

# Transformed Peasant by Ludvig Holberg

M/F QS, SS, R&D, SmS, BS, Kn, UA

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Ludvig Holberg

Jeppe           Hi, sekkertary, valet, lackeys ! Another glass o' that canary- bird! Oh!!! I knew it! I knew it! I'm myself again! I knew it was too good to last! How long was Adam in Eden? The same breeches, the same cuckoldy hat, the same – bed! Ugh! No more canary-bird, no fancy glasses to drink out of, and no lackeys to stand behind my chair! I might have known it! Oh, oh, your lordship, you've come down in the world! Your bed's turned into a muck-heap and you lackeys are only pigs! There was I expecting to wake up and find rings on my fingers, and what's on 'em now? Faugh!! I wish I was back where I was before! I'll go to sleep again and see what happens.

(He lies down and presently is snoring heavenly again. Nille appears from the cottage.)

Nille            I wonder what can have happened to him. I hope he hasn't had an accident. More likely to be in some tavern drinking my money up! A fool I was to trust the drunken pig! Hullo, what's this? It's him, the villain! Fast asleep on the muck-heap! Fancy being married to that! I'll make you pay for this, you sot!

Jeppe           Ow! Ow!! Help! Help!! What's that? Where am I? Who's that? What have I done? Ooh!!

Nille            I'll teach you who it is, I will!

Jeppe           Don't , Nille! Nille, love, don't hit me anymore! You'll kill me! You've no idea where I've been!

Nille            No, you drunken villain; that's just what I'd like to know! Where's the soft soap I sent you to get? Eh?

Jeppe            I haven't got any, Nille. I never got there.

Nille            And why didn't you get there? That's what I want to know! Out with it! Where have you been?

Jeppe            Nille, I think I've been to Heaven.

Nille            Heaven! Heaven, did you say? I'll Heaven you!! I'll teach you to come making jokes at my expense!!

Jeppe            Ow! Ow!! Ow!!! It's as true as I'm standing here, Nille!

Nille            What's true?

Jeppe            That I've been to Heaven.

Nille            You scoundrel, you! I'll give you Heaven!

Jeppe            Oh, Nille, dear, don't hit me !

Nille            Then tell me where you've been, you wretch! Or I'll trash you within an inch of your life!

Jeppe           Promise not to hit me, then, Nille.

Nille            Out with it!

Jeppe           Promise not to hit me, Nille!

Nille            I'll promise nothing!

Jeppe           As true as I'm standing here, Nille, I think I've been to Heaven. And I've seen things that'd surprise you. As sure as my name is Jeppe.

Nille            There, you drunken pig! Stop there and sleep it off! And then we'll see about it! Heaven! Him!! Hell's more fit for the likes of him!!! Cock and bull stories!!! He'll get no more drink with money of mine! And if he get anything to eat tomorrow he can think himself lucky. That'll teach him a lesson.