

Chan eil mi gun mhulad orm

I am not unsorrowful

♩ = 132

Verse 1



Chan - eil mi gun mhul - ad or - (o)m, air fà li leò



hò - ro gheall - aidh èil - e, air fà li leò;

Verse 2



h-uil - e tè - ile pòs - adh, air fà li leò



hò - ro gheall - aidh èil - e, air fà li leò;

Verse 3



's tha mi fhìn gun phòs - adh fhath-ast,

Verse 8



cha tèid e mach gun bhat' aig - e;

Chan eil mi gun mhulad orm,
air fà li leò hòro gheallaidh èile,
air fà li leò;

h-uile tèile pòsadh,
air fà li leò . . .

's tha mi fhìn gun phòsadh fhathast;
air fà li leò . . .

seann-duine cha ghabh mi idir,
air fà li leò . . .

bidh e fada 'g èirigh,
air fà li leò . . .

fada dol na èideadh,
air fà li leò . . .

fada cur a churraic air,
air fà li leò . . .

*I am not without sorrow,
air fà li leò hòro gheallaidh èile,
air fà li leò;*

*every other girl marrying,
air fà li leò . . .*

*and me still unmarried;
air fà li leò . . .*

*I certainly won't take an old man;
air fà li leò . . .*

*he takes too long to get up,
air fà li leò . . .*

*too long getting dressed,
air fà li leò . . .*

*too long putting his cap on;
air fà li leò . . .*

cha tèid e mach gun bhat' aige;
air fà li leò . . .

he doesn't go out without his stick;
air fà li leò . . .

cha tig e steach gun ad bhith air;
air fà li leò . . .

he won't come in without a hat on;
air fà li leò . . .

saoilidh e gur caoraich creagan;
air fà li leò . . .

he thinks the rocks are sheep;
air fà li leò . . .

saoilidh e gur geòidh na cearcan;
air fà li leò . . .

he thinks the hens are geese;
air fà li leò . . .

saoilidh e gur grian a' ghealach;
air fà li leò . . .

he thinks the moon is the sun;
air fà li leò . . .

saoilidh e gur siùcair sneachda;
air fà li leò . . .

he thinks snow is sugar;
air fà li leò . . .

saoilidh e gur làir an searrach;
air fà li leò . . .

he thinks the foal is a mare;
air fà li leò . . .

saoilidh e gur luch an lacha;
air fà li leò . . .

he thinks the wild duck is a mouse;
air fà li leò . . .

b' annsa balach sgiobalta,
air fà li leò . . .

I'd rather have an agile young man,
air fà li leò . . .

thogadh mi 's a leagadh mi.
air fà li leò . . .

who can lift me up and lay me down.
air fà li leò . . .

Chan eil mi mbulad orm is a variant on a common theme found, for example, in the North-east Scots song, *Maids when you're young never wed an auld man*.

It is a 'clapping song'¹ – used at the end of the waulking process, when the cloth was folded and patted down. This was usually conducted standing up. The work was comparatively lighter, the end of the day's hard work was in sight, and the men and boys had probably begun to appear on the scene by this time, ready for some fun. And so the clapping songs were generally much faster than waulking songs, and usually explored light-hearted themes.

A song like this could have any number of verses added to it *extempore*: the 'nonsense' element of many of the verses given here suggests that most, if not all, were made up in this fashion. (And of course, like *Maids when you're young*, some of it is thinly-disguised earthiness!) It can be sung as fast as you like – or as fast as you can get your tongue round the words.

The song is published in Campbell / Collinson III (pp. 198–99), and recorded by Bannal (*Bannal: Waulking Songs*). A fragment was also recorded by Flora MacNeil (Folktrax, CD001) and published in Kennedy's *Folksongs of Britain and Ireland* (p. 51).

¹ òran-basaidh.