



The Ballad  
of Semmerwater

Edgar Leslie Bainton  
(1880-1956)

**The Ballad of Semmerwater**  
North-Country Legend

Deep asleep, deep asleep,  
Deep asleep it lies,  
The still lake of Semerwater  
Under the still skies.

And many a fathom, many a fathom,  
Many a fathom below,  
In a king's tower and a queen's bower  
The fishes come and go.

Once there stood by Semmerwater  
A mickle town and tall;  
King's tower and queen's bower  
And the wakeman on the wall.

Came a beggar halt and sore:  
"I faint for lack of Bread!"  
King's tower and queen's bower  
Cast him forth unfed.

He knocked at the door of the eller's cot,  
The eller's cot in the dale.  
They gave him of their oatcake,  
They gave him of their ale.

He has cursed aloud that city proud,  
He has cursed it in its pride;  
He has cursed it into Semmerwater  
Down the brant hillside;  
He has cursed it into Semmerwater,  
There to bide.

King's tower and queen's bower  
And a mickle town and tall;  
By glimmer of scale and gleam of fin,  
Folk have seen them all.  
King's tower and queen's bower,  
And weed and reed in the gloom;  
And a lost city in Semmerwater,  
Deep asleep till Doom.

William Watson (1858-1935)

# The ballad of Semmerwater

Edgar L. Bainton

Lento ♩ = 48  
*pp*

S Deep a - sleep, deep a - sleep, Deep a - sleep it lies, The

A Deep a - sleep, deep a - sleep, Deep a - sleep it lies, The

T Deep a - sleep, deep a - sleep, Deep a - sleep it lies, The

B Deep a - sleep, deep a - sleep, Deep a - sleep it lies, The

5

S still lake of Sem - er - wa - ter Un - der the still skies. And

A still lake of Sem - er - wa - ter Un - der the still skies. And

T still lake of Sem - er - wa - ter Un - der the still skies. And

B still lake of Sem - er - wa - ter Un - der the still skies. And

9

S ma - ny a fath - om, ma - ny a fath - om, Ma - ny a fath - om be - low, In a

A ma - ny a fath - om, ma - ny a fath - om, Ma - ny a fath - om be - low, In a

T ma - ny a fath - om, ma - ny a fath - om, Ma - ny a fath - om be - low, In a

B ma - ny a fath - om, ma - ny a fath - om, Ma - ny a fath - om be - low, In a

## The ballad of Semmerwater

13

S king's tow'r and a queen's bow'r The fish - es come and go.

A king's tow'r and a queen's bow'r The fish - es come and go.

T king's tow'r and a queen's bow'r The fish - es come and go.

B king's tow'r and a queen's bow'r The fish - es come and go.

*pp*

17

S Once there stood by Sem - mer - wa - ter A mic - kle town and tall;

A Once there stood by Sem - mer - wa - ter A mic - kle town and tall;

T Once there stood by Sem - mer - wa - ter A mic - kle town and tall;

B Once there stood by Sem - mer - wa - ter A mic - kle town and tall;

*poco più mosso*

*mf* *p* *f*

21

S King's tow'r and queen's bow'r And the wake - man on the

A King's tow'r and queen's bow'r And the wake - man on the

T King's tow'r and queen's bow'r And the wake - man on the

B King's tow'r and queen's bow'r And the wake - man on the

*dim.*

The ballad of Semmerwater

24

S wall, the wake - man on the wall. *rit.* *p* *pp* *a tempo*

A wall, the wake - man on the wall. *rit.* *p* *pp* *a tempo*

T wall. Came a beg - gar *rit.* *f* *a tempo*

B wall. Came a *rit.* *f* *a tempo*

27

S "I faint for lack of Bread!" *pp* *rit.* *a tempo*

A "I faint for lack of Bread!" *pp* *rit.* *a tempo*

T *dim.* halt and sore: *p* *rit.* *f* *a tempo* King's

B *dim.* beg - gar halt and sore: *p* *rit.* *f* *a tempo* King's

31

S He

A

T - tow'r and queen's bow'r Cast him forth un - fed.

B - tow'r and queen's bow'r Cast him forth un - fed.

## The ballad of Semmerwater

Piu lento

S *espress.*  
knock'd at the door of the el - ler's cot, The el - ler's cot in the

A *p espress.*  
He knock'd at the door of the el - ler's cot in the

T *p espress.*  
He knock'd at the door of the cot, The el - ler's cot in the

B *p espress.*  
He knock'd at the door of the el - ler's cot in the

S *molto tranquillo*  
dale. They gave him of their oat - cake, They

A *molto tranquillo*  
dale. They gave him of their oat - cake, They

T *molto tranquillo*  
dale. They gave him of their oat - cake, They

B *molto tranquillo*  
dale. They gave him of their oat - cake, They

S *molto tranquillo*  
gave him of their ale. They

A *molto tranquillo*  
gave him of their ale. They

T *molto tranquillo*  
gave him of their ale. They

B *molto tranquillo*  
gave him of their ale. They

The ballad of Semmerwater

44

S gave him of their ale. They gave him of their

A gave him of their ale. They gave

T gave him of their ale. They gave

B gave him of their ale. They

*pp* *più tranquillo*

47

S oat - cake, They gave him of their ale. He has

A him, They gave him of their ale. He has

T him, They gave him of their ale. He has

B gave him, They gave him of their ale. He has

*rit.* *f* *molto più mosso*

50

S cursed a - loud that ci - ty proud, He has cursed it in its

A cursed a - loud that ci - ty proud, He has cursed it in its

T cursed a - loud that ci - ty proud, He has cursed it in its

B cursed a - loud that ci - ty proud, He has cursed it in its

*cresc.*

## The ballad of Semmerwater

53

S pride, He has cursed it in - to Sem-mer - wa - ter Down the brant hill -

A pride, He has cursed it in - to Sem-mer - wa - ter Down the brant hill -

T pride, He has cursed it in - to Sem-mer - wa - ter Down the brant hill -

B pride, He has cursed it in - to Sem-mer - wa - ter Down the brant hill -

57

S side; He has cursed it in - to Sem - mer - wa - ter

A side; He has cursed it in - to Sem - mer - wa - ter

T side; He has cursed it in - to Sem - mer - wa - ter

B side; He has cursed it in - to Sem - mer - wa - ter

60

S there to bide. King's tow'r and queen's bow'r And a

A there to bide. King's tow'r and queen's bow'r And a

T there to bide. King's tow'r and queen's bow'r And a

B there to bide. King's tow'r and queen's bow'r And a



# The ballad of Semmerwater

64

S mic - kle town and tall; \_\_\_\_\_ By glim - mer of scale and

A mic - kle town and tall; \_\_\_\_\_ By glim - mer of scale and

T mic - kle town and tall; \_\_\_\_\_ By glim - mer of scale and

B mic - kle town and tall; \_\_\_\_\_ By glim - mer of scale and

67

S gleam of fin, Folk have seen them all. \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* King's tow'r and *pp*

A gleam of fin, Folk have seen them all. \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* King's tow'r and *pp*

T gleam of fin, Folk have seen them all. \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* King's tow'r and *pp*

B gleam of fin, \_\_\_\_\_ Folk have seen them all. \_\_\_\_\_ *dim.* King's tow'r and *pp*

71

S queen's bow'r, And weed and reed in the gloom; And a

A queen's bow'r, And weed and reed in the gloom; And a

T queen's bow'r, And weed and reed in the gloom; And a

B queen's bow'r, And weed and reed in the gloom; And a

## The ballad of Semmerwater

74

S  
lost ci - ty in Sem - mer - wa - ter, Deep a - sleep till

A  
lost ci - ty in Sem - mer - wa - ter, Deep a - sleep till

T  
lost ci - ty in Sem - mer - wa - ter, Deep a - sleep till

B  
lost ci - ty in Sem - mer - wa - ter, Deep a - sleep till

77

S  
Doom. Deep a - sleep till Doom. *calando*

A  
Doom. Deep a - sleep till Doom. *calando*

T  
Doom. Deep a - sleep till Doom. *calando*

B  
Doom. Deep a - sleep till Doom. *calando*



#### **TERMS OF USE**

These editions are available as a service to the choral community, offering inexpensive access to public domain literature. Choir resources can purchase other literature still under copyright, especially to support those creating and publishing new compositions and arrangements. These editions have been created using public domain sources under U. S. copyright law. Out of respect to the research, time and effort invested:

please print and issue an edition in its entirety, retaining notices, attributions, and logos.

please refrain from using an edition as a basis for creating another edition.

If performed, sending a copy of the concert program would be a valuable affirmation. If recorded, notification and attribution would be appropriate professional courtesies and a copy of the recording would be greatly appreciated!

For a full description of these requests and more scores, visit:

[www.shorchor.net](http://www.shorchor.net)

David Anderson  
SHORCHOR Music  
1706 NE 177th St.  
Shoreline, WA 98155 USA

