## Muss i denn



Known as traditional Swabian folk song first published by Friedrich Silcher in 1827

Poet and composer of the song are unknown. The composer Friedrich Silcher (1789-1860), who is described as an author in many songbooks, has in his own words picked up an "Old-Wuerttemberg melody" and recorded it with her first verse. Silcher recorded the song in 1827 with a second and third verse, written by the Swabian occasional poet Heinrich Wagner (1783-1863), who had been befriended by him. For the first time in print, the song appeared in 1831 with lyrics and notes in Silcher's collection "Volkslieder fÿr Mÿnnerstimmen,"

## Verse 1

Muss i denn muss i denn Zum Städtele hinaus Städtele hinaus
Und du mein Schatz bleibst hier
Wenn i komm wenn i komm Wenn i wiederum wiederum komm
Kehr i ei mei Schatz bei dir
Kann i glei net allweil bei dir sei Han i doch mei Freud an dir
Wenn i komm wenn i komm Wenn i wiederum komm wiederum kom
Kehr i ei mei Schatz bei dir

## Verse 2

Wenn du weinst wenn du weinst Daß i' wandere muß Wandere muß Wie wenn d' Lieb jetzt wär vorbei
Sind au' drauß sind au' drauß Der Mädele viel Mädele viel
Lieber Schatz i bleib dir treu
Denk du nett wenn i ne andre seh No sei mei Lieb vorbei
Sind au drauß sind au drauß Der Mädele viel Mädele viel
Lieber Schatz i bleib dir treu

## Verse 3

Übers Jahr übers Jahr Wenn mer Träubele schneidt Träubele schneidt Stell i hier mi wiedrum ei
Bin i dann bin i dann Dei Schätzele no Schätzele no
So soll die Hochzeit sei
Übers Jahr do ischt mei Zeit vorbei Do g'hör i mei und dei
Bin i dann bin i dann Dei Schätzele no Schätzele no
So soll die Hochzeit sei

Background of the song translated from www.lieder-archiv.de

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A young man sings a song to his beloved and tells her to say good-bye. We do not learn why the boy has to say farewell. But he assures his loved one that he will return to her immediately after his return. In the last two lines of the first verse, he repeats this promise once again. His beloved is to know that he is serious about it. And he asserts that if he can not be with her, he will always be with her joyful thoughts. He can understand that she cries because her farewell is difficult, perhaps because she thinks love is now over. Especially since there are many "maids" on his way to go, on the way to go, he could get to know. But he promises his "dear sweetheart" to remain faithful. And he reaffirmed his promise: his love for her is not over, even if he sees other "maids" and (unspoken) nice.

In the third stanza we finally learn how long his absence lasts, a year. After that "his time is over". This is obviously a hiker who has to complete the last year of his "teaching and traveling years". At the time, the guilds wrote to their young members, after completing their apprenticeship, to walk three years and one day from master to master, to expand and improve their professional abilities. It was only afterwards that the journeys allowed their master's examination. (Cf It, it, it and it, it is a harsh conclusion, Hiking is the miller's lust or At the well in front of the gate).

He consoles his sweetheart with the fact that after a year he will return to the vintage ("if a sweet trick will cut") and will still be her "treasure". And he assures her that they are together ("da g ihör i mein und dein") and after his return the wedding is celebrated.