

Barricade your house

Morning song of Skipper Clement

Teachers' preparation

The song was written by Ebbe Kløvedal Reich, in 1970, for a total theatre, which was never shown. The song was composed by Leif Varmark.

The song is about suppression and injustice:

A Relations to the Count's Feud and the Reformation.

The Count's Feud, a bloody civil war, broke out in 1534. It was a war on who should have the power: the nobility, the clergy or the townsmen and farmers. In the beginning it went well for Skipper Clement (supporter by King Christian II) and the rebellious Jutlandic farmers. But the nobility brought General Johan Rantzau into action against them and with 4500 highly trained soldiers and two cavalry battalions, did he crush the rebellion and butchered the rebellious farmers till last man standing. Skipper Clement was caught and executed.

B 1960's, the Youth Rebellion turns against the ruling class.

The Youth Rebellion turned against the ruling class – the rich. The song "Barricade your house" is written in 1970, only a few years after the rebellion seriously took a hold of the USA and Europe.

In the poem, there are lyrics with strong metaphors, colours and contrasts. Rantzau's army and the clergy are BLACK. The nobility's clothes are GAUDY in contrast to the farmers HOMESPUN clothes. The RICH and the DEVIL are opposite to the POOR and GOD's son.

The REFRAIN is an important significance to the song, in sense of both lyrics and melody.

"Farmers, carpenters, Jutlandic lads

Now, we will be victorious in the Count's Feud"

"WE" is the poor, the suppressed, subdued, those not in power. However, everyone knows that it was them, who were the losers during the feud.

Likewise, is it a song about fighting against all odds. The song ends with the lyrics: "Do not let the future tell about us, / the riches suppressed us without a fight". The legacy is important.

Leif Varmark wrote a somewhat old styled sonorous melody in minor. It was written to a play in a theatre. During the song is the refrain emphasized with a marching kind of a rhythm, which illustrate how the farmers had beaten the drums and their scythes and tools.

Source: *Sanghåndbogen. Artikler om 250 højskolesange* (Handbook of songs. Articles on 250 folk high school songs)

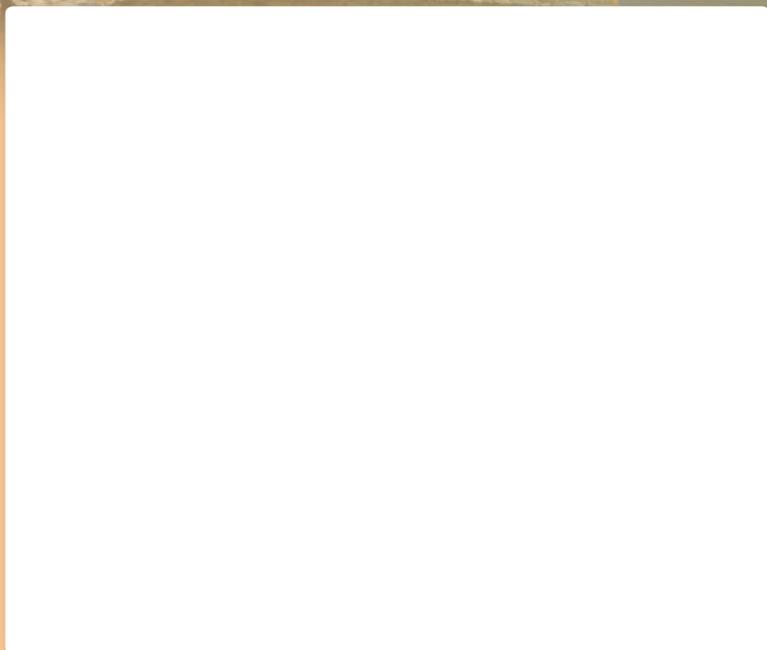
Karen Bjerre og Lisbeth Kiil, Gyldendal Uddannelse 1999

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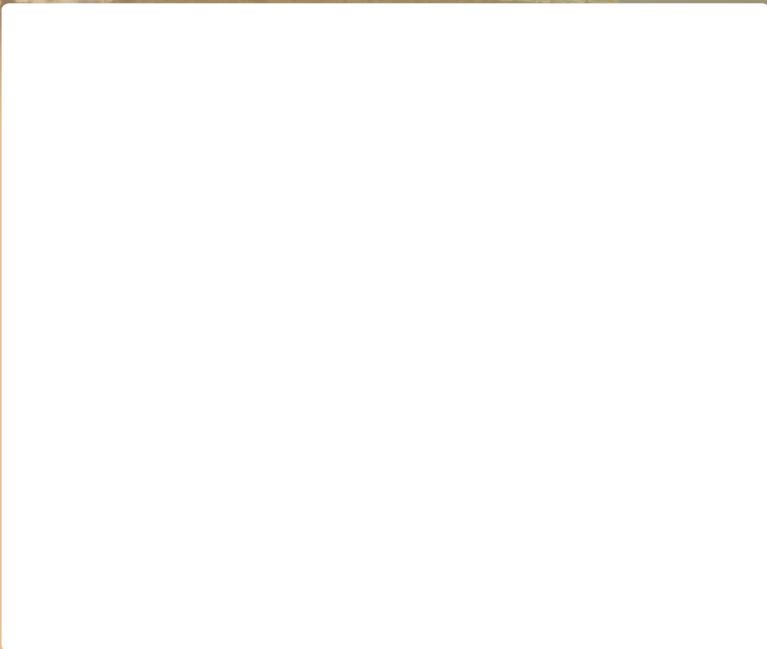
1. Barricade your house with trends and planks,
hone your scythes' blades shining
fear not the black army of Rantzau
silk will yield to homespun clothes.
Farmers, carpenters, Jutlandic lads
Now, we will be victorious in Count's Feud



2. Behind the shining helmets of the rich
are hiding shivering fearful rogues
the Devil himself has given them, as finery,
armours, shields, lands and coins



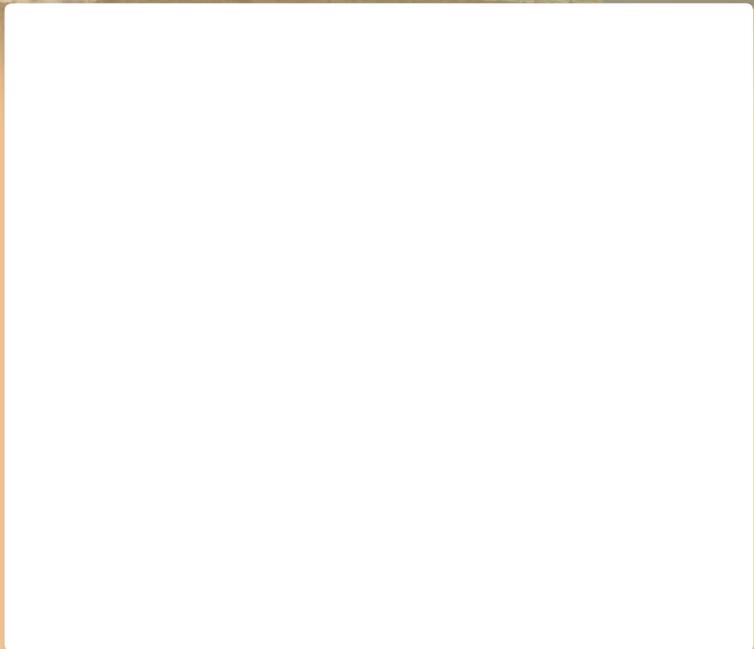
3. Men are they trading for money,
the gate of freedom they have locked and closed,
torture and tying down with inheritance and debts
the land, as if they have created it themselves.



4. They say wealth is only for rich,
the Bible tells another story
on earth God's son wandered as a poor
did not to them collect his pay.



5. The black vermins of the church
 must protect themselves against the girls laughter.
 Gaudy dressed men of the squires in position
 now they will meet the Danish man.



6. The cock has crowed third time
 stand firm we are in majority
 do not let the future tell about us,
 the riches suppressed us without a fight
'Farmers, carpenters, Jutlandic lads
Now, we will be victorious in Count's Feud

Exercises for:

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1. Sing the song.
2. If anyone can play an instrument, please do so. The scores are in Dansk Sang no. 265
3. Play on percussions or instruments during the refrain.
4. Have some to be lead singers and some to join in on the refrain.
5. Discuss the meaning of the song.
6. Make a drawing to each stanza on the page, where the text is to be found.
7. Colouring the oval fields you find appropriate according to the content of the stanza.
8. Read further on the Count's Feud
9. Read further on Ebbe Kløvedal Reich
10. Describe the opposites and contrasts in the song into the two boxes.

Opposites

Contrasts