

A Man's a Man

tune: trad
words: Robert Burns

Is there, for hon-est po - verty, that hings his head an' a' that
The cow-ard slave, we pass him by; We dare be poor for a' that!
For a' that and a' that, our toils obscure, an' a' that.
The rank is but the guinea's stamp, the man's the gowd for a' that

What though, on hamely fare we dine
Wear hoddin grey, an' a' that?
Gie fools their silks and knaves their wine
A man's a man for a' that
For a' that, an' a' that
Their tinsel show, and a' that
The honest man, tho' e'er sae poor
Is King o' men for a' that

Ye see yon birkie ca'd a Lord
Wha struts, an' stares, an' a' that,
Tho' hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a' that

A Man's a Man

For a' that, an' a' that,
His ribband star, an' a' that
The man o' independent mind
He looks an' laughs at a' that
A prince can mak a belted knight,

A marquis, duke, an' a' that!
But an honest man's aboon his might
Guid faith, he mauna fa' that
For a' that an' a' that
Their dignities, an' a' that
The pith o' sense an' pride o' worth
Are higher rank than a' that

Then let us pray that come it may
As come it will for a' that,
That sense and worth o'er a' the earth
Shall bear the gree an' a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that
It's coming yet for a' that
That man to man the World o'er
Shall brithers be for a' that.

By Robert Burns. Inspired by contemporary 18th Century ideals of equality and fraternity. In recent times it was memorably sung by Sheena Wellington at the opening of the Scottish Parliament in 1999.