expresses similar sentiments to Eddie's song, though without textual or formal similarity. 'Adam was king of all nations', from Cavan, has two perhaps fortuitously similar lines: see Notes to text. But Eddie's song remains uniquely expressive of innocence before temptation, and remained a unique version too until another fragmentary text turned up lately in a nineteenth-century MS, not unexpectedly Scots (A).