

## TO A HAGGIS\*

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great Chieftan o' the Puddin'-race!  
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,  
Painch, tripe, or thairm:  
Weel are ye wordy of a grace  
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,  
Your hurdies like a distant hill,  
Your pin wad help to mend a mill  
In time o' need,  
While thro' your pores the dews distil  
Like amber bead.

His knife see Rustic-labour dight,  
An' cut you up wi' ready slight,  
Tenching your gushing entrails bright,  
Like onie ditch;  
And then, O what a glorious sight,  
Warm-reekin, rich!

Then, horn for horn they stretch an' strive,  
Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,  
Till a' their weel-swall'd kytes belyve  
Are bent like drums;  
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,  
Bethankit hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout,  
Or olio that wad staw a sow,  
Or fricassee wad mak her spew  
Wi' perfect sconner  
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view  
on sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash,  
As feckless as a wither'd rash,  
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,  
His nieve a nit;  
Thro' bluidy flood or field to dash,  
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,  
The trembling earth resounds his tread,  
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,  
He'll mak it whistle;  
An' legs, an' arms, an' heads will sned,  
Like taps o' thrisle.

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,  
And dish them out their bill o' fare,  
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware  
That jaups in luggies;  
But, if you wish her gratefu' pray'r,  
Gie her a Haggis!

Robert Burns 1759 - 1796

